

The Worth of Godly Leadership

By Dane C. Orthlund (from the ESV Men's Devotional Bible)

God put Adam in the garden of Eden "to work it and keep it" (Gen. 2:15), and in this way he was to "subdue" and "have dominion over" the earth (Gen. 1:28). In other words, God put man, on the earth to lead. Every man is called to lead, at the very least in the context of his family, if he has one, and in the workplace. In the heart of every man is the healthy impulse to rule—however large or small the extent of such rule might be, whether the tasks at one's work cubicle or the oversight of a nation.

One manifestation of sin in Isaiah's day was the rejection and even inversion of this healthy impulse. Not only are the leaders among God's people (the prophets and priests) not following the Lord faithfully, but the people of Judah are glad to make anyone a leader (Isa. 3:6), regardless of their level of maturity and godliness, so long as they themselves don't have to lead. They say things like, "you shall not make me leader of the people" (v.7)

And why are God's people resisting the call to fulfil the mandate of Genesis 1 and 2? They have wandered away from the Lord, "defying his glorious presence" (Isa. 3:8). When we leave or forget the presence of the Lord, fears arise. We forsake our high calling as men.

Leadership is scary. Risky. It will bring scars. Leading as God would have us lead—in our homes, our families, our neighbourhoods, our offices, our churches—opens us up to criticisms of all kinds, to pain we could otherwise avoid. Such is life in a fallen world. But the Lord has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:5). Whatever happens in our attempts to lead, the Lord is with us. We have "his glorious presence" (Isa. 3:8)

Indeed, it is precisely in the pain and criticism we endure as godly leaders that we are most wonderfully aligned with Christ himself, the coming "branch of the LORD" (4:2), who shows us God's glorious presence in flesh and blood (John 1:14). Adversity-ridden leadership was the path for him. It is the glad path of discipleship for God's men today (1 Pet. 5:1, 10). He is present with us—gloriously present.



5 August 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Isaiah #3— The Sinful Elect of God

God gave His elect a holy and high calling to be a light to the nations and a channel of blessing, but they miserably failed their calling due to self-seeking pride. Are we, as God's people today, just like Israel? Will we learn from their sins?

Next Week:

Isaiah #4 : The Triumph of Grace [Isaiah 6-12]



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	You Made Us Your Own Have Mercy On Me Surrender All
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Isaiah 2; 1 Peter 2:4-12
Sermon	By Pastor Ben Ho
Song of Response	Revive Us O Lord

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$3,462.15
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD THAT DESPITE HIS people's sinfulness, and their rejection of Him, He planned to purify them through judgement and restore their righteousness. Praise God that this word was fulfilled to us in Jesus! Pray that we confess our sins before God, recognizing the profound depth of our sin, and the glory of Jesus' saving work.

PRAY THAT WE MAKE OUR CALLING and election sure through prayerful dependence on God and His word, and through encouraging each other to holy living. Pray that we would take with most seriousness the weight and responsibility of living lives of light to the nations.

PRAY FOR THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT as it rethinks legislation regarding abortion—and in particular the restrictions on prayer they are seeking to enforce. Pray that Christians would wisely, and winsomely, argue and demonstrate the profound flaws in this legislation, and that our Parliamentary Ministers would see the wisdom in this and act appropriately.

PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS IN NIGERIA as they come under increasing attack. Pray that God would mercifully hold back those forces seeking to eradicate Christians, and pray that Christians would not respond with violence, but with Christ-like love for their enemies. Pray for Jesus to return soon to put an end to all violence against His people and restore this world.

Community News

BLOOM EVENT: BECOMING GOD'S TRUE WOMAN PART 2 – 1 SEP @ SLE HALL

In our first BLOOM in April this year, we looked at how God designed man and woman to be equal in worth, but have different roles and responsibilities. This is God's blueprint for humanity, a pattern for us to follow for all times. But the world tells us otherwise. What does it mean to be a "helper" to the men? What does it mean to "submit" as the men lead? Sadly, these words have taken on a negative connotation in society today. How confusing that can be!

Join us for the next BLOOM talk on 1 September, as we look at what it means, as godly women, to serve with the men at home and in church.

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Joshua	Bryan <i>David</i>
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Matthew <i>Dan Lowe</i>	Jansen <i>Alice</i>
M.Tea	Winnie T. Tania	Elaine Joy
Wash Up	YF Sunday	Clay
Welcome	Philip Mee Lan Meng Yin <i>Benedict</i> <i>David</i> <i>Hui Xian</i> <i>Jessica</i>	Philip Mee Lan Meng Yin <i>Benedict</i> <i>David</i> <i>Hui Xian</i> <i>Jessica</i>
Stewards	Norman Alvin <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Helen</i>	Norman Alvin <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Helen</i>
Piano	Aaron	Dan Lowe
Guitar	Jabez	Ryan
Bass	Chuan Yuan	Ethan
Drums	Ariel	Ivan
Vocal	Sharne	Joachim
PA	Reuten <i>Daniel</i>	William <i>Jowin</i>

The Sinful Elect of God (Isaiah 2-5)

1. Introduction: Wasted Potential

2. The Ideal City (2:1-4)

3. The Failed City (2:5-21)

A. The root: Pride (2:9, 11, 17, 22)

B. The fruit: God-denying self-seeking

i. Extra spirituality (2:6)

ii. Self-made idols (2:8)

iii. Money and power (2:7, 11-16; 3:16-24)

C. The causes

i. Poor leadership (3:1-15)

ii. Rejection of the Word (5:13, 24)

4. The Hope of Restoration

A. The City of God restored (4:2-4)

B. The Calling of God's people restored (1 Peter 2:9-12)

5. Conclusion