

Designation / Identity
Eph. 1:1-11, Mt. 5:13-16

Few years ago I was asked to name a still born male child before burial. Even a death child has to be identified by name. Every single person is supposed to have his/her identity. It is God origin not of man. God met Moses at mount Horeb and told him to go to Egypt and bring his people out of Egypt. Moses asked God, as to how he should reply if Israelites enquired as to who had sent him. God said to him, *'I AM WHO I AM. Say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you (Ex. 3:14).'*

Paul's designation: In almost all the epistles of the NT, the writers begin with self introduction with designation. It authenticates the message. Paul used titles such as:

- Prisoner of Christ,
- Ambassador in chain,
- Servant (bond servant/slave),
- Apostle; which seems his favorite designation.

'Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God (Eph.1:1)' implies the following: (a) He hold the apostolic office not on his own but appointed by God.

(b) He belongs to Christ. He is no longer his own.

(c) He is sent on a mission to represent the one who owned him, and

(d) He is sent with full authority.

Saints: in his letter, Paul addressed believers at Ephesus as saints. It was an encouragement and joy for the believers at Ephesus. Believers at Ephesus had an excellent reputation. They were saints for they were leading holy and blameless (not sinless) life. Would we feel embarrassed if called saints? Yes we are by God's grace!

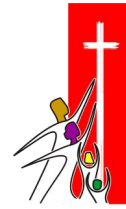
Paul became an apostle: Paul encountered Jesus while on his way to Damascus for his mission. A voice came to him saying, *'why do you persecute me?'* *'Who are you, Lord?'* Paul asked. At that moment itself Paul surrendered his life to the Lord. He realized that Jesus is on the side of those he is persecuting and that he is Lord. Paul asked again, *'what shall I do, Lord?'* Paul had never deviated from doing the will of the Lord from that time on.

Many believers remain satisfied at knowing Jesus as their personal savior but not as Lord of their lives. This was there from the earlier days of the church. Ananias and Sapphira, for the love of money they lied before God. It is the same today. Christians do want Christ but do not want him to be the Lord. That is clearly evident in our today's Christian society.

Salt and the Light: Jesus designated us as the **salt** of the earth and the **Light** of the world (Mt.5:13-16). This is the highest compliment ever given by the Lord to his disciples. **As salt**, our ministry is the earth needing us as salt that lends flavor. Salt gets dissolved but its flavor makes insipid food tasty. Likewise, we are to those who are in need and lost, reflecting Christ in us as Paul said, *'For to me to live is Christ.'* Jesus said, *'I am the light of the world as long as I am in the world.'* Having said so, he designated us as the *light of the world.* The world needs Christ and we to represent him. This is our mission.

Christian: Today we are popularly called as Christian. This is our identity. Regardless of what designation one holds, the highest above all other titles is to be known as Christian and to be the salt and the light for Christ reflecting the beauty of Christ through us.

- Mr. M. Odyuo



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD AND
THE WISDOM OF GOD

City Church

Today's Service

- Leader : Lemtila Alinger
- Speaker : Rev. Dr. Chingmak Chang
- Pianist : Viki the Shikhu
- Ushers : Richard & Moamanen
- Flower : Rose Mary Jamir

Praise & Worship

Welcome & Announcement

Reading: Psalm 100

- Mass Prayer (i) Your personal concerns
- (ii) Church ministry concerns

Offertory

Message

Hymn **No.117** : The Love of God

Benediction

citychurchkoh@gmail.com,

Facebook: "City Church Kohima".

Contact: 0370-2242687 / 7085120374

PRAAYER

- Pray for those who are sick. Pray for our Associate Pastor M. Odyuo's mother who is hospitalized in Wokha.
- Pray for the leaders of our State (in Politics, Administration and Social), that God will bless them and strengthen them to fulfill their divine calling.
- Let us pray for all the churches in Kohima, that God would have mercy on us, visit us and revive us again.

Everyone is invited to the tea fellowship after the worship service.

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

BAPTISM on 15th April 2017

Worshippers at City Church who are desiring to take baptism are requested to submit your names, addresses with contact numbers to the Associate Pastor M. Odyuo by 2nd April.

Please contact M. Odyuo for further information 9402489844

ENROUTE

Faith (Hebrews 11): A Christian life is a life of faith. We are saved by faith, kept by faith, walk by faith... Few things about faith that we can learn from these heroes of faith: **Faith** is not a feeling but a conscious choice to believe what God said; **Faith** is acting out in the face of doubt and opposition and Life of **faith** is normal and not a rarity, people in the chapter were all ordinary people but did extraordinary things simply because they had faith in God. **Faith is - believing what others do not believe in, seeing what others do not see and does what others do not do.**

- Moa Imsong

Sunday, March 19th, 2017

Tithes: ₹ 65,750 Offering: ₹ 7,782 Mission: ₹ 5,500 Building Fund: ₹ 2,000
Nagamese: ₹ 487 Total: ₹ 81,519

Information/Announcements

- Church Adult Choir practise today after the church service.
- End of month prayer on 31st March at 6am - 7am in the church hall.
- To avail transportation for Sunday service, contact Myingthungo Humtsoe @ 9402936043/ 8794172936.
- Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study from 5pm - 6pm.
- Thursday Women's fellowship at 4:30pm.



Ongoing Church Construction

Nagamese Fellowship

Blessed life is a God centre life (Genesis 39:2-6)

Blessed ones are those who not only claim to be righteous but live out their faith in their daily walks of life.

1. **A blessed life is a God-centred life.** Joseph grew up in the fear of the Lord. Even in moments of trial, God was in the centre of his life. The Lord was with Joseph. The Lord gave him success in everything he did.
2. **A blessed life is a blessing to others.** Joseph found favour in the eyes of Potiphar and he put him in charge of his household. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. God blessed Potiphar's household because of Joseph. He became a blessing to his brothers, parents, his whole nations.
3. **A blessed life is a positive life.** Joseph was a positive thinker. He didn't think of avenging his brothers, but comforted them instead. He was a positive man who believed in the ability of God.

Conclusion: Living a blessing life starts with God. Joseph love the Lord, but it was God who first love Joseph. God loves everyone as much as he did to Joseph, but are you willing to respond to God like Joseph?

- Robert