



CORAM DEO (Before God)

International Theological College and Seminary, Cambodia Students' Newsletter

(Spring, February 2016, Vol. III, Issue 2)

Publisher: Woon Se Yeo ; Editors: Dr. Ezra H. Kim & Dr. White Y. Jeon

Assistant Editorial Members: Shalymore Bendy & PC Lalmuanpuia

Office Address: 408 Monivong Blvd., Phnom Penh, Cambodia; website: www.itcscambodia.org;

E-mail: itcscambodia@gmail.com; Tel: 012 330 660; 092-887-620



To all my Beloved Graduating Students of 2016:

(Encouragement Address)

Dr. White Young Jeon (Academic Dean)

Inside Issues:

The Self-Image of a Reformed Pastor in Puritanism P.C. Lalmuanpuia	2
God's Sovereign Election Avitso Dolie	4
The Winner of Race Mr. Ukte Biak	6
How to Enjoy God's Blessing ? Kosal Yoem	9
God Reveal His Love Through Jesus Christ Mon Sophea	11
Testimony Kakda Son Sreyleak Vy Sreyleak Khon Touch Am	12
ITCS Current News	17

First of all, I praise our faithful God for your graduation of 2016 from ITCS, a reformed theological school in Cambodia. And I appreciate you, for I see a wonderful event in you that God has worked to become a man of God or a woman of God. As a member of the faculty of ITCS, I am very proud of you for several reasons.

First, because you have attained your academic goal amidst many struggles in ITCS, I thank God.

I remember you wandering at the beginning of your course in certain areas for three or four or even five years. Now, you stand firm here as a conqueror through the process of academic training. I find wonderful power in you that Christ has bestowed unto you. I truly congratulate you for your graduation. After you finish your courses, do not stop studying so that you may achieve the utmost goal in both your life and your ministry that God had planned for you from the beginning.

Second, because you have revealed the image of God, righteousness, mercy, and faithfulness, I thank God.

Although you are reminded of good things or bad things that you have experienced through much spiritual warfare at ITCS, you must now put them aside in order to draw on your canvas. Moreover,

you should not forget your family and your teachers and the gifts of their faithful prayer and the help of your church sponsor because they have never given up believing that you shall become a man of God or a woman of God that is equipped with righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. (1 Tim 6:11)

Thirdly, because you will now become the alumni of ITCS, I welcome your graduation. Whether you leave or stay in school, remember that you were a student of ITCS that was founded on the reformed theology and its faith. So at any time or place, you have to pray and help the development of our school. When our school grows in the world for God's glory, you and your ministry shall also grow at the same time. We are sorry that we could not provide continual support to you. But every faculty member and I expect that after several years, you shall be a faithful servant of God surrendering to your calling.

Take care of your spiritual health as well as your physical health for the Lord. Whenever you meet any problems, please do not hesitate to let us know. Then we shall provide our insight to help you solve your issues.

God loves you and we love you so much in Christ..



Pastoral Essay:

The Self-Image of a Reformed Pastor in Puritanism

P.C. Lalmuanpuia (M.Div), Student Body President

One may not be familiar about Puritanism. So I'm going to explain who were the Puritans? Puritans were the ones who desired to purify the Church of England from corrupt doctrines and bad practices based on men's desires and traditions instead of the Word of God (Scripture). These faithful Puritans tried to draw the church back into the authority of the Bible (*sola scriptura*) alone. That's why the Puritans were also known as non-conformists.

Among the non-conformists is Richard Baxter. He was one of the most well-known Pastors for his work in pastoral ministry. In one of his famous books called "The Reformed Pastor," he expressed his views about the pastoral responsibilities to God, to congregation, and to self. This inspires other pastors until today. The pastor's work is to glorify God. They are called to obey God's commandments and seek His knowledge in order to lead the congregations effectively.

1. Necessity of Puritanism in Pastoral Ministry

We begin by first defining what a pastor is? The word "pastor" derives from the Greek noun ποιμήν (*poimēn*) as "shepherd" and the Greek verb ποιμαίνω (*poimaino*) as "to shepherd." Jay E. Adams declares, "He who is the 'Shepherd of Israel' (Ps.80:1) ultimately demonstrated the meaning of his covenantal love as the great shepherd of the sheep by giving his life for them (John10:11). Psalms 23: 1 say, 'The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want' for in that great declaration lies all that is meant by 'Pastoral Work.' The shepherd is the one who provides full and complete care for all of his sheep."¹

The Old Testament mentions pastoral ministry in the Book of Jeremiah, God promises "and I will give you pastors according to my own heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jer. 3:15). He also declares judgment on pastors who failed to feed and visit the sheep and scatter them (Jer. 23:1-2). From this text we see there are two kinds of Shepherds (Pastor): One is wearing sheep clothing but the fact is that he is a wolf and scattered the sheep away by false doctrine and heresy (Matt. 7:15; 2 Pet. 2:1). The other is a Shepherd who doesn't need to wear any sheep clothing. He himself is the true shepherd. He will not lead his sheep astray. Instead he will guide and protect them from danger and feed them with a sound doctrine (John 10:11-18). The Puritan pastoral ministry is biblical, theological, and practical. Therefore, a Reformed Pastor must uphold a sound doctrine, sound mission, sound life in his pastoral ministry to prove himself as a workmanship for Christ (2 Tim. 2:15).

2. Biblical Preaching

Puritan pastors play an important role in discipleship through preaching. They were great preachers because they were men of prayer who also love reading the Bible. Their sermons were biblically grounded and saturated with sound doctrine and devotion to the risen Christ.² J. I. Packer offers the following marks of Puritan preaching:

1. Expository in its method
2. Doctrinal in its content

1. Jay E. Adams, *Shepherding God's Flock* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1975), p. 5.

2. J. I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*, 284.

.....

3. Orderly in its arrangement
4. Popular in its style
5. Christ centered in its orientation
6. Experimental in its interests
7. Piercing in its application
8. Powerful in its manner³

The Puritans took the sermon beyond the pulpit on Sunday morning. Practical application “is that which respecteth the life and behavior and it is instruction and correction.”⁴ They distribute to each and every person and were all expected to hear and apply the sermon in their daily lives. All families from their congregations were encouraged to discuss the sermon around the dinner table at home.

3. Catechisms and Creeds

The Puritans also used catechisms, creeds and confessions to disciple their flocks. This is an important instruction for believers both young and old to know their doctrine, to defend and stand firm in their faith. Puritan pastors encouraged heads of families to teach their family members in their home. Richard Baxter says, “Persuade the master of every family to cause his children and servants to repeat the Catechism to him, every Sabbath evening, and to give him some account of what they have heard at church during the day.”⁵ Puritan pastors regularly visited the homes of their flock to catechize families. They believed that the pastor had a personal responsibility to personally catechizing church members.

4. Family Ministry:

To the Puritans, family life was enormously important, for “a family is the seminary of church and state and if children be not well principled there, all miscarrieth”⁶ The puritan pastor Richard Baxter knew so well the importance of family ministry. He said “keep up the government of God in your families: holy families must be the chief preservers of the interest of religion in the world.”⁷ The Puritans believed that it was a parent’s responsibility to disciple and teach their children about the Christian faith. Jonathan Edwards says, “Every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church, consecrated to Christ, and wholly influenced and governed by his rules. And family education and order are some of the chief means of grace.”⁸ Fathers had a spiritual responsibility to pastor their wives and children. The Bible tells parents, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). Puritans discipleship began in their homes by teaching, loving, and disciplining their children for the glory of God.

5. Keeping the Sabbath Holy:

The Puritans faithfully keep the Sabbath day. The Westminster Confession (Chapter 21:8) described the Sabbath in the following way:

“This Sabbath is to be kept holy unto the Lord when men, after a due preparing of their hearts, and ordering of their common affairs beforehand, do not only observe an holy rest all the day from their own works, words, and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations; but also are taken up the

3. Ibid. 284-288.

4. Leland Ryken, *Worldly Saints :The Puritans As They Really Were* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1986), p. 102

5. Ibid, 42.

6. Ibid. 270

7. Ibid. 270

8. Jonathan Edwards, “*Farewell Sermon.*”

whole time in the public and private exercises of his worship, and in the duties of necessity and mercy.”

Throughout the Bible God promises rest to His people. The biblical word for rest literally means to cease from work.⁸ It is a time to spend for the Lord, doing his ministry, in the company of the Christian family. Baxter, said, “Persuade the master of every family to cause his children and servants to repeat the catechism to him, every Sabbath evening, and to give him some account of what they have heard at church the day.”⁹

Conclusion

Puritan Pastors provide one of the best discipleship training during their time, which also inspire their mature parents to teach their family at home. They were sincere in prayer, and passionate in preaching Scripture. They read devotional writings and catechisms, creeds and confessions of faith. They were also faithful in keeping the Sabbath day holy. As a result we find that Puritan pastoral ministry is biblical, theological, and practical as well. It is a must for the Contemporary Reformed Pastors to see and learn Puritan Ministry in order to lead the congregations into more Spiritual Godly life.

8. W.E. Vine, *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (McLean, VA: MacDonald Publishing Company, ND), 969.

9. Ibid., 101.



Essay:

God's Sovereign Election

Avitso Dolie (M.Div), Graduate 2016

In God's sovereignty, He chooses some and some are not. Isaac He chose, but not Ishmael (Gen. 17:18-21). Jacob he preferred than Esau, before his birth (Gen. 25:23). We are the chosen one, the elected one. “No man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father” (John 6:44, 65). This shows that men do not and cannot come to Christ in faith by the exercise of their own native and natural power. Rather it must be given to them by the Father; they must be drawn by the Father. This drawing can be none other than the efficacious working of His grace in their hearts and minds. So we have the sovereign election of the Father and the sovereign operations of His grace.

Election

Election is the sovereign act of God. God's Election is Unconditional. It is not us who chose God, but God. Jesus told to his disciples, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last--and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” (John 15:16). God chose the nation of Israel for the purpose of His redemptive plan. It was only by His grace not by their merit, if by merit then Israelites will died eternally in the land of Egypt because they didn't do anything good before God (Deut. 7:6; 4:37; 10:15; Isa. 41:8-9; 45:5).

Arminian View

Arminian Theology asserts that God chooses us because he knows in advance that we will choose to believe in Him. On this view, our choice is the cause, and God's choice is the effect. We are the first cause and God is the second. “Arminianism holds that election “in Christ” means God chose individuals for sal-

vation based on his foreknowledge of who would be “in Christ” by believing in Him.”¹ Scripture teaches all believers, as Jesus taught his disciples, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit- fruit that will last” (Jh. 15:16). God’s choice precedes our choice, response, and faith.

Roman Catholic view

Roman Catholic focuses much on good deeds. Their final destiny depends on how they live on this earth. Which mean, it is their will to choose heaven or hell. Their will determine their destiny. Van Til states, “According to Roman Catholic theology man has a measure of autonomy over against the plan of God. God has to await man’s decisions on many points. Thus God does not really control whatsoever comes to pass.”² Their view of salvation is based on faith and good works. Man is justified by keeping the traditions and sacraments. In the Council of Trent (1545-1563), the Roman Catholic strongly condemned Luther’s doctrine that Christ’s righteousness is extrinsic to the justified person and only imputed to him. “The council confirmed that there are seven sacraments instituted by Christ (Baptism, confirmation, penance, unction, orders, and marriage) and condemned those who said that sacraments are not necessary for salvation or that through faith alone, and without any sacrament, man can be justified. Sacraments contain the grace they signify and *confer it ex opera operato*, irrespective of the qualities or merits of the persons administering or receiving them.”³ We are justified only by grace of Christ through faith. Apostle Paul says, “Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the Law of Moses” (Acts 13:38-39). We are justified by God not because we did good or we are righteous, but it is solely by His grace. We are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:24). Calvin says, “Christ was given to us by God’s generosity, to be grasped and possessed by us in faith. By partaking of Him, we principally receive a double grace: namely, that being reconciled to God through Christ’s blamelessness, we may have in heaven instead of a judge a gracious Father; and secondly, that sanctified by Christ’s spirit we may cultivate blamelessness and purity of life.”⁴

View of Reformed (Unconditional election)

God chose us without any condition or merit, He chose us before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4), which means before we do anything good or bad. God chose Jacob and rejected Esau before they were born, before they did anything righteous or evil. Thus, the Bible clearly shows God’s election is unconditional. Then why God chose Israel nation as His chosen people? Why Jacob and not Esau? Apostle Paul said in Romans 9:14-18: “What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.”

1. Robert A. Peterson, *Election and Free Will: God’s Gracious Choice and Our Responsibility* (Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2007), 107.

2. Van Til, *Christian Apologetics*, edited by William Edgar, second edition (Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2003), 179.

3. F.S. Piggin, “Trent Council,” in the *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Walter A. Elwell (Grand Rapid: Baker Book House, 1986), 1109.

4. Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vol. I, ed. John T. McNeil, trans. & indexed by Ford Lewis Battles (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006), 725.

Conclusion:

Therefore, election is absolutely God's unconditional choice, not depend on human desire or effort (Rom. 9:16). In Romans 8:29 says, "for those who he foreknew he also predestined", which means God foreknew those whom he predestined, before we born. God had specifically chosen some, but not everybody. Thus, Jesus said, "And this is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all which He has given Me I should lose nothing but should raise it up again at the last day" (John 6:39). God sent His Son to this earth to fulfill His purpose and Christ perfectly fulfilled His Father's will by dying on the cross for the sins of the elected one. The Westminster Confession stated that, "The Scripture, moreover, declare that the 'calling' is based upon the 'election:' 'who hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (2 Tim. 1:9; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Rom. 11:7)."⁵

"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will."

- Ephesians 1:11

It is only by His grace, we earn nothing for our salvation. In fact, we deserve eternal death (Rom. 3:23; 6:23), yet God love us so much and send His Son to save us from the eternal death (John 3:16). Thus, by believing in Christ we are saved. He chose/elect us not that we are good or righteous, but because of His love. Calvin stated that, "beyond all controversy our election is not to be ascribed to our diligence, nor to our striving, nor to our efforts, but that it is wholly to be referred to the counsel of God."⁶ And therefore, we have responsibility to obey and honor Him. And not only that, He gave us a mission, which is to proclaim the gospel to the whole nation (Matt. 28: 19). And that is our earthly responsibility and task as Christ followers.

5. A.A Hodge, *The Westminster Confession: A Commentary* (Carlisle: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1998), 170.

6. John Calvin, *Commentaries on the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans*, trans. & ed. John Owen (Grand Rapid: Baker Book House, 1984), 357.



Essay:

The Winner of the Race

Ukte Biak (M. Div., graduate)

I Corinthian 9:24-27: "24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." (NIV)

When we look around the world today, we can see sports and athletics are conquering people's mind, especially in Europe. You can see how football is taking the mind of people. Back then, athletics is important as a means of exercise and as a way to relieve the stress of life. Today, athletics in many places is a big business; people earn their living in athletics. This athletics reminds us today of our Christian life.

It is apparent that Apostle Paul himself liked athletics and was knowledgeable about it. We can observe that he loved to use athletic competition to illustrate spiritual truths. In the passage above, Paul uses run-

ning race to illustrate Christian life. In running race, if you are a participant, one thing that you want is to be the winner. That is what Paul want us to be, a winner in our Christian life. If we want to be a winner in our Christian life, we must apply the same principles that athletes apply. Our life has been described as a race, and the goal in a race is to win. I hope your goal in your Christian life is to be a winner.

As Paul used this illustration the people in Corinth must be familiar with the Greek games. They had either seen them or participated in them. They knew about the “prize” which was a garland of leaves fashioned from the branches of trees and placed upon the winner’s brow. Here Paul takes this simple concept and makes a spiritual application. He gives us a three-fold plan for success in our Christian race. He tells us how we can play to win.

First, you must have training (vs. 25)

Here Paul is saying “Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever”.

If you will be in a race, you need a lot of training. If you do not have any training how will you get the prize? Others are well-trained, it is impossible to compete opponent runner. Therefore in order to win the prize you need first training. On the other hand this running race is not easy game, it is too difficult, you need a lot of efforts. When you run there is no time for rest. It is same as Christian life. You may think that Christian life is easy, but you when you look back Jesus life, apostles life, and early church you will see how difficult and hardship they face in their life. They fight with a good fight. And they never get time to rest. We have to train our Christian life with the word of God. This training is not some things new, it is learning the word of God. We have to build up our life with the word of God to win our goal. We are going to fight against the work of Satan in our life, thus, in order to win we have to train ourselves with the word of God. And only we can win for our goal. our goal is to become more and more like Christ. Being like Christ has eternal implications. Being like Christ is worth the fight. It is not like those perishable wreaths the Greek athletes ran for. They soon wilted and decayed. But this prize will last forever.

You know what a struggle it is just to strive and work to try to get material things here. We do so to make us happy and comfortable, but we have to put it in perspective...these things will not last. They are temporary pleasures. But we receive an eternal reward when we play to win at the Christian race. The implication is obvious. If we work so hard for the temporary, how much more should we work for the eternal? Our goal is so much more worthy, and we have to train well with the word of God. We have to read the word of God. Think about the life of Joshua, this is what Moses said to him “this book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (Joshua 1:8). His words are true (Ps.119:160), and Psalmist said “For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle (Ps. 18:39 KJV), The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty (Psalms 29:4). Today his voice come from the Bible, and his voice and word are same, as Jesus is the Word incarnate one, who is God, Psalmist said “My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever”Ps.73:26). As God is our strength we can only get our strength from him alone. We have to meditate the word of God to build up our spiritual muscles, in order to win the prize. Not only that there is another that you must have.

Second, you need to discipline yourself (v.27)

Now Here Paul said “No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize”, in KJV “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection...” What he means is that I keep discipline or else I will be disqualified. Now come back to sport, if you are in sport team you are not allowed to take any drag, and you have to follow what coach direct you to do. If you don’t follow instruction you are directly disqualify. If you take any drag you are out of the team. Why it is so important because if you take any drag you cannot be same as who you are, and if you do not follow your mentor you against your coach, therefore you will not get chance to play.

How it is important to keep discipline yourself, even in this worldly sport which they will get the corruptible crown, For who are Christian which will get the eternal, incorruptible prize how much we have to disciple ourselves. You are the children of God, the temple of God (I Cor.3:16, 17; 6:19), where the Holy

Spirit dwelleth in you, How it is important to keep ourselves to keep holy. Our mentor, our guide is the Bible, it is the norm that we have. According to this Bible we have to discipline ourselves. If a man defile himself with fornication, idolatry, adulatory, drunkenness, Love of money how he will win the prize, how he will be qualifies for peaching the gospel. That is the reason that Paul told to Timothy "But thou, Oman of God, Flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith..." (I Tim. 6:11-12 KJV). We have to suppress our desire, follow step foot of Jesus. And here Paul said again to Timothy "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Tim.6:14 KJV). Therefore in order to win the prize we have to discipline ourselves from all wickedness. Even if who will get corruptible crown discipline themselves how much more we have to disciple ourselves, those who will get unperishedable crown . How much more should we be discipline to strengthening our spiritual selves in the things of God in order to gain an eternal crown of glory, which will never fade away. In fact discipline yourself is one of the most important for your qualification in race. That is what apostle said "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection..". Let the word of God discipline our life to be qualify for our race.

Third, Be Sure of your Goal (v.26)

Paul said in vs. 26, "Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air." To do that running race is to run deliberately – with a goal in mind. We must know what and where the finish line is, and everything we do must carry us toward that goal. We have to sure about our goal. What is your goal in life? Is It just to graduate? Or to have a lot of money, to live in luxury? All these are worthy goals, and worth working for. But what is your goal in your Christian life? I don't means that we should not plant for such things but living in luxury and having a lot of money also good, we can do more God's ministry, but this are worldly thought they can fade away and deceived us. What I want you to ask is that, Have you ever think about your Christian plant? If you haven't, then why not? We plan and work and strive so hard for other things in life; why don't we put the same hard work and effort in our spiritual lives? Of all the areas in our lives that has worth and value, our spiritual life stands head and shoulders above them all.

Have you ever thought about how the winner is win. Because he know and sure about what he is doing. The winner never come up in the position of winner, he failed many time. One of my favorite sayings is, "If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail." That certainly applies in our Christian life. Failing to plan our Christian life is declaring that we plan to do nothing but settle for being content with just getting by. Winners have a plan and a goal and a determination to get there. Winners are well train to reach that goal at all costs with a good discipline.

Three-fold Plan for Winning Race

- 1) *Strict Training*
- 2) *Discipline oneself*
- 3) *Be Sure in your goal*

The runners must also be sure in this race of life. You Christian are runner and You must know your goal and keep your eyes on it. And what is our/ your goal? Heaven? Fame? NO! Our goal is Jesus. Let me explain what that means. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." What this means is that Jesus is not only our goal, but He is also the means by which we can attain it. He is both the goal of the race and the power to run it. He is the author of our faith - He gives us the faith by which we run. And He is the perfecter of our faith. He brings us to maturity so we can finish the race victoriously.

Be sure that Jesus is our goal in that we must be committed to become like Him. That is the reason we run - to be conformed to His image. That is the purpose of God for every believer, to be molded in character, nature, heart, and will into the image of Christ. Jesus is the only one who is worthy to be the ultimate goal in your life. Nothing else compares.

In our Christian running race life, it is not easy we face a lot of problem but remember that those who are in running race there is no time for rest. Therefore God want us to run with Progress. "Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on," etc.. (Php 3:13), Concentration, and Endurance. "Let us run with patience". (Heb 12:1) To faint or fall is to lose the prize. The cross must be borne to the end. Nothing but "patient continuance in well doing" will conduct us to the goal. (comp. Jam 1:12). Without knowing your goal you cannot run therefore you must know your goal.

.....

Conclusion

So dear brother and sister in Christ today we are in spiritual running race. As you are the runner are you going to run for winner or loser. In this worldly sport there is only one winner but in our Christian running race we all can be winner. If you are going to run for winner you have to train your spiritual muscle with the word of God, as in sport they take many train to be winner. And You have to discipline yourselves: flee from all darkness practice, and last you have to be sure your goal and know. Fix your eye on Jesus who can give you strength. As Paul said “in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37), through him we will win and in him we will win the crown. May God bless you all.



Sermon:

How to Enjoy God's Blessing?

Kosal Yoem (MAR I)

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways. You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me (Psalm 119: 1-8)

Why Christians are blessed in this world? It is because they continue to live according to the word of God. They meditate in his Word and led by the will of God every day. They also deny their own ways to follow God's word.

God wants you to enjoy His blessing by studying his Word, praying to Him and apply his Word into your life. How can we enjoy God's blessing? Here I will explain the three methods in detail.

By Studying the Word of God (V.2)

Psalms 119: 2 said, “Blessed are they who keep his testimony and seek him with all their heart”. What does it mean to keep God's testimony? It means continuously to abide in the word of God. It means to live according to God's instruction. You are the blessed man because you devoted yourself to study, mediate and listen to His word every day. Blessed are those who seek him with all his heart. What does it mean to seek God? Actually no one has ever seen God but we can see God through His testimony that is the Bible. God is Spirit, He has no shape and He is Holy. To seek God in this passage means to study his word, and to meditate his word. Now you are studying the word of God. That mean you have already experienced God's blessing. Let's keep the law of the Lord in your life. Brothers and sisters in Christ you are the blessed man

.....

because you devoted yourself to study and to meditate the word of God today. God will bless if you follow him consistently.

By Praying in God's Word.

How can we see God? We can see God by His testimony. Here in the passage three times of the word "Testimonies" are revealed. Here, his testimony points to the word of God. Also it is the Bible. God speaks now to you through the Bible. How can you know God? Through the testimonies of God which is the Bible you can know God. What does God want us to do in order to enjoy His blessing? I assure that man who prays to God in the Word can enjoy it. Who is the blessed man? He is the one who denies his own way and humbly prays to God every day. Then, you can enjoy God's gracious blessing in your life.

By Applying His Word to Your Life

In order to enjoy God's blessing, you must apply the word of God to your life. How can you apply that? Psalms 119:5-9 "You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. **8** I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me".

What does it mean, "laid down precepts"? It means that He reveals His will or, His standard which is the word of God. So in order to apply the word of God into your life, you must examine every action and your thinking according to his word. Whatever God wants you to do, you should obey. Especially God wants that you read the Bible every day and He wants you to love your enemy. Although this thing is hard, you must do it. Then you can see his wonderful grace.

Conclusion

Enjoy God's blessing is to have a fellowship with God. We are blessed because we believe in God by meditating in his Word every day. Walking in God's direction is also such a great blessing for it leads us to the way of truth to the everlasting glory.



**Teaching:**

God Reveal His Love Through Jesus Christ

Mon Sophea (MAR I)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for (Romans 5:8)

As we know that in the beginning God created everything good that includes man. At first man and God had a good relationship but Adam and his wife Eve had fallen down into sin because of Satan's temptation. They disobeyed God. Because of that fall, all generations must face death. But God sent his only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die for our sin and restore man's broken relationship with the Lord.

Even though we are sinner, God still loves us. He wants to save us from our sins. Through the Bible we can know God and what He has done for you and me. God planned for the salvation of His elect. Now, let us consider Romans 5:8 saying God demonstrated His love for us and that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

I. What state we're in before our salvation?

The passage says that God loves us "while we were still sinners." What does it mean? Roman 6: 23 says that all have sins and the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. This means that we are all sinners and have to die. We are all guilty before God. As we see in Romans 1: 18-20 God is angry of our sins. The Bible says, "the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." We are helpless sinners and we deserve to die. It is only by His grace that we can have hope in this life.

II. How did God show His love to us, sinners?

But God is gracious. Even though we are sinners and we deserve nothing but condemnation because of our sins, God showed His love to us as it is written in the text, "But God shows his loves for us." What does it mean? The Bible says that God sent his son to the world. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) God did not spare His Son. He sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. Through his sacrificial blood, all our sins were washed once and for all (Hebrew 10).

It's not only that God has also given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son, Jesus Christ. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. No one can take you away from the love Jesus Christ. Romans 8: 35 says, who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?) Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior in your heart? Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ now. He died for our sins that we may have eternal life in Christ.

Conclusion

.....

My brothers and sisters in Christ, remember that we are sinners. Jesus is our hope. Without Jesus we are nothing. Our life is meaningless. Even our faith is not from us. It is given by God. Everything's come from God. Paul says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith" (Ep. 2:8). Jesus came to the earth not to enjoy with the world but He came to embrace suffering in order to save his elect. As Romans 5: 12 -15 tells us that because man one is entered to world and death is by sin but one man righteousness brings life for believers. Therefore believe your Savior and you will be saved.



Ministry Testimony:

Sngoun Pech Ministry

Mr. Kakda Son (BTH IV)

Matthew 19:26, "With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible"

It's a great privilege to give a testimony about my children ministry in our village. First, I would like to give thanks to the Almighty God for giving me an opportunity to serve Him. Let me introduce myself first before telling about our ministry in our village. I'm Kakda Son. My hometown is in Svay Reang Province, Cambodia. By God's providence I've been studying here in ITCS for about four (4) years and it's a wonderful time for me. I don't deserve this but it is the Lord who has provided me all these blessings according to his purpose.

Moreover, God has given me another great blessing. I have been doing Children Ministry at Sngoun Pech Village since 2nd year of my college. In this village there are so many unbelievers. These people committed sin daily. Their hearts are futile and corrupted by evil. But our God has shown mercy on us and he gave us three (3) believers in Christ. In order to do children ministry, we need to have a good relationship with children's parents, otherwise, they will not allow their children to participate and study God's word with us. To make relationship with the people is my hardest things because I'm an introvert person. But God is the one who work on their heart. Even though I'm not able but God is able to do so.

Though they are unbelievers, by God's grace they allow to send their children to study with us every week. Around 25-30 kids have been participating in our weekend ministry. Also sometimes we have some new students join with us. To me it is a good number although it cannot compare to the first time. However good thing is that some of them who had left came back and actively participated.

God is with us always and He is with us wherever we go (Matt. 28:20). Even though I'm not good in communication with the people but God



Kakda teaching the children of Sngoun Pech Village.

is with me. He supports, helps, and encourages me in ministering His ministry. I'm unable to do this but God is able to do so (Jer. 32:17; Matt. 19:26). God is present with us. Just put your trust in the Lord and be courageous.

Lastly, I want you to pray for our Children Ministry/villagers to let God opens the hearts of these children and the people to realize that Jesus is the only true God, Savoir, and the Mediator between God and man. May God bless you abundantly and be with you always.



Personal Testimony:

God's Chosen Servant

Sreyleak Vy (College III)

I would like to thank God for giving me this opportunity to share about my life to all of you. My name is Sreyleak Vy. I'm 21 years old. Right now I'm studying in ITCS, third (3rd) Year College. I was born in non-Christian family. I really hate the gospel about God and Christians before because I always hear the rumors about God from other people. But God is merciful that He called me to Him, blessed me, and giving me privilege to serve Him.

I came to know God through one pastor from Kampot Province who builds the church in my village. One day they teach the children, and I was with them too to study God's word. I didn't have any interest about God at that time; I just went there for having fun and get something from them. One day my pastor invited me to go to the church in the worship time along with my friends. We joined there in the worship service but then the word of God that he shares really touches my heart and let me know that I need a Savior. And I know that the Holy Spirit opens my heart to know about Him. A week later, I told my pastor that I want to accept Jesus Christ to be my Savior and so my pastor prayed for me, let me repent, and commit myself to God. Since then I'm His daughter. From then on, every Sunday I go to the church to worship Him. I enjoy His Word and my life.

But then after a year, my school friends came to know that I believed Jesus. They didn't like me anymore because I always share the Gospel to them. They think that I always rejected their opinion and my mind cannot go along with them anymore. Aside from that, my family didn't allow me to go to church anymore because our neighbor talked bad things about God to my parents. Actually it's hard to reject what my parents wants me to do and the situation is not good. I tried to befriend my friends again. I started to stay far away from God. But I still read the bible and have God in my heart. Another one year go so quickly, my friends still did not come back to me. One day the word of God came to me and made me cry because my He told me that He is my best friend and He loves me so much. So I bow down and pray to God, asking for forgiveness. Then I go back to the loving arms of God and stand firm in His Word. So I told my parents about the great thing that God had done in my life. After that my parents never reject or against me when I go to the church. However, our neighbors still talk bad to my parents about my belief. But my parents didn't care about that anymore because they saw many great things God had done in my life. Later on I graduated high school, my parents allowed me to study in the Bible school. I really thank God for giving me a good chance to study His Word and to do His ministry for His kingdom.

Finally I want to thank God that he chose me to be His daughter. I thank God for a good school, instructors, professors, friends, and especially to my family. They may not believe in God yet, but I hope someday God will open their hearts and use me to convert them. And also, I would like to ask your help in praying for my family and me so that I can overcome all the problems and use me for His glory. I know God's plan everything for my life; I commit my life to Him.





Personal Testimony:

God's Greatness in my Life

Sreyleak Khon (College III)

My name is Sreyleak Khon from Takeo province and I'm 21 years old. My parents didn't have a good job. So they did not have much money to support our family. It's a tragic to see my mother and my sister who did not believe God. But on the other hand I'm happy to see my father and my brother as a Christian, though they are not yet mature in faith. All my relatives living around us follow Buddhism.

When I was about 14 years old, I started to believe in Jesus. After I believe in Jesus for about 1 year, I started to read the bible every day. One day my father brought me to a Christian conference; there I started to know God more. After I got something new about the knowledge of God, I was so excited, and I started sharing the Gospel to all my friends and all people whom I knew. But they cannot understand. My friends always mocked at me, calling me, "Yesu, Yesu!" When they called me like that, I feel shy and angry. But then I thought that I should not be shy of the name of "God" whom I believe for He is the living God. Sometimes, my teacher asked me in the class about God, and I gave the answer to him according to what I understand about God and I also prayed at that time too; and I was so afraid. I have been discouraged in many things, and I wanted to be very smart and good girl by studying in the school. One day when I was sleeping in my house, I had a nightmare, and it was about the second coming of Jesus. When I was awoken, I was so afraid and felt guilty that I cried a lot for I thought that until now I have not done anything for God's kingdom; then I pray to God that He will use me to serve Him in this world. So after I graduated from high school, I knew myself that God called me to study in the Bible school.

In 2013 I joined VBS in ITCS, and I realized that I really love education and I was convinced to come back and study. So, I asked my parents to let me study in bible school, to which they answered yes. However, when I came to ITCS, at first, I didn't feel comfortable to live and study because I was shy and scared of other people. I didn't greet anyone, and it made me feel so bad. I thought that I have problem with my emotion or brain that I cannot do like other people. I try to communicate with God; even though I was not good in communication with people. After a period of time I felt better and changed a little bit of my attitude for I depended on God. When I had trouble with financial or something, I've asked God for that; and God answers my prayers. From day to day I felt that God is next to me, and He will provide everything that I need. I feel so peaceful and secure. Someday I thought that I want to stay closer to God, and I would do something that brings me closer to God. I remember in my heart the word of God that if anyone was mocked because of Jesus, he is blessed. After that, I ask God for suffering in his name. For about 2-3 months later God started on working his will.

First God answered through my family. My family asked me to go back home and study at university, but I refused. After I refused with their request, my family said that they don't have money to send to me so they didn't send me money anymore. On Khmer New Year, we have vacation for 5 days to go back to hometown. At that time I didn't have any money then I borrow some money from senior for transportation to go back to my hometown. Before I go I thought that I will come back on the set time for I didn't know that God was giving me suffering. When I went back, my parents didn't like me, they try to blame me and criticize me. And at the same time I had a serious stomachache, and I didn't want to eat anything at all. Those things were become reasons for my parents to pull me out of Bible school; on the set time that I should come back to school, my parents didn't allow me to come back for they didn't give me any money. They brought me to the hospital in Takeo market, and they paid for medicine about 50 dollars, and that money was so much for them. While at home, I cried every day, and I prayed to God, and sang some song that I've learned from my school. The work of Satan worked so hard, since I was singing songs to praise God. My father thought that I'm abnormal, and he said to me, 'You become crazy after you study at that school.' When I heard that, I was so disappointed for my father is a Christian too, and he is the only one who supports me to study in the Bible school. Then I cried very much just like a stone crushed into my

heart. I felt so alone, and I thought that God also abandoned me because I thought that maybe I have done any sins against God, and I tried to repent to God.

After we came back from the hospital, my parents told me that you have to go to Phnom Penh and work with your aunt as a factory worker to save money for your study. But I refused and pleaded with them to send me back to school. And they said 'No', and gave me three days to decide. During those days, I cried a lot, and I can't remember much about the word of God, but I still remember God commanded to obey my parents. But I seemed confused too for God told me to love him with all my heart, my strength, and my mind. Finally, I thought that wherever I go, God is there and he will help no matter what decision I do. I cannot escape from God's hand. So I decided to follow my parents to work as a factory worker.

The first time in the first day I went to Phnom Penh to work, I felt like I am a prisoner. I always think of escaping from the place and go to my school. I was so frustrated and disappointed. I cried out to God to ask him for help. I read the bible, and pray every day. I complaint to God everyday for I getting a lot of persecutions from my aunt and her friend, that lived together in the same room. And they are strong believers in Buddhism. My aunt and her friends hated me so much, and everyday, they tried to find my fault and accused me. When I read the bible, they were angry with me and scold me and rebuked me not to read anymore for that bible is useless; they even wanted to burn my bible. Everyday, they tried to do everything that they can stop me from believing and showing my belief in Jesus, but they can't. About 3 months, I was captured into the prison of the Egyptian, and I didn't worship God at all; I was eagerly to worship God too much, and later I heard that there is some church near the place that I live so I went to that church to ask to worship. I could worship God there and I stopped complaining to God, and God comforted and blessed me through by worshipping him. I went there every Sunday and I pray to God everyday to deliver me from there. About 3-4 months later God gave me the answer by sending pastor White Young Jeon. He asked me to help me in his ministry on weekend and he wanted to support me some money if I'm working along with him; then I asked God if it is his will or not and God showed me that he is the one that he sent to me. So that God brought me back to study in ITCS again. I can study, and also I can get some support for my study without asking my parents anymore, because of God's plan for my life. God is the living God, and He knows every suffering that I bear and works out things which i couldn't see.

After I came back to study, I knew that God worked very hard in my life but he always takes care of me every second of my life during that time, and I also happy and excited to look back. I thank God for His wonderful grace. I know that I'm not worthy, but God will not let me fall into the pit. Sometimes parents change their loves toward their children, but God's is never changed. His love endures forever. Now I know that every decision and prayer and everything are God's will, and it is not because of anyone, but God only.

.....



Personal Testimony:

God's Greatness in my Life

Mr. Touch Am (M.A.R. I)

First of all I would like to give thanks to God for calling me to be one of his faithful servants. As a servant, I must remember my duty and the particular purpose of God in his calling. I must keep and apply the great commandment of God entire of my life. It is God who chose me and commanded me to go to the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father and of the Son and of the Spirit, and teaching them to obey His word. Also God promised that wherever I go, He's always with me. As we see it in Matthew 28:18-20 God is always with me and encourages me when my faith fall down or get disappointed.

It is a wonderful privilege for me to study and serve God in ITCS. In another sense it is also one of the hardest schools that I ever come across in my life. Both education and school law I must keep and obey. But through this hardship I can see the best fruit. This seminary also helps me to grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. Furthermore, professors always care about students. They always care about student's life and future. They want all students to have a bright future. When I see how they care for us, I'm really happy to study and do ministry. I have been doing ministry in one village, named Tropeang Trop. I am a group leader there. All my assistants are good to me and co-operate with me very well. They always follow my instruction and encourage one another. We are so happy to do ministry there. Especially, the people there, both adults and children, are nice and friendly. They always welcome us while we share the gospel or teach the children. Also during the time of Christmas or VBS, they used to join our worship as well. They may not be a Christians right now but I hope and pray that God will call and open their hearts to be His children.

Above all I give thanks and glory to God for his abundant blessings in my life. I thank God for his wonderful grace and the faith and hope which he pours upon me. It is the power of God in his presence which makes me strong to do his ministry. I hope that God will give me wisdom, knowledge, and talent more and more to serve him effectively for the expansion of his kingdom. Entire of my Christian life I must keep on obey God's word, faithful, patient, trust and prayer all the time. Amen.

.....

ITCS News and UPDATES!

WELCOME, SPRING 2016 SEMESTER!

After the strenuous activities of ITCS in January, the ITCS students geared up for the new semester, Spring 2016 which officially started on February 9, 2016. Dr. Woon Se Yeo, the Vice-Chancellor, lead the revival worship service on the same day. We thank God for another semester that He has given unto us that we may know more of Him and His Word and that we may be fully equipped for the ministry that He has prepared for us to do.

Meanwhile, below is the list of the subjects offered for this semester.

CLASSES AND PROFESSORS FOR SPRING 2016

A. M. Div. – Th. M.

Subject/ Course	Code	Unit s	Professor
Modern Gospel Criticism	AP603	2	Dr. Woon Se Yeo
Soteriology	ST601	2	Dr. Woon Se Yeo
Writing Thesis		2	Dr. Ezra Hyun Kim
Covenant Theology	OT702-2	3	Dr. White Jeon
Synoptic Gospels	NT501	2	Rev. Mark Baldwin
Doctrine of God	ST502	3	Dr. Ezra Hyun Kim
Total Unit		14	4 professors

B. 1st year Seminary (preparatory) and 4th Year College

Subject	Code	Units	Professor
Soteriology	ST603	2	Dr. Woon Se Yeo
Youth Education II	EL	1	Dr. Grace Oh
Early Church History	CH601	2	Ms. Shalymore B. Bendy
Acts and Romans	NT501	2	Rev. Timothy Div
Puritanism		2	Dr. White Y. Jeon
Historical Books of OT (I & II Kings)	OT103	2	Dr. White Y. Jeon
Introduction to Theological Writing II	PT402	2	Dr. Ezra Hyun Kim
Synoptic Gospels	NT501	2	Rev. Mark Baldwin
Total Units		15	5 professors; 2 senior instructors

ITCS News and UPDATES!

C. 2nd – 3rd year College

Subject	Code	Units	Professor
Reformed Christian Life V	CD402	2	Dr. White Young Jeon
Natural Science	EL	2	Dr. Bryan Kim
Khmer Language II in Bible Reading	EL	2	Rev. Timothy Div
Historical Books II	OT104	2	Rev. Timothy Div
Medieval Church History	CH102	2	Ms. Shalymore B. Bendy
ESL Vocabulary	ESL	2	Ms. Shalymore B. Bendy
Composition III	ESL302	2	Ms. Shalymore B. Bendy
Grammar VI	ESL305	2	Ms. Shalymore B. Bendy
Introduction to Acts	NT302	2	Rev. Manil Ek
Gospel II	NT102	2	Rev. Manil Ek
Physical Education	PE	2	Mr. Biak Uk Luai
Ministry and Practice	PC 322	2	Dr. Ezra Hyun Kim / Rev. Timothy Div
TOTAL UNITS		24	2 professors; 5 Instructors

Pre-college – 1st year college

Subject	Units	Teacher
Basic English Grammar	3	Ms. Sreyrea Rinh
ESL Conversation	2	Mr. PC John Muanpuia
English Bible Reading and Memorization	2	Mr. Touch Am
ESL Vocabulary	2	Mr. Vichea Cheap
Basic Computer (Microsoft, Excel, & Power point)	2	Mr. Kosal Yoem/Mr. Touch Am
Musical Instruments (Guitar)	2	Mr. PC John / Kosal Yoem
Sunday School and VBS teaching	2	Ms. Sreyrea Rinh and Ms. Rachana Pov
Physical Education	2	Mr. Biak Uk Luai
Asian Geography	2	Mr. Biak Uk Luai

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.—2 Tim. 2: 15

ITCS News and UPDATES!

1. February 16, 2016 (Tuesday) : Election for the new student body President and Vice President in ITCS Chapel. New office bearers:

President: Mr. P.C. Lalmuanpuia (M.Div)

Vice President: Mr. Touch Am (MAR)

Clerk: Sreyrea Regn (MAR)

Treasurer: Savat Voun (BTH)

2. New Librarian: Ms. Thi Thi Ayea (MAR), and Assistant: Mr. Saophea Mon (BTH).

3. February 21, 2016 : Worship Team Meeting

4. February 22, 2016 : Dr. White Young Jeon (Academic Dean) meeting with student office bearers (OB)

5. Students enroll for the spring semester: 40 .

6. January 25-29, 2016: Pastoral Education Seminar/Graduation Day

7. February 1-5, 2016: Women Education Seminar



Please visit us at our website: www.itcscambodia.org; Phone No.: +85512660330