

# EXCELLENT VICTORIOUS LIFE



**11  
OCTOBER  
2020**

ED.LXXXVII.10.2020

*Bethany International Church*  
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

## FOUNDING PASTOR

Rev Niko Njotoraharjo

## SENIOR PASTOR

Ps Djohan Handojo

## PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

## Associate Pastor

Ps Unggul Santika  
Ps Iwan Adinugroho

## Next Generation Pastor

Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

## Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

## Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan  
Ps Suzana Tahir

## Teaching Pastor

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

## Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

## Office Manager

Ps Suzana Tahir

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## Foreword

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Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus came to the earth – sinless, to take our place under the judgement of God. In Christ, by grace through faith, we are victorious.

Why are we all subjected to eternal damnation? It is because we are all sinful. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. We are all guilty, sinful and fall short of God's glory. Knowing this, yet Jesus came to take our place – being punished for our sins. It is the most amazing and most precious gift that one could ever get, that is being saved and receiving eternal reward in Heaven, because someone sacrificed Himself for you and me. That is Jesus! Our Saviour and King!

Jesus has won over death, won over sins, He is victorious. In Jesus, we are no longer condemned and we live a victorious life. So what does it mean and how to live a victorious life that God has given graciously to us through Jesus? We will learn about it through the sharing of our brothers and sisters in this October edition. I pray that as we understand deeper, the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to see and savour the beauty of Jesus' victorious sacrifice on the cross.

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."*

*"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54–57)

# HELLO *new comers!*

Welcome to Bethany International Church Melbourne.  
So glad that you are here with us. We want to help make your  
first experience at BIC Melbourne a great one!



## GET CONNECTED

Christian journey shouldn't be alone because it is a community project. Join our Community of Love (COOL) every Friday 7PM!

## LET US CONTACT YOU



Lastly, please enjoy a cup of coffee on us! 



# COOL LIST



## MAIN

Canaan	Kezia, Freddie
Ephratah	Steven, Henry
Berea - Bethesda	Romy
Bethlehem	Felix, Fransisca
Jordan	Sony, Wilfred
Horeb	Ferry, Febria
Bethany	Paulus, Erina
Bethel	Patricia, Adeleine
Cana	Bobby
Philadelphia - Pniel	Dwi, Vero
Moriah	Elve, Calista
Ephraim	Kevin L, Sonia
Ekklesia	Edo, Ica
Emmaus	Fabian, Priska
Galilee	Kevin Y, Corine
Gennesaret	Reinetta, Albert
Gilgal - Carmel	Erika, Mike
Hebron - Philippi	Yoseph, Rian
Zion	Monica, Raymond
Eden	Jennifer

## FAMILY

Antioch	Andy, Iwan
Tiberias	Andre, Albert
Gethsemane	Michael, Rudy
Jerusalem	Hestu
Mt Hermon	Lily, Unggul
Phillipi	Hariyanto, Ivan
Shekinah	Alice
Tabernacle	Sandi
Westal	Michael

## 180

Macedonia	Eric, Alicia
Shiloh	Daniel, Clarissa

## NEXT GEN

Judea	Valentina, Sylvio
Judah	Aldo, Kezia M.
Israel	Catherine, Jerry
Jeremiah	Sinta, Kevin W.
Heaven	Pauline



# The principles of Christian productivity

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BY KARTIKA GONDOBOENTORO

In one of the Fire Camp sessions last month, someone asked about how to better manage work and life balance during lockdown. I have heard that some people must work longer hours because of the extra demands during the current pandemic or because of not being productive with the new work arrangement at home.

Christian or not, we all need help in how we organise our schedules and plan out our days. There is so much guidance from books on time management that can help us with the techniques. However, that simple question reminds me to go back to the Bible and to find the truth written there about Christian productivity not only at work but also in our life journey as a Christian.

As I searched through the passages in the bible, there are foundational aspects of the Christian productivity which are not shared by the world. The Scriptures have more to offer us than just simply lay productivity techniques on top of our faith like a blanket. If we would glorify God, we must have a view of time, efficiency, motives, and stewardship that is organically integrated with a Christian worldview.

## 1. Use our time wisely and know the will of God

Many times, we are not productive because we let so many distractions come in our way as a result of lack of focus. We lose focus because of inability to see the purpose of what we are doing, or we do not have a sense of urgency.

The Bible told us to have a clear, defined plan (Luke 14:28-33) but we also need to focus on today, since that is all we can control (Proverbs 27:1). These two points should be used in conjunction with one another. Set long term goals and think about the future but take it one day at a time. We are urged not to waste time (Eph 5:15-17), but to know the will of God, so we can focus on what matters the most and eliminate what does not. By renewing our minds with the Word of God (Rom 12:2), the Holy Spirit will enable us to exercise self-control and say no to our desires that are against God's will (Tit 2:12).

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***We are urged not to waste time, but to know the will of God, so we can focus on what matters the most and eliminate what does not***

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## 2. Work efficiently according to God's wisdom and guidance

Busyness can also make us feel good and give the illusion of getting things done, but sometimes, it probably just means that we are prioritising all the wrong things, and that our productivity is suffering. From my own experience, when I was overwhelmed with the tasks at hand and deadlines, I tend to forget asking for God's wisdom. I often lose focus, turn to panic mode and try to figure out the solutions by myself. However, God tells us not to be anxious, and to ask Him for whatever we need (Philippians 4:6). He promises to guide us through the day: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you" (Psalm 32:8).

When I reflect on the stories of other believers, I am amazed with God's way, how He gave his children creativity to invent new ways of working, so they were able to finish the job quicker and focus on the things that matter. Throughout the Bible, God has shown how to work efficiently according to His ways. I hope that Moses' and Apostles' experiences with delegation in Exodus 20:13-27 and Acts 6:1-7, God's divine anointing to his

people in Exodus 35:30-36:7, and Peter's experience in Luke 5:4-7, will encourage us to be humble, not depending on our understanding, but to rely on the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and creativity. His guidance can come from His word directly (James 1:5) or from the wisdom of godly people around us (Proverbs 24:6).

## 3. Work wholeheartedly to glorify God

Productivity is also associated with the quality of what we produce. How can your life count for the glory of God in your vocation? The Bible teaches us to work heartily unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23). As Martin Luther King Jr. added, *"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well."*

The Bible makes it plain that it is God's will for his people to be scattered like salt and light among the whole range of vocations. In 1 Cor 7:24, Paul sums up his teaching there with these words: *"So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God"*. If God has put us

in a specific role and place, we should display his worth in our job.

#### 4. Continual thankfulness with a servant heart

What sets Christians apart from the rest of the world is the fact that we recognize God as the owner of our life. Our ability to do any work is owing to his grace. “He himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything” (Acts 17:25). To know this can fill you with a sense of continual thankfulness offered up to God in prayer.

God does not measure our productivity through the lens of others, but according

to what has been given to us. Jesus intensifies this sense of accountability on the last day with the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30). He gave to one person five, gave to another person two, and gave to another person one. When he came to account, the person with one heard those awful words: “You wicked and slothful [lazy] servant” (Matthew 25:26). I hope it encourages us to want to experience the opposite, the counterpart to those words, from Luke 12:42–43 “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes”.





# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 11 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 28-30

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 30:15

“Sebab beginilah firman Tuhan Allah, Yang Mahakudus, Allah Israel: “Dengan bertobat dan tinggal diam kamu akan diselamatkan, dalam tinggal tenang dan percaya terletak kekuatanmu.” Tetapi kamu enggan,”

## 12 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 31-33

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 33:22

“Sebab Tuhan ialah Hakim kita, Tuhan ialah yang memberi hukum bagi kita; Tuhan ialah Raja kita, Dia akan menyelamatkan kita.”

## 13 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 34-36

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 35:4

“Katakanlah kepada orang-orang yang tawar hati: “Kuatkanlah hati, janganlah takut! Lihatlah, Allahmu akan datang dengan pembalasan dan dengan ganjaran Allah. Ia sendiri datang menyelamatkan kamu!””

## 14 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 37-39

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 37:28

“Aku tahu, jika engkau bangun atau duduk, jika keluar atau masuk, atau jika engkau mengamuk terhadap Aku.”

## 15 OCTOBER

Yesaya 40-42

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 40:31

"tetapi orang-orang yang menanti-nantikan Tuhan mendapat kekuatan baru: mereka seumpama rajawali yang naik terbang dengan kekuatan sayapnya; mereka berlari dan tidak menjadi lesu, mereka berjalan dan tidak menjadi lelah."

## 16 OCTOBER

Yesaya 43-45

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 45:3

"Aku akan memberikan kepadamu harta benda yang terpendam dan harta kekayaan yang tersembunyi, supaya engkau tahu, bahwa Akulah Tuhan, Allah Israel, yang memanggil engkau dengan namamu."

## 17 OCTOBER

Yesaya 46-48

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 48:18

"Sekiranya engkau memperhatikan perintah-perintah-Ku, maka damai sejahteramu akan seperti sungai yang tidak pernah kering, dan kebahagiaanmu akan terus berlimpah seperti gelombang-gelombang laut yang tidak pernah berhenti,"

*"your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path"*

psalm 119:105

# Coronavirus controversy

BY JENNIFER CHANDRA



With the Coronavirus pandemic affecting the whole world and with approximately one millions people dead, surely the virus has shaken the world like never before. The lengthy and complex mitigating solution that has been done with unseen results might frustrate all of us. Being agitated to stay at home and the declining economy have been a few reasons for all the negativity in the air that we breath.

Many speculated that COVID-19 is God's judgement and a sign of the Day of the Lord. Rumors swirled around vaccines, antichrist symbolism, bowls of God's wrath and so many theories arise to make sense of all of these disasters. But what should we do as Christians? How do we set our mind or which angle we need to approach this controversial topic?

## People Live and People Die

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the outbreak of COVID-19 is a global pandemic. However, this is not the first time humanity faced an outbreak in history. At 430 BC, the European world faced with the Athens Plague that cost almost 100,000 deaths. This numerical number might look small but it was quarter of the whole Athenians at that time. Even a disease like smallpox or malaria that we hear normally these days, it was a huge disaster back then in the 17th century. In the modern era, we heard Spanish flu, SARS, swine flu, MERS and the most recent one Ebola in 2014. These recent pandemic diseases never hit Indonesia or Australia like some other events that had happened on the other side of the world.

No one sees the scale of COVID-19 outbreak like today when the news was first announced in Wuhan, China in January 2020, until it forced you to work from home, lockdown for months and force you to practice social distancing with all the people you love. Yes, in a short time COVID-19 has hugely impacted our life. Yes, COVID-19 has become the large shadow in our mind and future. However, without being insensitive, I'd like you to realise that all of us will die at some point in the future. If not by COVID-19, you can die because of a helicopter crash,

colon cancer or even stung by a bee. Excluding COVID-19, the statistic showed that the first cause of death in 2019 was a heart disease and still, in 2020, the trend continues.

We believe that Jesus will come again in His glory. Some of us might live and have the opportunity to see Him coming but others will see Him when our time on this earth is up. The undeniable fact that we are getting closer to our closing chapter. We ought to focus on the way we live, the legacy to pass on and whether you have a successful life, a life that reaches the ultimate purpose that God has given to each individual on this earth.

## Signs and prophecies

*But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father (Matthew 24:36)*

Things can be speculated until it is fully realised. If we can see a dark cloud with rushing wind, we certainly know that rain might come soon. The promise of a second coming is certain. But no one, literally no one knows the time. Not even angels nor the Son but only the Father knows. Sometimes the horror of uncertainty clouded people's minds and haunted them like a paranoia. In the Bible, it was written there will be signs of end times in the book of Matthew, books of

Thessalonians, book of John and the book of Revelation. However, we need to be careful on interpreting accidents or making false assumptions as a sign of the Lord's Day - especially if it creates chaos and confusion among people which doesn't bring good or draw people closer to God.

- Pestilences

*For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. (Matthew 24:7)*

A lot of people are saying the coronavirus is one of many plagues predicted to hit before the Second Coming of Jesus. I am not making any statement here, whether it is true or not. I want to intrigue your mind about how this piece of information affects you. Instead of stressing about coronavirus as condemnation, I'd like to call Coronavirus a rebuke for all of us. **We should care about death and eternity. We should seriously consider whether we are truly saved or we only play Christian roles and activities, the importance of sharing the Gospel to those who are not saved and giving them hope in the midst of despair.**

We also need to take care of our neighbours in their physical needs, psychologically and also spiritual needs. We understand that life isn't just about food but also about purpose and meaning. Lockdown has forced us to



**We shall  
learn the  
Bible even  
more and  
prepare  
ourselves  
with faith  
and truth.**

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rearrange our priorities and mend real relationships.

- Sign 666

*It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads. (Revelation 13:16)*

Another controversy about COVID-19 vaccine is considered as the 666 sign. And again I am not agreeing nor rejecting all probabilities which might be untrue. Bible scholars said that the book of Revelation was written in symbolic language. So it is a bit absurd to say the total COVID-19 casualties is 666 means it is a sign. Because it only happened in a specific city and not globally. Without checking facts or the Bible, some people proclaim bold statements or controversial theories. Unsurprisingly, it sparks fear in people's minds.

Please pay no attention to those who love publication of bickering and public argument. It will not benefit us at all. Do not engage, entertain or worse, publish all untested information to others. There will be false prophets and deceptive teachers who want to puzzle us. We shall learn the Bible even more and prepare ourselves with faith and truth.

The lies come in a lot of forms and sometimes we cannot keep up with all new tricks. What we can continue doing is learn seriously the real truth and we can distinguish between the real and the counterfeit one. The Holy Spirit will help us and defend us against all deception and remember that He is our seal of salvation.

## **New Heaven and Earth**

If we can be honest, what is the core in your fear of the Lord's Day?

People are not ready because they are uncertain of their salvation. The love of this world perhaps makes us like Lot's wife who turned her eyes to Sodom while she was escapin or maybe just our misconception of suffering. According to 1 John 4:17, we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

New Jerusalem is promised to all Christians. City of God, full of glory without pain and agony. How magnificent is this promise that God has made for us? We should anticipate it with excitement and knowing that we will meet Jesus should thrill us to the core! We will be satisfied.

# MINISTRY LIST

## VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

## MUSICIAN



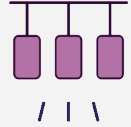
Raynaldo Ali

## MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

## LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

## SOUND



Steven Santika

## USHER



Elbert Pranoto

## TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

## CARING



Felix Hariyadi

## DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

## DRAMA



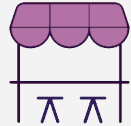
Jennifer Chandra

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Reinetta Tanujaya

## HOSPITALITY



Tasmin Ifah

## INTERCESSOR



Monica Haryanto

## MISSION



Felix Chietra

## MEDIA ART



Sonia Pranatha

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Yolanda Tjong

## PODCAST



Ravello Satria

## YOUTH



Rio Susanto

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"*

**We invite you to join our  
online service every Sunday  
from 8.30 am onwards**

**You can access it through:**

**Website:**  
**<https://www.bethanymelb.org.au>**

**Youtube:**  
**Bethany International Church Melbourne**



**Let's celebrate the Lord's Day  
together!**