

## Pastor's Desk: Taking God at His Word

It seems like the authority of Scripture is constantly under attack. It is attacked by the usual 'suspects' of atheist thinkers and liberal theologians. But it is also attacked by well-meaning Christians who claim to believe the authority of Scripture as the word of God, yet undermine that belief by certain attitudes, thoughts and behaviours.

Christians can find it hard to trust the Bible completely. We can wonder whether it really does contain everything we need for our complicated lives. And we often pursue additional means of revelation to tell us more than what the Bible says.

Can we take God at His word? Is His Word in the Scriptures enough, clear, final and necessary? This is what the Bible claims about itself;

It is enough: The Scriptures contain everything we need for knowledge of salvation and godly living. We don't need any new revelation from heaven.

It is clear: The saving message of Jesus Christ is plainly taught in the Scriptures and can be understood by all who have ears to hear it. We don't need a special person or a secret code to tell us what the Bible means.

It is final: The last word always goes to the word of God. We must never allow the teachings of science, of human experience, or of church councils to take precedence over Scripture.

It is necessary: General revelation is not enough to save us. We cannot know God savingly by means of personal experience and human reason. We need God's word to tell us how to live, who Christ is, and how to be saved.

Is this what you believe? Is this something you have thought through and wrestled with?

If this is something you'd like to talk more about, please grab one of the pastors, elders or leaders of the church to chat! I can also recommend a book I'm working through that was highly recommended to me (P.Ben) called 'Taking God at His Word' by Kevin DeYoung. If you'd like to read along with me and meet to chat about it, let me know!

Here's a couple of choice quotes from the book to whet your appetite!

*"We go to the Bible to learn about the Bible because to judge the Bible by any other standard would be to make the Bible less than what it claims to be." (p.24)*

*"The Bible is God's book [...]. Consequently, to trust completely in the Bible is to trust in the character and assurances of God more than we trust in our own ability to reason and explain." (p.82)*

*"Ultimately we believe the Bible because we believe in the power and wisdom and goodness and truthfulness of the God whose authority and veracity cannot be separated from the Bible. We trust the Bible because it is God's Bible. And God being God, we have every reason to take Him at His word." (p.122)*

### giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week:	\$5,338.92
Weekly Required (for 2018):	\$5,524.00
Shortfall (for 2018):	\$1,131.00

### electronic fund transfer

<b>A/C Name:</b>	SLE Church
<b>Bank:</b>	National Australia Bank
<b>BSB:</b>	084-424
<b>A/C No:</b>	396558544
<b>Description:</b>	Offering

25 February 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

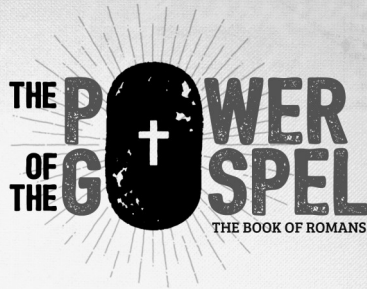
Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: [info@slechurch.org.au](mailto:info@slechurch.org.au) or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: [slechurch.org.au](http://slechurch.org.au) or 'like' us for further updates at [facebook.com/slechurch](https://facebook.com/slechurch)

## service times

9:00am (North Hall)  
11:40am (South Hall)





## serving grace

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Mervin	Mervin
Preach	Ps Steve	Ps Ben
Bible Read	Boon Cheng	Chi
	<i>Marilyn</i>	<i>Ps Steven</i>
M.Tea	Helen	Eilen
	Tania	Tania
Wash Up	YF Sunday	YF Saturday
Welcome	Philip	Ken
	Mee Lan	Steph
	Amy	Dan
	<i>Zach</i>	
	<i>Wei-En</i>	
	<i>Jessica</i>	
	<i>Andrew</i>	
Stewards	Philip	Alvin
	Norman	Sunny
	<i>Josh</i>	
	<i>Aaron</i>	
	<i>Stanley</i>	
Piano	Joanna	
Guitar etc	Dom	
Drums	Kevin,	
	Marcus/Ariel	
Vocal	Sharne	
PA	Reuten	
	Jowin	

## community news

### 1. Stop the Press!! Second Service Time and Location Change!

Please take especial notice of the time and location change for our second service.

Time: 11:30am (begin entering hall—do NOT enter before this time); 11:40am service starts.

Location: St Lucia South Hall (formerly HET/Chinese Hall)

## current sermons

Last Week: The Gospel Is... [Romans 1:1-17]

This Week: The Bad News of the Good News  
[Romans 1:18—3:20]

Next Week: [Romans 3:21—4:25]

## prayer points

- Give thanks and praise to God for His Glorious gospel! Praise God that the gospel is God's good news of His righteous and singularly powerful work to bring salvation to every single person who believes. Thank God for revealing that Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of the messianic King and the divine Son of God and that God achieves all His purposes and plans through Him.
- Pray that all of us individually, and as a church body and family, will be eager to promote the gospel of God in any and every way that we can. Thank God that He has gifted us all richly in so many ways. Pray that we would use our spiritual, relational, financial, material and intellectual gifts to promote the gospel.
- Thank God and pray for the many new students who have come to Brisbane and SLE Church in the past few weeks. Pray for them to settle well into Brisbane, university life and church. Pray for those seeking after God in this new phase of life. Pray that they would find God and be found by God.
- Pray for Auntie Yee Lin as she recovers from surgery. Pray for others who have sicknesses, injuries and anxieties.

## church contacts

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# The Bad News of the Good News [Rom 1:18–3:20]

## Introduction

1. Pagans are guilty (1:18-32)
  - a. Human idolatry and God's response

So what...?

2. Jews are guilty (2:1-3:8)
  - a. Hypocrisy in judgement (2:1-5)

- b. God's fair judgements (2:6-16)

- c. God's judgement and your judgement (2:17-24)

- d. God's judgement and justice (2:25-3:8)

So what...?

3. All are guilty (3:9-20)
  - a. All fall short (3:9-18)

- b. The Bible says so, but it does us no good (3:19-20)

So what...?