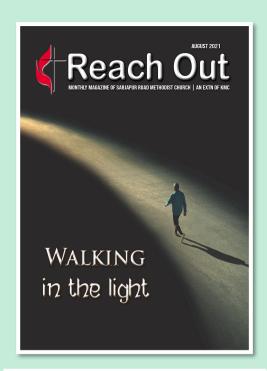




WALKING in the light

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MISSION STATEMENT

"To be obedient, cheerful, compassionate, humble stewards of God's Word aand resources, in utter dependence upon God through prayer, so that we as a congregation and those we reach out to, will experience transformation through the saving grace of God and grow as Christ-centered people, guided by the Holy Spirit."

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE: 9:00 AM

PASTOR: Rev. Alfred Sudarshan Raju

Mobile: +91 98445 64695 Email: alfredsraju86@gmail.com

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Beside St. Patrick's Academy, Kodathi Gate, Bengaluru - 560 035. Web: www.srmcblr.org | Email: office@srmcblr.org Phone: +91 98445 64695

PASTORAL LETTER



ear SRMC Family,

Greeting to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It gives me immense Joy in writing to you through this letter. I hope and believe that we are all safe and secure under the mighty wings of our heavenly father. I believe that we had a wonderful meditations on the theme: **RESTORATION** in the month of July 2021. Let us thank God for enabling us to see this new month in this year 2021. In spite of all the unpleasant things that are happening around us. God has been faithful in our lives, he has protected us, sustained us thus far. We praise God for all of your lives. As we step into this new month August, the theme that we will be focusing for our mediation throughout this month would be "WALKING IN THE LIGHT". Jesus says, I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Gospel writer John uses light and darkness to explain to his readers how they can truly experience fellowship with God and others. John uses this analogy to refer to the conduct of believers, how they walk, as he exhorts his readers to confess their sin. But in the background, basic to his thought, is the atoning work of Christ, who cleanses the believer form sin, offering forgiveness, thus life.

The word of God admonishes us to walk in the light. But what does it mean? We all have walked in darkness to find light. As we walk in darkness, we keep out steps very carefully, we are fearful of what might be in the path or some unseen danger. Many a times we also feel that we are not going anywhere. But when we see that light, our fears are erased, our hearts are calmed, we get confidence to walk. The same is true in Christian walk. When we walk in darkness (sin), it is scaring. When we walk with God's light, he helps us to go in the right path.

In the scripture, the light represents God's character of holiness. This is the message. God is light in him there is no darkness at all. The analogy is the statement about the character of God. God is holy. This is the message that John was proclaiming to the people so that people could understand who God is, who they were and why they need him. We need God because he is holy. And without holiness no one will see God.

"Pursue peace with everyone and holiness – without it no one will see the lord.

John also in his letter 1 John 1:5-10 instructs his readers to the requirement for fellowship with God. In doing so, he appeals to the teachings of the Lord Jesus when he was here on earth, where Jesus' teaching highlighted that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. By this he meant that God is absolutely holy, absolutely righteous, and absolutely pure. God cannot look with favour on any form of sin. Nothing is hidden from him, but "all things are naked and open the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Heb 4:13).

He further says in 1 John1:6 that in order for a person to be in fellowship with God, there can be no hiding of sin. Light and darkness cannot exist in a person's life at the same time, anymore that they can exist together in the room of a home. If a man or woman is walking in darkness, he is not in fellowship with God. on the other hand, if one walks in the light, then he can have fellowship with the Lord Jesus and with his fellow beings, as far as John is concerned, a man is either in the light or in darkness. If he is in the light, he is a member of God's family. If he is in darkness, he does not have anything in common with God because there is no darkness in God at all.

In the scriptures, the people of God are called to walk in the light of Christ. We should acknowledge that, Jesus Christ is "the true light which enlightens everyone" (John 1:9). We are called to become "light in the Lord," "children of light," says St. Paul to Ephesians 5:8). We shall be made free and holy by "obedience to the truth" (1 Pet 1:22). According to John, the statement "God is light meant that God is freedom from darkness or death. His emphasis on the fact that God is light in whom there is no darkness at all is more than a theological abstraction. On the contrary, his concern is practical and pastoral- he admonishes his readers to "walk in the light as he is in the light." For John, embracing the gospel message brings us into fellowship with God the father through and with Jesus Christ and with each other (1 John 1:3). The genuine nature of this fellowship is seen in a walk(or manner of living) that reflects and responds to the truth that is revealed in Christ. Once again, we can see a correlation to Paul's letter to Ephesians. Having charged them to not walk as the unregenerate gentiles do (according to their darkened understanding), Paul goes on to remind them of what has been revealed in and by Christ (Eph 4:17-32). And then in chapter 5 Paul says, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in live, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant and sacrifice to God.... Therefore do not become partakers with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the lord. Walk as children of light and try to discern what is pleasing to God. take not part in the unfruitful work of darkness, but instead expose them. These calls to waling in the light of the knowledge of Christ are offered as a means of gaining fellowship with God; rather, it is because of the fellowship that we possess by faith in Christ that Paul exhorts his readers- and us – to walk in the light. Psalms 36:9 says "For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light." Both John and Paul make the point of full purity and knowledge in God revealed in Christ, received by believers and reflected in their thoughts and walk.

God is indeed light, and in him there is no darkness at all. By virtue of our fallen condition, we are in a state of darkness and are thereby alienated from the life of God. but in Christ we are reconciled to God and are in fellowship with the light. Every one of us should know the value of light, because we all have walked in the darkness. The reality of sin is all around us. Yet, some us suppress it, some of us ignore it, some us of reject it. There are two ways a person can walk-path of darkness or path of light. Let us now reflect that where our allegiance lie. Do we walk in the darkness or the light? let us choose to walk in the light, reflect his character of light for his glory. It is my prayer that God of Light would speak to us through the meditations of this month. So that we become like him, imitators and image bearers of Christ. God bless us all!

Yours in Christ, Rev. Alfred Sudarshan Raju



PRAISE & PRAYER

Praise God

- Praise God for His help, as we meditated on the theme "RESTORATION" during the month of July.
- Praise God for the Pulpit Ministry of our Senior Pastor, Rev. Mathew George for bringing the word of God to us during the communion Sunday in July.

Remember and Pray

- ♦ Continue to pray for our Bishop N. L. Karkare, Madam Kamal Karkare, Executive Secretary Rev. David Nathaniel, Conference Treasurer, Rev. Mathew George M., District Superintendent Rev. Sebastian Ravikumar. Pray continuously for the Bangalore Regional Conference and that God's will be accomplished through the conference.
- Pray for our dear Pastor, Rev. Alfred Sudarshan Raju and his family. Also, kindly keep our extended Pastoral team & their families at KMC; Rev. Mathew George, Rev. Daniel Ezra Naveen, Rev. John Shikamani and our Pastorate Committee members and their families in prayers.
- Pray for all the Covid-19 frontline workers who are striving hard to attend to patients of this pandemic. Also, pray for all the families who have lost their dear ones to this disease, that God may give them strength to cope and hope to move ahead.
- Pray that God may raise people in the Church and outside, who can own the Project 'Arise, let us build' and support God in building up the place of worship at Sarjapur Road.
- Pray for the Management Team of SRMC and their families as they help in various activities of the church.
- Pray for the Bible Study group, Worship team, Men's & Women's fellowships, Sunday School, Choir and all the volunteers who are striving hard to serve and raise resources for our Church.
- Pray for the sick, elders, widows and the poor, who need help in our church. Pray also for all the families that you remember at our Church.
- Pray that God may reveal His Plan for us in this locality and that the SRMC family may become a channel of blessing in this vicinity.

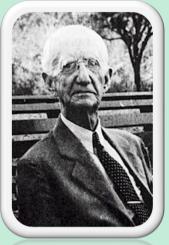
ANNOUCEMENTS

- **PASTORAL CARE** is available through the Church, you can avail the services by speaking to the Pastor personally.
- REACH OUT is the in-house magazine of the SRMC and you are
 welcome to contribute your stories, missionary stories, testimonies,
 activity pages for children and other articles. You also have the opportunity to suggest the theme for the next Month and related resources.
- Please continue to support through your tithes, faithfully every month.
- **Sunday School** has resumed from the month of June, virtually, via Zoom. Please enrol your children by contacting Sis. Shereen or any member of the Sunday School team. It is held after the Sunday Worship Service, at 12 pm.
- You can offer **offerings and tithes** by utilizing online payment options given in our website (www.srmcblr.org) or cash. It is only through your contributions that you can build the Kingdom of God. Giving is a sign of a good Disciple.
- Project 'Arise, let us build' contributions can be made through our website as well.
- **Humble request:** Please be consistent in your attendance to the Church—either for the live service in Church, or via the Live Stream of the service on our website, every Sunday. This will help you to grow spiritually and it will also help the Church to grow both Spiritually and Missionally.
- **ONLIVE LIVE STREAMING** of our Sunday Worship Services can be viewed on our website www.srmcblr.org. Please do attend the service virtually, if you are unable to attend the service in Church, in person.
- Please note the new address of our Church, it is "Beside St. Patrick's Academy, Kodathi Gate, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru—35." You can easily find the location on Google Maps under "Sarjapur Road Methodist Church."

MAN BEHIND THE HYMN

native of the small Kentucky town of Franklin, **Thomas Obediah Chisholm** (18661960) was born in a log cabin. He lacked formal education. Nevertheless, he became a teacher at age sixteen and the associate editor of his hometown weekly newspaper, the Franklin Advocate, at age twenty-one.

In 1893 Chisholm became a Christian through the ministry of Henry Clay Morrison, the founder of Asbury College and Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Morrison persuaded Chisholm to move to



Louisville where he became editor of the Pentecostal Herald. Though he was ordained a Methodist minister in 1903, he served only a single, brief appointment at Scottsville, Kentucky, due to ill health. Chisholm relocated his family to Winona Lake, Indiana, to recover, and then to Vineland, New Jersey, in 1916 where he sold insurance. He retired in 1953 and spent his remaining years in a Methodist retirement community in Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

By the time of his retirement, he had written more than 1200 poems, 800 of which were published. They often appeared in religious periodicals such as the Sunday School Times, Moody Monthly, and Alliance Weekly. Many of these were set to music.

Hymnologist Kenneth Osbeck provides the background for "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Chisholm had sent a number of his poems to the Rev. William H. Runyan (1870-1957), a musician with the Moody Bible Institute and one of the editors of Hope Publishing Company in Chicago. Runyan wrote of the hymn: "This particular poem held such an appeal that I prayed most earnestly that my tune might carry over its message in a worthy way, and the subsequent history of its use indicates that God answered prayer. It was written in Baldwin, Kansas, in 1923, and was first published in my private song pamphlets."

George Beverly Shea (1909-2013), the famous Canadian-born singer of the Billy Graham Crusades, introduced this hymn to those attending the evangelistic meetings in Great Britain in 1954. It immediately became a favorite.

A phrase in Lamentations 3:22-23 provides a basis for the refrain: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Stanza one emphasizes God's unchanging nature: "... there is no shadow of turning with thee;/thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not." Perhaps James 1:17 provides the scriptural basis for this concept: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

In stanza two, the natural created order, including the cycle of the seasons, bears witness to the faithfulness of God. The final stanza brings the eternal, unchanging God into contact with humanity. We receive from the presence of God "Pardon for sin and a peace that endures." Indeed, William Runyan's tune was the ideal musical complement to the warmth of the text. The subtle changes in harmony and the solemnity of the melody amplify the text, bringing the climax on the word "faithfulness" perfectly at the end of the refrain.

This hymn appeared in many evangelical hymnals and song collections, but was not chosen for an official Methodist hymnal until the current United Methodist Hymnal (1989), even though the author was a Methodist. It was a very popular hymn of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church and had been included in their hymnals.

According to Carlton Young, "Great is thy faithfulness" was second only to "In the garden" as the most requested hymn for inclusion in The United Methodist Hymnal. A survey conducted in 2000 by Dean McIntyre, Director of Music Resources, Discipleship Ministries, revealed that "Great is thy faithfulness" remains one of the favorite hymns among United Methodists.

Towards the end of his life, Chisholm retired to the Methodist Home for the Aged in Ocean Grove, New Jersey and died in 1960.

> Compiled by Joel Dubba Source: www.umcdiscipleship.org

EVANGELIST BLOG

s the United States of America celebrates Independence Day

July 4, it's worth noting the nation was founded upon the idea that God created human beings to be free. The Declaration of Independence states that people "are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."



But what is "liberty," exactly? Is freedom based upon the country where you live, or can it have a deeper meaning? Here are some key ideas from the Bible about freedom—including how to find true freedom in your life.

1. People have been searching for it for thousands of years.

The quest for freedom is a theme found throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Just three chapters into the story of God's creation, humanity gave up its freedom by choosing to rebel against God. From that time forward, the perfect freedom God created in the Garden of Eden was gone, and the long-term effects were both physical and spiritual.

The Old Testament of the Bible records how God's people lost their physical freedom time and again as various empires overtook them (most notably the Egyptians, as recorded in the book of Exodus). The loss of physical freedom was often tied to spiritual disobedience like worshiping false gods. But time and again, the one true God forgave His people and rescued them. When God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He was foreshadowing the arrival of Jesus Christ, who came to free humanity from sin—the spiritual slavery that leads to death.

Today, many people are living in spiritual slavery without realizing it. They chase false gods of money, success, personal comfort and romantic love—only to realize they still have an emptiness that can't be filled by any of those things.

2. God's answer to our loss of freedom has always been Jesus Christ.

When Jesus began his short period of ministry on the earth, He announced He was the One that God's people had been waiting for since the fall of humanity. He did this by reading a particular passage from the book of Isaiah—a passage his listeners knew was referring to the Messiah, or the Savior of the world.

The words had been written hundreds of years earlier and spoke of a new freedom that was coming in the future. When Jesus stood up to read, He was saying the future had arrived. Liberty would come through Him.

"And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:17-21, emphasis added).

3. Jesus came to free us from death, sin and anything that enslaves us.

The core message of the Christian faith—the Gospel—is that Jesus Christ rescues us from the slavery of sin and offers true freedom in this life and beyond. This is what Jesus said:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The Good News—the best news ever—is that faith in Jesus frees us from the death we deserve for sinning against God. It frees us from the punishment that would be inflicted upon us at the end of our lives for the evil things we've thought and done. While Christ followers still battle with sin, they are no longer slaves to it.

Through the power of Christ, His people can be set free from the bondage of greed, vanity, pride, pornography, addiction, abusive behavior, gluttony, selfishness—and any other sin under the sun. Here's what Jesus said about the freedom He offers:

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

"Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:34-36).

4. God gives us freedom to choose our own path.

God created human beings, not robots. We don't have to accept the freedom He offers us through Jesus Christ. He gives each person the free will to accept or reject His salvation. But the Bible warns that hell is a real place where real people end up when they knowingly reject the truth.

Likewise, those who choose Christ are not forced to obey Him at every turn. But God makes it clear: the best life is one that's devoted to honoring Him. As the Apostle Paul explained to some of the first Christians:

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. 'All things are lawful for me,' but I will not be dominated by anything" (1 Corinthians 6:12).

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

Final thoughts on freedom

From cover to cover, God's Word points to freedom in Christ. And God doesn't leave us wondering how to grab hold of the freedom He offers. It starts with acknowledging our brokenness—and admitting we are slaves to sin. And it ends with choosing Jesus and following Him daily. Only He can break the bonds of slavery and lead us to true freedom, now and forever.

Choose Jesus today, and find out what true freedom feels like.

- Billy Graham (www.billygraham.org)

A STUDY

CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF DEATH AND LIFE

(Series - 1)

There are different outlooks in this world when it is said "Death" and "Life". But we as Christians how do we look at it? Or how we ought to look at it in Christian or biblical perspective? Because that matters to us and the rest of the world in order to edify one another. Let's begin with Death. Because that is how it starts. That is the order in which the Lord God created life out of death not death out of life. That is not the original plan of God. Bible says in *Matthew 22:32* "God is not the god of the dead, but of the living". *Ezekiel 18:32* says "I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies" says the Lord God. Before we get into the topic "Death", it is important to know what man is. Man is made up of what? When I say man, it refers the entire mankind. Probably every Christian knows man consists of Spirit, Soul and Body. Let's look into each of them in detail.

⇒ Spirit

Man is a Spirit. Bible says in *Genesis 1:27* "So God created man in his own image; in the image of God He created him". What is his image? Bible says in *John 4:24* "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth". Now what is spirit? Air set in motion by breathing is called Spirit, that itself is called Life as well. Who gave the spirit to man? Bible says in *Genesis 2:7* "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being", So God is the real source of Oxygen which we breathe. In order for this cycle to continue, God made trees and other plants on 3rd day, well in advance.

So it is evident that, until God breathed into the nostrils of man, man is dead. That's why we believe it is life out of death, whether it is referred creation or eternal life after death which will be discussed later. But the World believes it in the other way as death is an end of the life and no more or nothing more after death, So as long as we live on this earth let's do all we can, and finish this race just like that.

⇒ Soul

Now let's come to the point. In order for a spirit to live. God created Soul and Body. In other words, Spirit functions in two instruments called Soul and Body. What is Soul? Soul is the immortal and immaterial part of man which belongs to God. Ezekiel 14:3 says "Behold, all souls are mine". It is the most vital asset of man which morally senses right and wrong and greatly influences one's behavior. In order for this immaterial part of man to function in human body, it requires two organs called heart and brain. In and through our hearts thoughts are conceived and the brain processes it and gives command to an appropriate organ. Through this only, words and action or behavior takes place. Similarly heart stores whatever is processed through brain. That's why Paul writes in Romans 7:8 "But sin taking opportunity by the commandment (processing and storing), produced in me all manner of evil desire". Bible says in *Proverbs 18:21* "Death and life are in the power of the tongue". Tongue is a part of the body. But how does the power come to tongue? It is through soul. Bible says in Luke 6:45 "For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks". So it the soul that brings all whether, good or bad. Proverbs 23:7 says "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he".

That's why God commands his people (each soul) to be (filled) with biblical virtues. Let's see what is expected from each soul according to bible. Soul has the abilities to believe God, love God, not to sin against God, prosper and survive in God. The duties of soul are as follows

to seek the Lord	to flee from fleshly lusts
to keep his commandments	to be away from evil desires
to love God more than anything	to be wise
to serve the Lord	to get delivered from hell
to store God's word in his heart	to be purified by obedience
to keep God's law	to enrich with Word of God
to obey God	to reign with Christ
to get his Wisdom	to be generous
to be satisfied with righteousness	not to be delighted in abominations

⇒ Body

The next instrument where spirit lives is called Body. Body is the physical structure of human seen as single organism, In other words, the fleshly or corporeal nature of a human. Bible says in *Genesis 2:7* "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground". It consists of various organs to do various functions in the body. Bible calls our body as the temple of the Holy Spirit and we are not our own. Moreover, God expects us to present our body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable. Why? The outcome of soul is revealed on body which either glorifies or criticizes God. Our deeds and acts are sole responsible for reflecting God, as we are image bearers of God.

God willing, let's get into the topic "Death" under his revelation in the next month. Until then Peace be with you.

Written by Mr. Sam Daniel

... To be continued.

JUST FOR FUN



FIND BIBLE WORDS

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and hidden things which you do not know. — Jeremiah 33:3



Find these words from this week's lesson and Bible verse:

ANSWER HIDDEN TELL JEREMIAH THINGS YOU CALL WILL GREAT

KNOW BIBLE WHICH



VALKING IN THE LIGHT

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Pulpit Calendar

"the light represents God's character of holiness"

august 2021

1st Sunday | 01/08/2021 | 9 AM*

Eucharist: A call to remember | Acts 20:7-12

2nd Sunday | 08/08/2021 | 9 AM

I am the light of the world | John 8:12-20

3rd Sunday | 15/08/2021 | 9 AM

Let us walk in the light | 1 John 1:5-10

4th Sunday | 22/08/2021 | 9 AM

The light in our darkness | Isaiah 60:1-3

5th Sunday | 29/08/2021 | 9 AM

God's Word: Light & Strength | Psalms 119

All worship services are held physically and are streamed live *Communion Sunday

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

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