

**Galatians 2:20**

Among the sins that the Jewish people were warned not to commit, they feared idolatry the most. They militantly guarded themselves from the evil of worshipping “man-made” gods and images. They had learned their lesson well in Exodus 32 where God inflicted a plague on them for making and worshipping the golden calf. By 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, their society and religion was completely free of idols of any kind.

But Paul writes in several places warning the people not to worship idols or become idolaters (Colossians 3:5, I Corinthians 10:7). True, they had no external idols or images, but there was a more dangerous kind of idolatry forming within their hearts. This was more dangerous because it was subtle and could go unnoticed for a long time.

Martin Luther said, “The human heart is like an idol factory”. It has the capacity and creativity to manufacture something to take the place of God. And these idols in turn, will start running our lives and become the purpose of our existence. Idols can be anything including family pride, work prestige, money, sex, recognition, the need to be a nice person, etc. They may not be bad in themselves, but they make very dangerous and destructive masters. How do we deal with this? Paul leads the way in Galatians 2:20.

(1) **“I have been crucified with Christ”**. Paul was “married” to the law as a Pharisee and teacher. The only way he can be freed from the contract is to die. He found his answer in the death of Jesus on the Cross. It was the greatest realisation of his life to discover that Christ included him when he died on the Cross. (Paul talks about this in Romans 7). Now he is free to live for another master, i.e., Christ, in the power of the Spirit.

This was the force of Paul’s attachment to the law and his former allegiances. This is also the force and power of our attachment to our idols in life. Only death can set us free. The good news is that Christ died on the Cross, and included you there, so that you are now legally free to marry another, i.e. Christ.

(2) **The “re-centering” process**. Paul says he “died”, but in this small verse alone he refers to himself 7 times. Paul is learning to re-centre his life around the Cross. Miroclav Volf says, the self has these characteristics: (a) The selfish by nature. (b) The self is made to depend on another. It draws its meaning and purpose from a source outside itself. (c) The self always needs a centre to operate. When this centre is removed, it is always engaged in the activity of creating its own centre.

When the centre of our lives is compromised, our lives fall apart. Paul says the only centre that will hold is Christ. The opening lines of WB Yeats’ poem “The Second Coming” captures this well for us: *“Turning and turning in the widening gyre / The falcon cannot hear the falconer; / Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; / Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world...”*

(3) **Put on the “Self giving love of Christ”**. The very nature of Christ is “self giving”. By deliberately putting this on, we honour Christ and will do well.

(4) **Worship**. Psalm 115: 8 says Idols have no feelings or responses that can help human life flourish, “...and those who make them and worship them will become like them”.

But if we want to be transformed into the image and power of God, we must worship God and God alone.

**-Pastor Kedo Peseyie**

# City Church

## SUNDAY SERVICE

- Leader : Kaikhu Sumi
- Speaker : Pastor Kedo Peseyie
- Ushers : Yanglirola Medikhrü & Vipeni Pioka Shohe
- Keyboard : Vizalenuo Solo
- Flower : Dr. Asunu Thong

### Call to Worship

### Praise & Worship

- Reading : Psalm 119:105-112

### Mass Prayer

Offertory & announcement

- Hymn No. 40 : How Great Thou Art

Message

- Closing Hymn 133 : Yesterday, Today, Forever

Benediction

## PRAYER

- Pray for Nagaland. There is a lot of uncertainty and confusion over our state of affairs. Pray that our leaders will have wisdom, clarity, humility and foresight as they lead the state.
- Pray for our weekly program: Wednesday Bible Study, Thursday Women fellowship, Saturday Children choir and Sunday worship services. Pray for greater blessings from God.
- Pray for our church building project: for protection and favour upon the committee members and workers; for financial providence upon the project; and for all members so that we will all grow spiritually as the building progress.

## PSALM 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.

I have taken an oath and confirmed it,  
that I will follow your righteous laws.

I have suffered much;  
preserve my life, LORD, according to your word.

Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth,  
and teach me your laws.

Though I constantly take my life in my hands,  
I will not forget your law.

The wicked have set a snare for me,  
but I have not strayed from your precepts.

Your statutes are my heritage forever;  
they are the joy of my heart.

My heart is set on keeping your decrees  
to the very end.

### INFORMATION

- Executive Meeting today after the service at EGF Hall.
- Enroute Fellowship today 3pm.
- Wednesday Bible study at 5pm.
- Women's Department *Annual Retreat* and *Women Sunday* will be held on 14th & 15th October.
- Next Thursday Women's fellowship @ 5pm: *Leader*– Abano Chupuo, *Scripture Reading*– Dr. Chubala Jamir, *Sharing*– Akumla Walling.

### Women's Fellowship

**Matthew 4:1-11 6:33**

Our Lord Jesus' life emphasized on the written Word of God through His life and His message. We see that when He repeatedly said "it is written" in Matt 4:1-11. The Word of God is more important than food or clothing but our daily concern seem to be more on food and dress.( Matt6:25-33). Unless we Read, Study, Meditate the Word Of God and put into practice in our daily lives, we have nothing to hold our life together in times of difficulties.

Jesus tells us to seek first God as King in His kingdom and His righteousness and we as His subjects are expected to be so with no other option. All our daily needs can be compared to the **tail** of an elephant, God and His righteousness to **an elephant**. If we have the elephant the tail naturally comes.

"All human progress/development have basic inbuilt **self destructive** force **WITHOUT GOD**".

Everything can be misused **without God**. Even wisdom becomes meaningless **without God** as said by the wisest King Solomon. **- Dr. Ahokhe Shikhu**

**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

Tithes: ₹ 30,000 Mission: ₹ 12,000 Offering: ₹ 10,840 Building Fund: ₹ 30,000  
Nagamese: ₹ 281 Total: ₹ 83,121

Notes:

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