



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Critical Concerns of Our Time	SPEAKER	SP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Critical Issues: Knowing Our Times	DATE	1 and 2 July 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

When faced with the rapid advancements in technology and culture shifts, it is often easy to miss out on opportunities for financial rewards or recognition. This is due to the failure to identify the next big thing especially when it is still in its infancy. It is even more so when it comes to the things of God and our responsibility to discern the heart and concerns of our Heavenly Father in the face of the changing world today. In the sermon series on “Critical Issues: Knowing our Times”, the emphases are on our walk with God and the souls of men. Our belief is that if we give proper attention to these two areas, the problems which the world is facing will be resolved indirectly.

HOW DO WE PREPARE IN THE LIGHT OF JESUS’ RETURN?

The approach that we should take to deal with the critical concerns of our time is found in Romans 13 where we are called to live a life of submission for the sake of our conscience, love and Jesus. We are to live our lives in the light of Jesus’ eventual return by turning Singapore Godward, winning the youths, and blessing the nation. For this sermon, the focus is on preparing ourselves so that we will be able to effectively tackle the critical issues of our time.

1. Wake Up

We are to wake up to prepare for Jesus’ return by taking God’s Word literally. Even though 2000 years have passed, we must remember that Jesus’ eventual return is a physical event that will take place. Let us not repeat the mistake of the past in which mankind missed Jesus at His birth because the people were not spiritually attuned to recognize the Saviour in a manger. Being spiritually awake means that we should be passionately anticipating His return as opposed to rejecting His return because we are not ready or dreading His return due to unconfessed sin.

There are 3 strategic focuses that reveal God’s heart to us, and we are to play a part in them.

a) Strategic focus 1: Turning Singapore Godward

In the last decade, the growth of the Christian population in Singapore has significantly slowed down to only 0.6%. We are reminded that Jesus said that we are to make disciples because He has come to seek and save the Lost. Let God’s light shine through us to point our friends, family, and colleagues to Jesus.

b) Strategic Focus 2: Winning the Youth

In addition to reaching out to people for Christ, we are to intentionally reach out to the youth. We are to engage them and give them a platform to lead today. We need to reach out to all generations but pay special attention to the youths so that we will be a sunrise ministry.

c) Strategic Focus 3: Blessing the Nations

Singapore is not a perfect nation but she is blessed. God has blessed us so that we may go and make disciples of all nations. God loves and redeems globally. He will ambush us with His compassion as we step out to serve the nations.

We are reminded that as followers of Jesus, we are to be concerned with His concerns.

2. Clean Up

We are to clean up our lives by laying aside the deeds of darkness and putting on the armour of light. We are to put away sexual promiscuity, sensuality, carousing, drunkenness, strife and jealousy. We are to put on Jesus Christ, making no provision for the flesh. This is a remove and replace principle whereby we need to remove what is bad (of the flesh) and replace it with something good. We are to examine our lives (inside and outside) and take action by cleaning it up. We are reminded to deal with sin ruthlessly and replace it with the love of God.

3. Grow Up

Jesus tells us to put on the armour of life by modelling after Him (in action, thought, motivation and deed). We do so by feeding on things that will help us to grow (e.g. training, equipping classes and discipleship tracks) and not being solely dependent on a supernatural touch. Grow up by putting on Jesus, feeding your spiritual man and practising the Word of God by living it out.

CONCLUSION

SP shared about the persevering prayers of Monica, St. Augustine's mother, to conclude the sermon. When young Augustine was an atheist, Monica prayed fervently for her son to turn away from sin and return to God. After 15 years, Augustine's heart was pierced by Romans 13:13-14 when he had a personal divine encounter with God. This woke Augustine up from his spiritual slumber and he cleaned up his vices and grew up in the Lord, eventually becoming the bishop of Hippo. When we are faithful to the critical concerns of our lives and our times by turning to God in prayer and action, God can use us to convert a sinner into a saint by His grace and the redemptive power of Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. What does a spiritually awakened person look like? How are you personally anticipating His return?

2. In view of our Lord Jesus's imminent physical return, we need a heart that not only eagerly anticipates His return but is pure and spotless as well. What is one specific area that you need the Holy Spirit's help with? How can you clean up that area?

3. Our awakened hearts should lead us to feed on God's Word, model after Him and reach out to the Lost. How are you feeding on His Word and modelling after Him? Besides prayer, how can you reach out to the Lost in words and action?