

F+BC TODAY

U N L E A S H I N G T H E G O S P E L

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MAIN SERVICE

| Physical & Youtube |

Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am

YOUTH SERVICE

| Physical |

Sundays 9:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Ages 3 to 12

(Preschool to std 6)

Physical Classes

8:45am / 11:15am

Behold the Lamb of God (A Devotion on Hebrews 8)

We know how in the Old Testament, the people of Israel were given the Law at Mount Sinai. It was the time of the Mosaic covenant, a conditional promise between God and the people of Israel, as they were to be made 'a kingdom of priests and a holy nation' (Ex. 19:6). They will be blessed if they obey the laws set out for them, but will be cursed should they be disobedient, transgressing against a holy God. Along

with the law, Moses was instructed to build the Tabernacle, and the priestly rituals and the animal sacrificial system were also instituted. Led by Aaron as the high priest, his male descendants shall serve as a mediator between the people and God. Along with the rest of Aaron's tribe, the Levites were specially instituted to be servants at the Tabernacle. (Later on, in the temple).



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For generations, that was how the people of Israel worshipped Yahweh. They were to bring their offerings to the high priest, who shall then present those gifts and sacrifices required by the law, unto God, on the people's behalf. The sacrificial animals were no casual selection. After all, they were sacrifices to the Holy God. Only the best was chosen, males without blemish (Lev 22:17 – 25). That is the way to appease God for their sins, the only way they knew. That's the old covenant. But was it true the blood of animals, bulls, and goats was an acceptable sacrifice to wash away sin? Hebrews chapter 10 informs us. No, they aren't. *For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second* (Hebrews 8:7). So the first has passed, the second to come. Verse 13 *In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah* (v8).

The book of Hebrews proclaims to Israel (and also to us) that the new covenant has come!

We are now living in the new covenant of Christ. We have a new High Priest who is forever our mediator with God, Christ. He doesn't retire from office like the Aaronic priests before. He needs no animal sacrifices for he Himself is the perfect sacrificial lamb whose blood was spilled once and for all. He paid the wages of sin on the rugged cross, the only true propitiation to a Holy God.

Hebrews also tell us this new covenant is much better than the old which is a mere shadow of the heavenly things. The covenant of Christ is enacted on better promises. What are they? They are the promise of forgiveness of sin, the reconciliation of man to God, the direct access to God the Father, the adoption of sonship and the promise of eternal life for those who believe in the ministry of Christ Jesus. The author quotes the prophet Jeremiah (31:33), *"declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people."* As Christians, we are indeed the people of God redeemed by Christ. Christ is the object of our faith (Rom 5:1). Echoing John the Baptist, we too can confidently cry out "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"



Written by Lazarus Chong

Lazarus serves in Haven Ministry and attends CATS Life Group

HOLY BIBLE



Sabah Pre-School Ministry

1. Praise God for all the monitoring visits that have been completed. Pray for the follow-up actions that the teachers and leaders need to take.
2. Preparation for Teachers' Workshop for the year-end holidays. Wisdom for trainers and participation from teachers.
3. New Kindergarten Teachers. Thankful for new teachers who replaced a couple of senior teachers that needed a break to be with their families.
4. Joy in teaching and learning: Pray that all teachers will continue to have the joy of teaching and the perseverance in managing children's behavior.
5. Enlarge Ministry Team with the blessing of a 4WD and 80 kindergartens: there is a need to have additional staff to help with the supervision and administration of the village kindergartens. Pray for suitable candidates and funding.
6. Mission partnerships to help raise the standard of English in the village kindergartens. Individuals who are keen to do 1-2 weeks of mission at selected village kindergartens.

A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.