

Pastor Ben's Pastor Desk (Video Transcript)

It doesn't have to be rigid. Pray 2 min, read 10 min, pray 5 min. Finish. It can be a dynamic conversation – speaking to God in your mind freely. Opening up the word to read a bit which hopefully prompts you to say more to God in response.

Throughout the day, try to recall verses or lessons from Scripture from a previous bible reading, sermon or bible study. Then speak to God about it..

The second is: being mindful and drawing attention to God

We can't see God, so it's easy to think He's not there. So we need to use our minds, our imagination, to draw our attention to the fact that God is real and God is there. I don't mean visualise an image or idol of God. I mean to simply be mindful of God's reality and presence.

Christian meditation isn't to empty our minds like in eastern meditation. It is to fill our minds with truth and God's reality, which comes through the word, through prayer, through mindfulness, and most importantly, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The third is: Meet up with other children of God

God has saved us to be family. We're saved to be brothers and sisters who love each other and care for each other and bear each other's burdens. The love that we share is one of the great tangible expressions of God's presence.

1 John 4:7 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:16 God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

When we love, we show that God abides in us. It is the great tangible expression of God's presence. We don't get to just bump into each other now. Meeting up, talking and sharing will take more effort. But it's worth it!

One of the most loving things we can do is the read the bible and pray together. Especially for those who find it hard to do those things on their own, to be able to hear from God and speak to God with others can be a real lifesaver!

The fourth is: Read a chapter or two of a good Christian book or a good article

God has gifted some authors with the ability to speak God's word and apply it to our lives in such a rich and powerful and helpful way. If you're not sure where to source good books or articles, drop Steve or myself a line, or post a question on the SLE Facebook group. We'd love to direct you to some great reading material!

[Conclusion]

There's certainly so much more that we can be doing to cope and thrive at a time like this, but I'll leave at that for this week's pastor's desk.

Life has been turned upside down in such a short span of time. Times are tough. So now, more than ever, turn to God, seek Him with all your heart, mind and strength... and lean on one another.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



29 March 2020 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

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. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: The Welcoming Church — Surrendering Rights

Though having rights by tradition and Law, Paul gave them up to win people to Christ. In this way, Paul modelled for Corinth why they should give up their rights.

Next Week: 1 Corinthians 10



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Facing a Task Unfinished

Servants of the Gospel

Holy Communion

Offering

Community News

Bible Reading 1 Corinthians 9:1-27


Sermon By Pastor Steven Tran

Song of Response Surrender All

Stay Connected

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Check out sle.church/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$4,099.26
Weekly Required (adjusted)	\$6,435.00
Shortfall 2020	\$6,361.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD THAT HE REMAINS SOVEREIGN AND ALMIGHTY, holy, loving and good regardless of what is happening in the world and in our lives. Nothing happens outside of His control, and for that He deserves all glory and our complete trust.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING AT THIS TIME: for those infected by COVID-19, for those feeling the wider impact of this virus, as well as for many others who suffer in many other ways in life. Pray for the new creation, where there will be full redemption and renewal of all things.

THANK GOD THAT ALL SUFFERINGS AND TRIALS of this life points us all to our need for God: for reconciliation with Him, for His salvation and for everlasting hope.

PRAY FOR ALL OF US TO SEEK OUT opportunities to bring encouragement and care to one another in the church and homes, as well as in our community. There are many needs at the moment—pray that God's people everywhere will be doers of good.

From Pastor Ben's Desk (Video Transcript)

Hi everyone! This week, I bring you the pastor's desk... from my actual desk!
New times calls for a new way of doing things.

[A very sudden and very drastic change in life]

It's been only 5 weeks since the first COVID-19 measures were taken at our church.

For some of us coming back from overseas after the summer break, perhaps we already had concerns. For others of us, 5 weeks ago, COVID-19 was merely a blip on our radar.

But now in a span of just a few weeks, our Facebook feeds, our email inboxes, our conversations, our thoughts and our entire lives seem to be dominated by COVID-19.

And how could it not? In our lifetime, this is unprecedented.

[Challenges in this time]

We are all impacted by this. Some in a significant way, some in a severe way.

When life is in such upheaval, fear, anxiety, sadness, uncertainty, stress, feeling lost and helpless are entirely normal responses.

If ever there is a time for us to lament at the brokenness of this world, now is the time.

Just a few days ago, I had my own meltdown moment. Exhausted, overwhelmed and emotional, I couldn't help breaking down in tears.

At last year's church camp, we spent a great deal of time looking at the Psalms and seeing that lamenting towards God about the brokenness of the world and of our lives is not only possible, it is good, and it glorifies God.

Being a Christian isn't to be stoic and impassable, to be unaffected by anything, to be always put together and calm.

No, being a Christian is to be someone who comes before God in our all our brokenness, in all our griefs and troubles, to lean on God as God, to embrace Him as Father, to trust unflinching in the Son and seek His presence, and to cry out to the Spirit for comfort and strength.

To be a Christian at this time is to cast our cares on the God who cares for us. When we fear and are anxious and even break down in tears, we glorify God when we do it in His presence, when we are acutely aware that God is with us, and we want to be with Him. This can be through spoken prayers, or simply through our inner thoughts and feelings directed towards God.

Coping and thriving in a time like this]

So how do we cope and even thrive in a time like this?

My biggest encouragement to you is to do all you can to know and seek God's presence. And there's a whole heap of ways to do this.

The first is: the word of God and prayer.

Listening to God, speaking to God. It's the basis of any relationship.

(continuing back page)

2. The Welcoming Church—Surrendering Rights [1 Cor 9:1-27]

1. Introduction

2. I have rights! (9:1-14)

a. I am an apostle (1-2)

b. My common-sense rights (3-7, 11-12)

c. My rights according to Law (8-10, 13)

d. My rights according to Jesus (14)

3. Freed from rights (9:12b-18)

a. No obstacles (12b)

b. Compelled to preach (15-17)

c. Reward: preaching free of charge (18)

4. Free to be a slave to all (9:19-27)

a. All things to all men (19-23)

b. Working hard (24-27)

So what?