

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW CHRIST?



Melbourne Chinese Christian Church
English Service Camp 2015
Oasis Christian Camp

NAME :

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Session 1 – What Jesus do you Follow?

Passage: **Revelation 1**

Reflection Questions

What stood out to you?

What do you think needs to change in you?

How should this affect MCCC?

Session 2 – Return, be Faithful, Repent if you want to Follow Christ

Passage: **Revelation 2:1-17**

Reflection Questions

What stood out to you?

Where do you think you are personally?

Where do you think MCCC is as church, what needs to happen?

Session 3 – Hold Fast & Wake up if you want to Follow Christ

Passage: **Revelation 2:18-29, 3:1-6**

Reflection Questions

What stood out to you?

Where do you think you are personally?

Where do you think MCCC is as church, what needs to happen?

Session 4 – Hold His Word & Hear His Voice if you want to Follow Christ

Passage: **Revelation 3:7-13, 14-22**

Reflection Questions

What stood out to you?

Where do you think you are personally?

Where do you think MCCC is as church, what needs to happen?

Final Session – Benediction

Passage: **Revelation 4:1-11**

Based on what God has been saying to you and to MCCC

Write a letter to God as a prayer based on what He has taught you or shown you.

Devotion (Friday)

Consider Him - The Crucified Christ, by J. Oswald Sanders

"They crucified Him" (John 19:18)

Christ was unique in His death as in His birth. In a perceptive and picturesque statement of a great truth, Martin Niemoller said, "The cradle and the cross of Christ were hewn from the same tree." The incarnation was solely with a view to the crucifixion.

Our Lord's death was unique in that it was the only death that fulfilled millennia of prophecy. The sufferings and death of the Messiah were not only foreshadowed in meticulous

Detail in the Jewish sacrificial system, but they were foretold by the prophets. It has been stated that even in His tragic hours on the cross, thirty-three separate Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled.

He was the only Person to whom death was not inevitable. "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." (John 10:17-18). To Him, death was deliberately chosen. He "gave himself for us", wrote Paul to Titus (2:14). He was not dragged to the cross, but drawn by quenchless love.

To Him alone, death was not a result of sin. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23); but as He did no sin, He did not need to collect its wages. This left Him perfectly free to assume the burden and guilt of the world's sin and to provide deliverance from its bondage.

His was the only death accompanied by miracles. It was appropriate that a life replete with miracles should conclude with a series of miracles. There was the mysterious darkness which was no eclipse, since the moon was then at its farthest from the sun. And it lasted not for a few minutes but for three hours.

There was the miraculous rending of the veil, sixty feet long and thirty feet wide, requiring three hundred men to handle it. The rent was from top to bottom, by no human hand. A mighty earthquake accompanied His death. Rocks were rent, and graves opened. "and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. they came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and[a] went into the holy city and appeared to many people." (Matthew 27:52-53), conclusive evidence of His power over death.

Finally, His was the only death that made possible the forgiveness of sins, retrospective and prospective – an experience to which myriads can testify.

When Thou didst hang upon the tree
The quaking earth acknowledged Thee
When Thou didst there yield up Thy breath
The world grew dark as shades of death

Reflection:

Consider Jesus the suffering Saviour that died for the sins of all. He is not to be judged by you for He is your Judge. How do you stand before Him on Judgement Day? Forgiven or Condemned?

Notes

Devotion (Saturday)

Consider Him - The Risen Christ, by J. Oswald Sanders

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15: 3 – 4)

These verses enshrine the essence of the Christian faith. They contain the essential message of Easter, the most important event in the church year. Three great truths are emphasized. On Friday Jesus died on the cross. On Saturday He lay in Joseph's tomb. On Sunday He rose from the dead. Deny these fundamental facts and you negate Christianity.

Two other very important things about Christ emerge from these verses. First, He was truly man because He died. Death is characteristic of mankind. In this fact lay the necessity for the incarnation. He was also really God because He rose from the dead. Man cannot rise from the dead. Because Jesus was infinite, His death was of infinite value and made expiation (punishment) for the sins of the whole world.

Exactly in the manner and for the purposes revealed in the Scriptures, He died for our sins. He was buried, not in a common grave, but in a new tomb. He rose again on the third day under the circumstances recorded in the Scripture. It was a bodily resurrection. When the women and Peter and John looked into the tomb, it was empty except for the graveclothes, still lying in the folds that had encased Him. The butterfly had flown, leaving an empty chrysalis.

Muslims glory in a full coffin in Mecca. Christians glory in an empty tomb in Jerusalem. We have a living Christ; they have a dead prophet.

But how can the resurrection be explained? Christ's body must have been removed either by human or by superhuman hands. If by human hands, it must have been by the hands of friends or foes. His foes would not, because that would look as if He really had risen. His friends could not remove the body for the tomb was sealed, and a guard of sixty soldiers watched to ensure that it was not rifled. The only alternative is that “ God the Father... raised him from the dead “ (Galatians 1:1).

If Christ did not rise from the dead as His disciples claimed, we cannot account for the complete transformation of these men who had been cowering behind closed doors for fear of the Jews. Their radiant joy and fearless witness is testimony of His transformation.

You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart (A.H. Ackley)

Reflection:

Consider Jesus the living Saviour in your conversion to follow Him. If He did not rise, then His death is in vain. Because He lives, we live. Do you serve Him with joy and gladness and denying the living God is not an option?

Notes

Devotion (Sunday)

Consider Him - The Returning Christ, by J. Oswald Sanders

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:3)

The return of Christ to earth is the denouement toward which the Church has been looking for centuries. Our salvation is nearer than we thought, “And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.” (Romans 13:11), and so is the second advent of our Lord. It is not only the object of our anticipation, but of admonition to very practical duties,

It sounds a call to consecration. “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame” (Revelation 16:15 NKJV). We are to be punctilious in keeping the garments of the soul stainless. Are we as careful in this realm as we are of the garments we wear?

When others see our garments, they see us. We are to “put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27), so that others will see Him when they see us. In these Laodicean days our Lord counsels us to “buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” (Revelations 3:18 NKJV).

His return carries with it the assurance of reward. “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work” (Revelation 22:12 NKJV). There is a tendency to regard the reward motive as a commercializing of Christianity, but it played a prominent part in the thinking of the early Church. Paul frequently refers to it, as did his Master.

Some Christians piously protest that they will be content with the lowest place in heaven, but this is false humility and could be cloak for spiritual lethargy. “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it” (1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV), the promised reward. In any case, rewards are not given, they are earned. Heavenly rewards are for earthly renunciations.

The second advent is an encouragement to continuance. “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown” (Revelation 3:11 NKJV).

In Hebrews 2:1, “We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away”, we are exhorted not to

Workshop Details

Workshop sessions: There will be two sessions for workshops, and campers can choose 2 out of the following 4 workshops to attend.

	Description	Location
<i>Christ-centered relationships (Shebu)</i>	What does it mean to have a Christ-centered family? This workshop provides a biblical definition for what a gospel-centered relationship is. Spend time reflecting on your own family relationships, in view of Christ.	Main Hall
<i>Evangelism (Arnold)</i>	What is stopping you from building intentional relationships for evangelism throughout life? This workshop gives you some time-out to reflect on your busy schedule, and to identify where God can use you to reach others.	Gym
<i>Spiritual gifts (Aaron)</i>	What's the first thing that comes into your mind when you think: spiritual gifts? This workshop is actually about grace and the biblical basis of how and why we should serve at church.	Multi-purpose hall
<i>Forgiveness and repentance (Jonathan)</i>	How do you practice forgiveness and repentance in your life? This workshop shows how critical forgiveness is in our relationship with God – it helps us understand how real the gospel is.	Conference AV Room

Workshop Notes

Session name:.....

Session name:.....
