

In Touch

April 2011

Monthly Newsletter of Karnataka Congregation, Kuwait

MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

From The Pastor's Desk



As believers of Christ, we have probably been to the foot of the cross at some point in our lives. We probably met our Saviour there. But the message of the cross is more than salvation. The cross is the core message or the foundation of our faith. The cross is not something to merely look at or admire, but we are called to pick it up and carry it into every aspect of our lives and walk with it to eternity. We must carry the cross the way He wants us to carry it and not just the way we want to. We receive our justification and rewards through the cross alone.

The religious-minded seek signs, while the spiritual-minded seek God. The Jews (religious-minded) demanded a sign. They were basically asking God for proof before they put their trust in Him. Jews were looking for political freedom but Christ came so that we might have life everlasting. Jesus was performing miracles - giving sight to the blind, straightening the legs of the lame, cleansing the lepers. He was ministering to them, reaching out to meet their needs. But those weren't the kinds of miracles they wanted.

They wanted signs of power & success. They wanted a Messiah who would overthrow the Romans & reestablish the Kingdom of David. The greatest sign that God could ever give us, is the cross. It was on the cross that He suffered and died for our sins.

The Greeks were philosophers who lived for today and did not think about tomorrow. They idolized wisdom and were constantly on the lookout for more knowledge. The Greeks believed that all souls are immortal. Therefore, when you die, you automatically go to be with the Gods. If your life was good enough, then you stayed with the Gods. But if it wasn't, then you were reincarnated into another body, & you get another chance. And you keep trying until you get it right.

Today, what you are looking for sign or wisdom...? We weren't learned anything new. We're still committing the same sins, still thinking the same false thoughts, still stumbling over the same cross. We're still laughing at the wisdom of God, & treating it as foolishness. The power of God is revealed in our lives only when we study the Bible with the intention of transforming ourselves.

There may be a lot of things that we don't understand, but remember, God accomplished that which was impossible when He went to the cross & died for our sins. He did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves. Thank God that He draws us to Himself. He is not some mystical power who calls us from afar but just as He did to Thomas, He calls us to draw close, to feel the wounds on His hands and sides and to come to an intimate knowledge of who He is. There is none like Him.

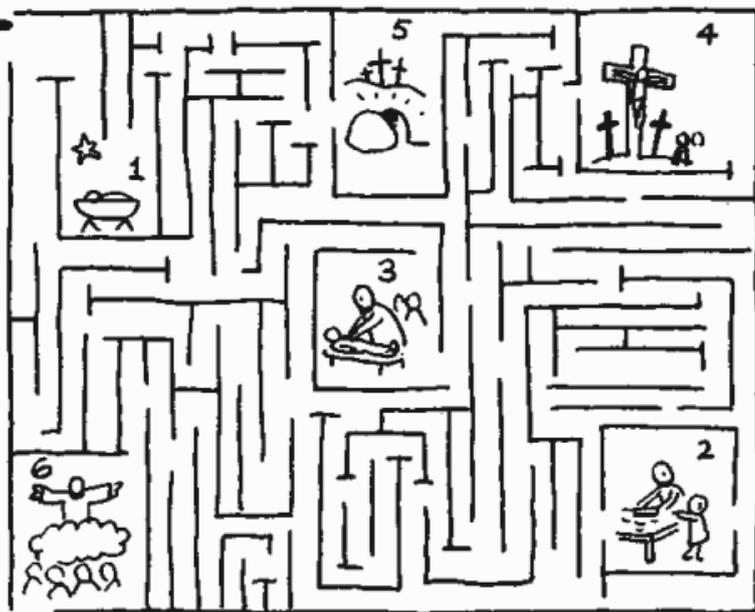
An invitation to stand by the cross, to see the one who suffers & dies there, submit and receive His GRACE! Pray for Your family members, relatives to be saved and accept Him as savior in their life

In His Vineyard

Pastor Shalom

CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY?

START



END

You must travel right through each event in Jesus' life in the right order!

1. Jesus is born at Bethlehem.
2. Joseph teaches Jesus to work as a carpenter.
3. Jesus heals a little girl.
4. Jesus is crucified.
5. Jesus is alive again.
6. Jesus ascends to heaven.



Elevate

Rising to New levels in Life

*God wants us to grow in 4 levels ...Faith, Family, Finances and Freedom
Financial principal summarized...a) Live below your means b) Give generously
If we are able to practice these two things, we can see revelation in our finances*

10 financial commandments

1. Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other Gods before me"

1. Thou shall honor the Lord first:

If you are not put God in 1st in every area of your life...you are in trouble. It is the same principle without finances – If we are not honoring God 1st in our finances (tithing) the Hebrew word for tithe means 10th or 10%, it is more than that (1st 10%) Giving the God first, before paying your bill-it means Putting God 1st in your life. Witness: 1 Kings 17: 8-14 'I have commanded a widow there to provide for you' God use this widow to provide Elijah, don't you think in Israel a wealthy man? They could provided him food...God send Prophet Elijah to a person just had an one meal – God did not send Elijah to the widow to provide for Elijah but He send Elijah to the widow to provide for her.

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THE BAD NEWS IS I LOST EVERY PENNY I OWNED IN SOME BAD INVESTMENTS ... THE GOOD NEWS IS I'M FINALLY READY TO START GIVING 10%

2. Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a curved image"

2. Thou shall not to acquire happiness by material items

We say and agree- money doesn't buy happiness but it helps or doesn't help! (If there is anything that in our heart that will be happy when we buy something else, then we are in trouble. Material idol will not make you happy... as soon as we buy it, we think about other things

3. Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltiness who takes His name in vain"

3. "Thou shalt not be unthankful for whatever standard of living God has provided for you"

This is particularly speaking about 'heart'- it affects to whole our body/life (parts). Most of the time we are taking the name of the Lord in vain, we think about using the God' name as profanity (blasphemy) Vain means vanity or selfishness. In other words don't use the name of the Lord vain reasons or selfish reasons. We are not thankful for the standard of living God has provided for us.

4. Exodus 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy"

4. Thou shalt be a good steward

Remember Sabbath day is stewardship (if you deciding to rest 1 day- you are stewarding your time well) you are helping physical body, your mind and your emotions by resting well. Also it is a matter of faith. You believe 6 days with God' blessings on it can go further than 7th day further without. It is same with tithing...you believe 90% with God' blessing further you can go 100% without! So it is stewarding, we are called to be stewards, steward about time, steward about money! We have to be faithful, with what God has blessed us! If you are not faithful in little for God said 'you will be faithful much'. We have to steward what God has given to us.

Every believer should have 5 saving accounts...

- Savings for things you want (if you want something save, but not buy in credit)
- Saving for things you need (car, clothes, and food- necessities)
- Saving for emergencies
- Save for the future
- Savings for giving (if you want to give a large amount to the Lord...only way)

If you become the good steward by what God' has given the resources, I promise God will bless You!

Teaching by Rober Morriss (Continued)

Principles of Financial Blessing

How does financial curse come upon us?

* Curses come because of demonic power or satanic influence (John 10:10). Examples of financial curses could be that somehow the salary is not enough to meet all needs, or even if the salary is adequate, there is constant unplanned expenditure which results in a loss. Christ destroyed our curse (1 John 3:8; 1 John 4:4), and because of what He has done, we must rebuke it.

* Poor choices – we must live a life of dignity. The book of Proverbs contains much wisdom regarding living godly lives. Luxury is not wrong, but if you are luxurious above your standard, it is a poor choice. Some of us must not blame our income when we are in debt; we need to correct our lifestyle.

* Our perspective on wealth must be corrected. We must understand that we are not the owners of things, God is. In Psalm 24:1, Psalm 50:12 and Haggai 2:8 God claims the earth and everything in it, as His own. If we can remember that He owns everything, then we will remember that we are accountable to Him for all that we have. Handling money in the right way will become easier. Money will cease to be our master, and instead Christ will be given His rightful place in our hearts.

* God controls everything. He does not control how much each person gets, but He has instituted laws and principles that will automatically help us reap our rewards according to what we have done (Romans 8:20). Let us remember to do everything because we love Him and Him alone.

* God provides. In both, Mathew 6:33 and Philippians 4:19, the Bible is clear that God will surely provide for our needs. But we cannot predict how He will do it. We must worship God who gives the blessings, not the agency through whom God chooses to bless us. God loves people and is committed to taking care of them.

For a child of God, there is no demarcation between secular and spiritual. We are called to be faithful in our time, words, deeds, money, and energy and just about everything else in our lives. We must not waste anything that God has given us and we must not go where He has not called us to go. When we are faithful, we prove ourselves, earn His trust and move to bigger responsibilities

Pastor Shalom

**Easter Service on Sunday, 24th April
6 PM @ Hall of Hope**

Wedding Anniversaries
Mr. Joesph & Sathya Prabha - 14th April
Mr. Alwin & Sneha Anchan - 18th April
Mr. Vilas and Leena Kunder - 27th April

Birthdays In April



Joseph Soans
8



Sebastian
12



Roselyn
21

