

Sermon Topic: "Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven..." by Ps Lorna Khoo, Easter Sunday
Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-58

INTRODUCTION

- Injustice, pain, suffering and death were common sights during the time of the Gospels. We too have seen or heard about others going through such experiences in our lives and may have come to think of them as normal experiences that are part of human life.
- However, the events of Easter (Christ's resurrection, the changed life of the disciples, angels) remind us that there is a **supernatural dimension to life.**

*Easter speaks of the reality of the **Communion of Saints (1 Cor 15:12-58)***

- The resurrection of Christ brings with it a promise of a '**family reunion**' with loved ones in Christ; with those in faith who have gone before us and alive in Christ (ref. Hebrews 11, 12:1-2)
 - ➔ The Nicene Creed reminds us that there is a "resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come"
 - ➔ The origin of our sunrise service = Moravian church in Germany holds a sunrise Easter service in a cemetery that they call "God's Acre", symbolizing their belief in the resurrection of the dead
 - ➔ The physical body will not be discarded but will be restored, healed, redeemed and transformed.
- What about those who don't know him?
 - ➔ We need to entrust them to God's mercy and love (ref 1 Peter 3:19-20)
- Can we communicate with the deceased directly?
 - ➔ Never directly. We must go through God (ref. Deut 18:10-14, Lev 19:26,31, 1 Sam 28)
- What are they doing now?
 - ➔ They are worshipping God! (ref. The book of Revelation, Doxology – "praise Him above ye heavenly host", Holy Communion Liturgy – "and all the company of heaven..." and the Litany of the Saints)
 - ➔ When we worship God, we join (parallel) our loved ones in their unending worship of God (there is another reality beyond our current life!)

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

- We should be inspired by them to live for Christ
- As recipients of generational blessings (ie. historical inheritance/spiritual legacy of our loved ones), we should honour, give thanks and remember those who have gone on before us.
- Run the race with perseverance. We stand on shoulders of spiritual giants – the spiritual fathers/mothers who mentored us directly, as well as through the writings/teachings of spiritual leaders/missionaries/pioneers that have passed on. We are surrounded by great clouds of witnesses (Heb 12:1) who are cheering us on!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. IDENTIFYING

- Name your godly loved ones or mentors who have returned to the Lord.
- Name the founders or the key figures of the group (eg para church like OMF, FES, SU, CRU, YWAM, Tung Ling, MMS) or school/organization/church/denomination (eg GB, BB, Fairfield, Aldersgate, Methodist etc)

2. RECEIVING

- What inspires you about them? Their legacy is your spiritual inheritance.
- Ask the Lord to gift inspiring trait to you in your life and ministry.
- Give thanks for what you have received already.

3. WORSHIP IN COMMUNITY

- Have you lost a loved one in the Lord not too long ago? Are you still missing him or her a lot?
- How does understanding the 'communion of saints' in terms of being in the same community of worship (eg especially during the Doxology, Communion service), comfort, strengthen and encourage you?