#### A Gospel-Shaped 2018 by Scotty Smith

This is what the Lord says: "Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the Lord, have spoken!" Jer. 9:23-24 (NLT)

Heavenly Father, whether or not 2018 is going to be a "happy" New Year, remains to be seen. But as in 2017, there won't be a day this year you'll fail to send us new mercies and give us sufficient grace. You'll steadfastly delight in us, and rejoice over us with singing, no matter the happenstance, circumstances, or providences. Because of Jesus' finished work, your love for us is irrepressible, immeasurable, and inexhaustible. That will be the most predictable and reliable truth in 2018. Halleluiah!

In response to the words you spoke through the prophet Jeremiah, this is our prayer for 2018. May it be a year *filled* with knowing you better, boasting in you more robustly, and serving you more joyfully. Though our desire for approval and power, riches and relationships, comfort and control will be unrelenting, may intimate fellowship with you seize our hearts, shape our schedules, and consume our days. Our only New Year's resolution is to believe the gospel more fully and gladly.

May the gospel compel us to love mercy, work for justice and walk humbly with you in 2018. Don't let us forget that all of history is tied to your commitment to redeem a Bride for Jesus from every nation, tongue and people group. Show us our place in that story.

May we dance and suffer, work and pray, serve and love *all* to your glory. Reveal more of Jesus to our hearts; bring gospel-renewal to our churches; and advance your kingdom in our cities. May we live each day this year confident of your great love, resting in your sovereign rule, and longing for Jesus' return. So very Amen we pray, in Jesus' merciful and mighty name.

For more such prayers go to www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/scotty-smith/

07 January 2018

## welcome to sle church

We are delighted to have you join us today! It is our prayer that you will enjoy all aspects of our gathering this morning.

# about

The 'SL' in 'SLE' means St Lucia. The suburb our church is located in. The 'E' stands for English. We are a church family made of many migrant families from across South-East Asia, and we are English speaking. The 'E' also stands for Evangelical. 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.

## get connected

Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: info@slechurch.org.au or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: slechurch.org.au or 'like' us for further updates at facebook.com/slechurch

# service times

9:00am and 11:00am

giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week: \$2,552.60 Weekly Required: \$11,378.00 Shortfall: \$5,878.00

electronic fund transfer A/C Name: SLE Church Bank: National Australia Bank BSB: 084-424 A/C No: 396558544 **Description:** Offering

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### community news

date claimers

### prayer points

- Praise God for the new year! Pray that we would all be renewed in spirit and health for the coming year. Pray for increasing gospel-centeredness in all areas of our thinking, living, and serving. Pray also for increasing gospel joy, that in all we do our joy would be rooted deeply in the finished work of Jesus and would overflow towards others.
- Pray for the pastors and leaders of this church that they will teach God's word faithfully.
- Pray for us that we will cling onto the gospel truth and shun false teaching. Pray that God will help us to watch ourselves and each other that we do not fall for false teaching of the Prosperity Gospel, and that we will help to speak the truth lovingly to family and friends who have fallen for it. Ask God to help us be armed with a clear understanding of the Bible so we can identify and avoid false teaching when we see it.

## church contacts

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Support & Imitate Gospel Workers [3 John] Intro 2. Imitate Workers for the Truth (v9-12)

Application

1. Support Workers for The Truth (v5-8)