

Paradox

What is a Paradox?

It is a statement that contains two opposing ideas that are both true!

The Paradox of the gospel is that it is both easy and difficult. Salvation is easy because Jesus had paid the price.

We just need to repent, confess our sins and ask for God's forgiveness and salvation.

However, it is difficult because a true disciple of God must carry the cross daily and follow Jesus. I hope we will encourage one another to follow Him.

by Mrs Mary Hui

Going the Second Mile



Come Into My House

Acts 16:13-15 by Ms Zealicia Heng

Lydia was a wealthy businesswoman from Thyatira. When she heard Paul preach the Good News of Jesus Christ, Lydia's heart responded to God's call. She decided to get baptized as a public sign of identification with Christ. She eagerly shared the gospel with her household. They eventually believed and were baptized as well. She could have just concerned herself about her own affairs, just like so many people in society today, who live for self and not for others. Instead of seeing the men as a burden, and their presence as a disruption of her family and business routines, she went out of her way to humbly invite Paul, Luke and Silas to stay in her house. She shows us how we should be hospitable and nurture others, especially those in the same household of faith (Galatians 6:10).



God's second commandment was to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). How has our knowledge and experience of Christ's presence and love affected our behavior towards others? Do we lend a helping hand to those who need help? Does our life display that gratefulness we felt when we first believed?

Phrases

I like my new school, but there's a fly
in my ointment - far from my house.

Fly in the Ointment



This phrase comes from Ecclesiastes 10:1. "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour."



Ointment was something very precious. A fly was something that could cause disease. 'A fly in the ointment' thus refers to that which will make something that was originally precious, unclean and useless.

No water!

Remember we
had cucumbers,

melons, leeks, onions,
and garlic:

A single sin could be that 'fly' and prevent someone from receiving

God's blessing. For example, when the Israelites were freed from Egypt and on their way to the promised land, instead of rejoicing and having faith in God, they repeatedly complained about life in the desert. As a result, they were condemned to wander in the wilderness for 40 years



That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Philippians 2:15



(Numbers 11, Exodus 16). King Herod was that 'fly' during Jesus' birth (Matthew 2: 2 – 18). While the wise men sought to find and worship Jesus, the King of the Jews, Herod wanted Jesus dead!



May the Lord help us not be 'flies' but follow Christ's example and 'shine as lights in the world'.

by Mrs Yap Lay Yen

Part 1

Thirty years ago, on 12th May 1992, a young man called Ansgario M. Francisco graduated from his vocational course. He had his life before him, and as the eldest son, he planned to go abroad to work to support the family, especially because his father was suffering from arthritis and could not work. However, that very night, he met with an accident. It wasn't too serious actually, but because the operation was not done well, a bacterial infection quickly set in, which then led to the amputation of his leg below the knee.



This was a terrible blow to him and he drowned his sorrow and despair by indulging in drinking and gambling together with some friends.

At that time, he did not know God, and thus, he did not have Jesus as an anchor to keep him anchored in times like such a storm.



When our careful plans are disrupted and our hopes and dreams are dashed, how do we respond? Do we feel confused and lost, and self-destruct...or do we cling to Jesus and find meaning in Him?

To be continued in next issue...

Proverbs 31:6

**Give strong drink unto him
that is ready to perish, and
wine unto those that be of
heavy hearts.**

Current Issues

Vicky's Blogpost

FIRST DAY OF CCA!!!

Published 28 Jan 2009

Today was the first day of my new CCA - National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) and I learnt to march together in a group with my fellow CCA mates! It was my first time learning to do so and it was hard to keep in sync at first but thankfully we had a great team leader to guide us along. Jason... Ah... He is tall, well-built and has a strong and manly voice... so handsome!!! My heart melts just thinking of him, can't wait for the next CCA session!

"My Prince Charming"



SWEPT OFF MY FEET...

Published 18 Mar 2009


Another day of NPCC today!!! Not sure if I was more excited to learn drills or to see Jason. I was totally mesmerized by his dashing appearance and charming mannerisms. He was kind and caring as a team leader towards us newcomers to the CCA. My mind was filled with images of him even after my CCA session was completed at the end of the day. Oh man I could not concentrate in my school work at night as I kept daydreaming about Jason. Is this what puppy love is all about??

SELF-REFLECTION

Published 23 Sep 2009

It's been a good many months and I have come to realise that Jason was very popular with the girls in school and what's more HE ALREADY HAD A GIRLFRIEND! This brought me to my senses and made me realise that this was infatuation, which does not equate to true love. Infatuation is self-seeking while true love cares about the best interest of others. Infatuation breeds lust and discontent while love leads to peace, joy, faithfulness, kindness and self-control. Infatuation can end abruptly but love never fails. (1Corinthians 13:4-8)

Oh well, I guess I shouldn't waste time and be distracted by a "love" that will never bear fruit!



But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace,
longsuffering, gentleness,
goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:22

Statements of Faith

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in

★ **God, the Father Almighty,**
Creator of heaven & earth.

★ **Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**
*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
on the third day rose again;
ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father
and will come again to judge
the living and the dead.*

★ **the Holy Spirit,**

★ **the holy catholic church,**

★ **the communion of saints,**

★ **the forgiveness of sins,**

★ **the resurrection of the body,**

★ **and the life everlasting.**

catholic means "general, universal, concerning the whole"
and does not refer exclusively to the Roman Catholic Church

THE APOSTLES' CREED

is not found in the Bible nor was it written by the Apostles. It was written at least 150 years after the last of them had died. This is a formal statement summarizing the Christian faith as taught by the apostles. However, it omits important aspects such as how salvation is obtained (through Jesus Christ only), and does not express clearly the concept of the 'Trinity' (God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as one).

It is included in JSM's statement of faith because it

- summarizes our faith into succinct statements.
- functions as a guardrail for our teaching and instruction.
- ushers our souls into heartfelt worship and praise of God.

by Mr Eric Cheong

Faith of our Fathers

Robert Murray M'Cheyne



*Live near to God,
and so all things will appear to you little
in comparison to eternal realities.*

was born in Edinburgh in 1813, the youngest child in a family of five. He entered the University at the age of 14.



During the first few years at the University, he turned to the worldly pleasures of dancing and card-playing.

M'Cheyne's elder brother prayed earnestly for him. When he died in 1831, M'Cheyne, jolted from his spiritual deadness, turned to God. M'Cheyne was ordained in Dundee in 1835.

In 1839, M'Cheyne journeyed to Israel to witness to the Jews. He believed that they, despite being blinded by their prejudices, should be the first to hear the gospel. On his return to Dundee, right up to his death in 1843, he preached increasingly

fervently about the eternal punishment of the unsaved. To



him, the goal of any sermon was the salvation of the

hearers. A top priority for M'Cheyne was the cultivation of personal holiness - by drawing close to God. To him, spending 'the best hours of the day in communion with God' was his 'noblest and most fruitful employment'. He was convinced that a holy minister was a powerful weapon in the hand of God.

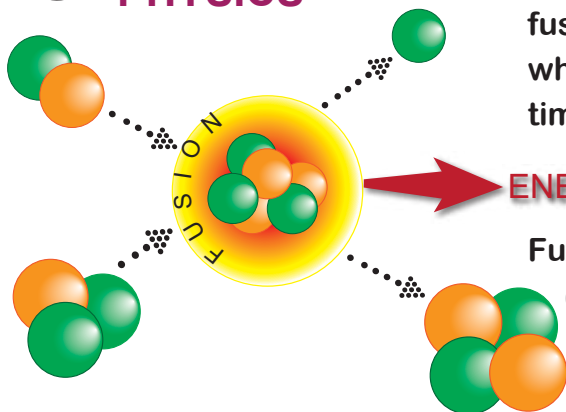
Although M'Cheyne died young, the legacy of his godly life, and the many books recording his sermons and personal devotions continue to inspire generations of Christians all over the world.

by Mr Nehemiah Leong



Seeing God in nature around us

PHYSICS



Nuclear Fusion

We use electricity everywhere and for almost everything, from the lights in our house to the phone in our hands. Ways to produce it include burning fossil fuels, wind turbines, solar panels and hydropower.

However, burning fossil fuels releases toxins like carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The other methods do not produce enough energy.

Scientists have been trying to harness energy by nuclear fusion – the fusing of two or more lighted atoms into a larger one. This is because nuclear

fusion does not emit toxins while it produces millions of times more energy than burning

fossil fuels. Also, unlike the

Fukushima nuclear reactor (which involves nuclear fission – the splitting of a large atom into two or more smaller ones), there is almost

no risk of a nuclear meltdown.

Amazing as it sounds, the world's most brilliant scientists still haven't found a way to do this. However, guess what has been going through nuclear fusion to provide us with warmth and light?

The sun! Yes, God's creation far surpasses any of mankind's.

Truly, the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (1 Corinthians 1:25)



by Mr Jacques Liao

Choices

I lived in the early ages of the earth, just a few generations after Adam. When I was 65 years old, I had my first-born, Methuselah. I lived another 300 years fearing God and walking with Him. All my forefathers and my own father lived for 900 plus years. Although my life on earth was only 365 years, I did not see

death as the Lord took me straight to Him.

Did I make the right choice in how I lived my life? To find out more, read Hebrew 11:5 and Genesis 5:18-24.



And now Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Deuteronomy 10:12



Come Into My House

Unscramble the following words found in the passage about Lydia on Page 1.

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Now work out the golden rule by writing the letters that match the numbers. Have fun!

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