



The Truth of THE GOSPEL



Colossians 1:3-6 (NKJV)

³We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth.

Introduction

When asked, "What is the gospel?", what would be your immediate response?

When Christians lack or lose their joy and awe in the gospel, it becomes just another good story. If this happens, we need to hear it again to remind us about the power of God to salvation. It is because the gospel is the word of the truth. It transforms us and brings us the joy of salvation.

When Christians forget the importance of the gospel and its applications to their daily lives, they become vulnerable to deceptions and false teachings. This experience happened during the early Christian time.

Hebrews 2:3

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.

A. The Gospel is received through faith.

The object of our faith is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

¹Moreover, brethren, I declare to you

the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

- Faith includes trusting Christ.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- Faith includes repentance.

Acts 20:21

Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

- Faith includes committing (a relationship) to Christ as Lord.

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom

of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

B. The Gospel brings hope.

Hope is like faith; it is looking forward to the future. Hope brings us encouragement and motivation; it helps us to persevere.

An athlete works hard on developing his physique because of his future hope. He is motivated by that hope. Even if there are trials and difficult situations, he perseveres because of this hope. Conversely, a person who lost hope lacks motivation and easily gives up when facing trials and difficult situations.

Hope encourages us to continue in faith to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and it also motivates us to love others. A Christian who lacks hope will also lack joy and purpose in life. This leads to a compromised life.

continue on page 5 >>



Rev. Dr. James C. Sy
Administrative Pastor



UCF VISION FEATURE

Direksiyong kalook ng Panginoon

Ang United Christian Fellowship (UCF) ay naitatag mula sa tawag ng Panginoon sa Kaniyang lingkod na si Rev. Dr. William Sy. Taong 1992 ay binigyan ng inspirasyon ng Panginoon si Rev. Dr. Sy upang isulat ang katagang nagsilbing direksiyon at layunin ng UCF sa mga sumunod na panahon—*ang vision and mission*. Ibinigay ng Panginoon ang pangitaing ito kay Rev. Dr. Sy matapos siyang magdesisyong ibigay ang kaniyang buhay sa ating Panginoon at magkaroon ng bagong covenant sa Kaniya. Patuloy na ibinabahagi ng ating punong pastor *ang vision and mission* na ibinigay ng Panginoon upang maging kabahagi rin tayo ng kaniyang pagsunod.

VISION # 1

We dream of preparing an army of believers in place where the depressed, the frustrated, and the confused can find help, hope, love, acceptance, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement.



VISION # 2

We dream of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in the Philippines and in the whole world.



VISION # 3

We dream of welcoming covenant members into the fellowship of our church family where loving, caring, learning, laughing and living in harmony will be their day-to-day experience.



1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NKJV)

¹²And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

VISION # 4

We dream of developing people to spiritual maturity through cell groups, seminars, retreats, and bible training centers.



VISION # 5

We dream of building a strong academic institute, a hospital and a business cooperative where the basic needs of the people will be met.



VISION # 6

We dream of sending our career missionaries and church workers all around the world to share the Gospel.



VISION # 7

We dream of at least a property outside Metro Manila where we can build our retreat, recreation, development, housing and retirement centers for the elderly and the orphans, as well as houses for workers.



¹⁴Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
(NKJV)

MT. TABOR UPDATE

UCF, kaisha ng Casile sa paglago



Kapaki-pakinabang na *Urban Farming Seminar* ang ginanap sa UCF Mt. Tabor Church Re-Creation Center noong Agosto 31, Sabado, na dinaluhan ng ilang miyembro at manggagawa ng UCF.

Ang lugar ay gagamitin bilang *area* ng *hydroponic farming* na siyang bahagi ng programa ng Brgy. Casile kasama ang *Bureau of Plant Industry* (BPI). Malugod na tinanggap ng UCF ang proyekto kung saan ngayon ay nakatayo na ang *greenhouse* at nailipat na ang 1,305 na *lettuce seedling*.

Sa loob ng 21-25 na araw, inaasahan ang malago nitong ani na tiyak ay kapakinabangan ng mga manggagawa sa lugar. Inaasahang ito ay umpisa pa lamang ng pagpapalawig ng *farming project* sa Mt. Tabor.



Matamang pinakinggan ng mga dumalo sa seminar ang proseso at benepisyo ng *hydroponic farming*.



Sa pangunguna ni G. Antonio Marino, isang eksperto mula sa *Turbulent Drip Farm*, ay opisyal na binuksan ang *greenhouse* at sinimulan ang *pagtatanim*. Ang bawat bahagi mula sa mekanismo kung paano tumatakbo ang proyekto maging sa *pagtatanim* ay binigyang diin din.



Nagtulong-tulong ang mga manggagawa kasama si Brgy. Kap. Olan De Sagun at ang kaniyang kagawad sa *pagtatanim* ng mga *lettuce seedling*.



Matagumpay na natapos ang proyekto sa pagkakaisa ng lahat. Pagkatapos ng 25 na araw ay pitong (7) klase ng *lettuce* ang inaasahang aanihin.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
(NKJV)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



CHURCH SEMINAR & FELLOWSHIP

Kabahagi ng pamilya ng Diyos

Sinamantala ng kapatiran ang *holiday break* upang magsama-sama sa isang gawain. Pinasinayaan ni *Administrative Pastor* Rev. Dr. James Sy ang naturang *seminar* patungkol sa *The Conduct of the Church Family* na nagsilbing *fellowship* din ng kapatiran.

Binigyang puntos ng butihing pastor ang mga bagay patungkol sa pagiging isang pamilya sa Panginoon. Ang bawat isa ay may

tungkulin sa kapatiran at sa mga lingkod ng Diyos. Ang kahalagahan sa pagkilala sa lingkod ng Diyos ay naibahagi rin na mahalagang sangkap sa pagsunod sa kalooban ng Panginoon.

Bukas din sa mga katanungan ang gawain kung saan binigyang linaw ito ni Rev. Dr. Sy. Ilang mga paalala ang naitanim sa bawat isa na magsisilbing gabay sa kanilang lakad Kristiyanong.



Ang mga miyembro at manggagawa ng UCF ay masugid na nakinig sa mensaheng ibinahagi ni Rev. Dr. James Sy patungkol sa pagiging bahagi ng pamilya ng Diyos sa UCF.



>> *from page 1*

- Hope of Eternal Life

Titus 1:1-2

¹Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ²in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

- Hope of Resurrection (who died first)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

¹³But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

- Hope of Inheritance

1 Peter 1:3-4

³Blessed be the God and Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

Romans 8:16-17

¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

C. The Gospel results in love.

1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint,

because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

John 13:35

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

"Not only can we tell if we truly received the gospel, but the world should be able to tell as well."

- Love results in considering one another.

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Naturally, you want to meet and be

with the person you love. The more intimate the relationship, the more frequent you meet.

- Love results in caring for one another.

1 John 3:17-18

¹⁷But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

- Love results in sacrifice.

1 John 3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you,

continue on page 6 >>

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies. ²¹Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (NKJV)

The Truth of...

>> from page 5

that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

- Love results in praying always for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Conclusion

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Gospel is the word of the truth.

John 18:37

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

In verse 38, Pilate asked, "What is truth?"

Everybody claims to know the truth—the truth about heaven, the truth to happiness, etc., and many pursue these truths. But what is the truth?

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the

way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

When Jesus says, "Wide is the gate to destruction," He is not saying that these people care nothing for God. He is saying that these people are also seeking the way to eternal life, but there are many counterfeits. Jesus is the only way, the truth, and the life.

Acts 17:30

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Luke 15:7

I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

In the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:18-23), the word of the kingdom is the seed that fell on different grounds. They asked, "If the word of God is so powerful, then why doesn't it always bear fruit?" The reason is not because the seed is defective; it is because the ground (heart of men) is dead. But when a believer understands the power of the gospel, it will bear fruit.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel

of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

The Gospel is the believer's responsibility to preach.

Mark 16:15-18

¹⁵And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will take up serpents; and if

they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Jesus said that we either gather or we scatter. Those who gather are with Jesus, and those who do not gather scatter. There is no in-between.

Matthew 12:30

He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

"There is a price to pay for telling the truth. Yet, we are the people of the truth, and we are going to speak the truth."