

J. I. Packer on 'Destructive Triumphalism'

In his classic work, *Knowing God*, J. I. Packer reminds us that some folk are given to a type of ministry that focuses so intently on the blessings and triumphs of the Christian life that it fails to do justice to "the rougher side of Christian life". It "gives the impression that normal Christian living is a perfect bed of roses, a state of affairs in which everything in the garden is lovely all the time, and problems no longer exist—or, if they come, they have only to be taken to the throne of grace, and they will melt away at once. This is to suggest that the world, the flesh and the devil will give us no serious trouble once we are Christians; nor will our circumstances and personal relationships ever be a problem to us; nor will we ever be a problem to ourselves. Such suggestions are mischievous, however, because they are false".

God, explains Packer, is typically very gentle with new Christians. "Often the start of their Christian career is marked by great emotional joy, striking providences, remarkable answers to prayer and immediate fruitfulness in their first acts of witness; thus God encourages them and establishes them in 'the life.' But as they grow stronger, and are able to bear more, he exercises them in a tougher school. He exposes them to as much testing by the pressure of opposed and discouraging influences as they are able to bear—not more (see the promise, 1 Cor 10:13), but equally not less (see the admonition, Acts 14:22). Thus he builds our character, strengthens our faith, and prepares us to help others. Thus he crystallizes our sense of values. Thus he glorifies himself in our lives, making his strength perfect in our weakness. There is nothing unnatural, therefore, in an increase of temptations, conflicts and pressures as the Christian goes on with God—indeed, something would be wrong if it did not happen. But the Christian who has been told that the normal Christian life is unshadowed and trouble-free can only conclude, as experiences of inadequacy and imperfection pile in upon him, that he must have lapsed from normal".

Sooner or later, says Packer, "the truth will be that God is now exercising his child—his consecrated child—in the ways of adult godliness, as he exercised Job, and some of the psalmists, and the addressees of the epistle to the Hebrews, by exposing them to strong attacks from the world, the flesh and the devil, so that their powers of resistance might grow greater and their character as people of God become stronger. As we said above, all the children of God undergo this treatment—it is part of the 'chastening of the Lord' (Heb 12:5, echoing Job 5:17; Prov 3:11), to which he subjects every one of his children whom he loves".

And what becomes of that Christian who is not prepared for this, who is promised ease and comfort and consistent triumph? Packer answers: "It sentences devoted Christians to a treadmill life of hunting each day of nonexistent failures in consecration, in the belief that if only they could find some such failures to confess and forsake they could recover an experience of spiritual infancy which God means them now to leave behind. Thus it not only produces spiritual regression and unreality; it sets them at cross-purposes with their God, who has taken from them the carefree glow of spiritual babyhood, with its huge chuckles and contented passivity, precisely in order that he may lead them into an experience that is more adult and mature".

(From: <https://www.samstorms.com/enjoying-god-blog/post/j-i-packer-on-the-destructive-triumphalism-of-the-health-and-wealth-gospel>)



14 April 2019 | 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: Gospel of Mark— Seeing Christ Clearly

Jesus the King has to go through suffering and death before being raised again. This "suffering now and glory later" is the normal and expected experience for all who follow the King. To know and receive this is to properly see and understand Jesus. To not do so is to remain outside His Kingdom.

Good Friday: Easter 2019 Part 1



Today's Service

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|----------------------------|--|
| Welcome and Singing | For the Cause Man of Sorrows Jerusalem |
| Holy Communion | |
| Offering | |
| Community News | |
| Bible Reading | Mark 8:10-9:1 |
| Sermon | By Pastor Ben Ho |
| Song of Response | This Life Live |

Stay Connected

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- 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

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

PASTOR BEN HO

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PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

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Financial Update

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Last Week | \$4,868.97 |
| Weekly Required | \$5,750.00 |
| Shortfall 2019 | \$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

THANK THE FATHER FOR SENDING HIS SON to be the heart transplant that we need. Pray that God's Spirit will give us understanding of the true state of our sinful hearts, so that we will always see our absolute need for Jesus' death to wash us clean and so that we would always and ever be grateful for such grace and mercy.

PRAISE GOD THAT IN HIS WISDOM AND GRACE, He has opened the way for guilty sinners to come to Him. Pray that we would not presume on His grace and think that we had any 'rights' to expect or demand to be forgiven.

PRAY FOR THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY of our lives as individual Christians and as a church community. Pray especially that we would especially love our neighbours around the church building, expressed in the way we park, and other 'neighbourly' expressions of practical love. Pray that God will fix the damage to His name that our lack of love has already caused.

THANK GOD FOR THOSE GETTING BAPTISED on Easter Sunday! Praise God for His sovereign saving work in them!

Community News

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SUNDAY

Services will be:

9am—North Hall

11:30am—South Hall

Please bring a plate to share at the Good Friday morning tea.

BLOOM TALK 1—COMPARE TO HER

First of a two-part series on finding true contentment as Christian women, Sheena Abraham from St Lucia Bible Church will help us to explore the common problem of comparing ourselves to others and see how it robs us of true joy and lasting contentment in Christ. Don't miss out on this opportunity to sit under God's word together. Register now at <https://slechurch.org.au/groups/bloom/>

Saturday 27 April @ North Hall

1:30pm-4pm (includes afternoon tea)

AGMS—SUNDAY 5 MAY

SLE Church Members—please check your email for information. Please check the Members' list for your name. Please contact Winnie at info@slechurch.org.au for information.

CCCB Inc AGM : 12:15pm
@ 23 Beenleigh Rd, Coopers Plains

SLE AGM : 1:30pm-2pm
@ North Hall, St Lucia

SLDB AGM : 2pm-2:20pm
@ North Hall, St Lucia

Serving

| | Today | Good Friday |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Chair | Mervin | Ps Ben |
| Preach | Ps Ben | Ps Steven |
| Bible Read | Boon Cheng <i>Alan</i> | Ps Ben <i>Ps Ben</i> |
| M.Tea | YF Fri/Sat | ALL to bring |
| Wash Up | YF Fri/Sat | YF Fri/Sat |
| Welcome | Richard Georgie Esther <i>Sean</i> <i>Nethanel</i> <i>Joy</i> <i>Leya</i> | Richard Georgie Esther <i>Sean</i> <i>Nethanel</i> <i>Joy</i> <i>Leya</i> |
| Stewards | Sunny Simeon Meng Yin <i>Josiah</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>GengHao</i> | Sunny Simeon Meng Yin <i>DT</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>GengHao</i> |
| Piano | Joanna | Dan Lowe |
| Guitar | Ivan | Shao Peng |
| Bass | Aaron | Ivan/Aaron |
| Drums | John | Nigel |
| Vocal | Shaun/ Amanda | Hui Ming |
| PA | Matt T, Matt Z <i>Jowin</i> | Matt Tao <i>Daniel</i> |

The Gospel of Mark—Seeing Christ Clearly [Mark 8:10-9:1]

1. Introduction: “I believe in Jesus”

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|-----------------|---|--------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Mark 1:1-8:21 | - | Galilee | - | Who Jesus is |
| Mark 8:22-10:52 | - | ‘On the way’ | - | ‘Seeing’ the Christ clearly |
| Mark 11:1-16:8 | - | Jerusalem | - | Why Jesus came |

2. Blind to the Christ

A. Pharisees (8:11-13)

B. Disciples (8:14-21)

C. People (8:27-28)

3. The Christ Heals Blindness (8:22-26)

4. Seeing Clearly

A. The Christ (8:29-33)

B. The way of the Christ (8:34-38)