



## TBM Newsletter – Q1/2025

Inspire, Influence and Impact Lives for Christ

By Brandon PEK

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## The Passion and Joy of Christ

*Crucifixion was one of the most horrific ways to die, taking from several hours to days before the crucified body gave out. What motivated Jesus to go through the gruelling experience and even death on the cross?*

Just as the fall of man occurred in a garden eastward in Eden, the redemption of mankind started in another garden in Gethsemane.

After the Lord's Supper, Jesus and the disciples went to Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives where He left His disciples to sit and pray while He took Peter, James, and John with Him nearer to the place where He would be praying to His Father.

### The Sorrow of Christ

Jesus said to the three disciples He had taken with Him that His soul was exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. He told them to stay and watch before He went a little farther alone, fell on the ground, and prayed.

Mark 14:32-42 tell us that Jesus prayed three times the same words, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.” (Read also Matthew 26:36-46).

Luke 22:43-44 tell us that an angel appeared to Him from heaven to strengthen Him (perhaps with a vision of the coming glory). And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

The divine wrath of God was to be poured into the Cup of Suffering that Jesus came to drink on our behalf, and yet it was more than this that had caused Him sorrow and agony in the garden of Gethsemane.

Going to the cross also meant that Jesus would be separated from His Father as He bore our sins in His body on the tree and through the eternal Spirit offered Himself as a holy sacrifice without blemish to God (Matthew 27:46, Hebrews 9:14).

Jesus was then about to be betrayed by one of His disciples, tortured and humiliated, hung between heaven and earth, rejected by His own people, consumed by God's wrath, and separated from His Father in heaven, albeit for a brief time.

### The Obedience of Christ

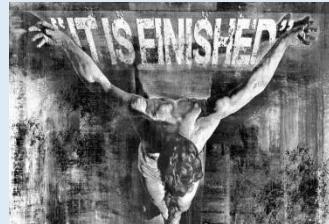
But praise be to God and all glory to Him! While Jesus prayed for the Cup of Suffering to be taken away, He did not stop there but went on to pray for His Father's will to be done and not His own will.

In the garden of Eden, despite the blessings and abundance, the first Adam disobeyed God and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The consequence was the eternal separation from the goodness of God (Genesis 3:1-19).

In the garden of Gethsemane, despite the sorrow and agony, the second Adam obeyed God and drank the Cup of Suffering and divine wrath He did not deserve. He died on the cross, and after three days, rose again by the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:20).

Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, passed the test and continued living a perfect sinless life. He brought the gospel of God's salvation to His people, and His own rejected Him (Matthew 4:1-11, John 1:11).

Despite the rejection, Jesus chose to obey His Father. After drinking the sour wine soaked in a sponge on a hyssop, He cried out aloud, “It is finished!”. Bowing His head, He gave up His spirit (John 19:28-30).



Jesus took the Cup to atone for our sins and offered His blood for our redemption (Hebrews 9:12).

### The Joy of Christ

And praise be to God and all glory to Him! While Jesus felt extreme sorrow and agony in the garden of Gethsemane, He looked beyond the Cup of Suffering and divine wrath, and endured the cross because of the joy that was set before Him (Hebrews 12:2).

Nehemiah 8:10 first mentioned the joy of the Lord as one that imparted strength. It was the seventh month Tishrei which means “beginning” (it now marks the start of the Jewish civil calendar) and the Book of the Law of Moses was read to the returning exiles.

Apart from the law, the reading also recounted the promises and provisions of God for His people. They wept for their past sins and disobedience, but governor Nehemiah exhorted them to celebrate His goodness and restoration.

The strengthening joy that was set before Jesus that night in Gethsemane was the redemption of believers from eternal damnation into everlasting life with Him. It had given Him the strength to endure the brutality of the cross and disregard the public shaming to focus on the higher purpose of the will of His Father.



The fullness of His joy today is in the gospel – the redemptive reality for those who repent of their sin and believe in Jesus the sacrificial innocent Lamb of God who through His life, death, and resurrection has redeemed them from eternal damnation for forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

### The Gospel of Christ

For as by one man’s disobedience, sin entered the world and death through sin, so by the obedience of Christ, as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name (Romans 5:12-20, John 1:12).

Adam disobeyed God in Eden when he ate the forbidden fruit, resulting in sin and death. But God in His love and mercy gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (Genesis 3:1-19, John 3:16).

The second Adam obeyed God in Gethsemane and drank from the Cup of Suffering, gifting eternal life to those who believe and follow Him. God is patient and does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (Ezekiel 18:23, 2 Peter 3:9).

Luke 15:7 tells us that there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. It is for this joy that was set before Jesus that He sacrificed His life so that He might bring those who repent to God.

With due diligence and in His love, let us bring and proclaim the good news, and be ready in season and out of season to preach the word (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

*Commemorating the love of the Triune God on Good Friday, and celebrating His victory over death on Resurrection Sunday (18-20 April 2025).*

## Books Written in Heaven

*Psalm 33:14-15 says “From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works”.*

The day will come when believers must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).

This is not the Great White Throne judgement which is for the devil, fallen angels and unbelievers before they are cast into the lake of fire.

The judgement seat of Christ, on the other hand, focuses on the rewards for believers according to their works and deeds in this lifetime.

### Unregistered in Church but Recorded

Consider the thief who had a change of heart on the cross next to Jesus. While the other unrepented thief continued mocking, he eventually acknowledged his sins and in repentance asked “to be remembered when the Lord came into His kingdom” (Luke 23:39-43).

The two thieves represented the separation of the sheep from the goats at the Great White Throne judgement, the former being the righteous in Christ, and the latter, the unbelieving ones when He returns (Matthew 25:31-46).

The apostles and the many disciples of Jesus began to spread the good news as He commanded them to do – starting churches and multiplying the flock. Today, more than 30% of the world population identify themselves as Christians.

GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY BY TRADITION	mid-2024
22. Total Christians, % of world	32.4
23. Affiliated Christians	2,508,432,000
24. Catholics	1,278,009,000
25. Protestants	625,606,000
26. Independents	421,689,000
27. Orthodox	293,158,000
28. Unaffiliated Christians	123,508,000
29. Evangelicals	413,404,000
30. Pentecostals/Charismatics	683,341,000

*Extract from "Status of Global Christianity, 2024", Center for the Study of Global Christianity, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary*

But among them are followers of a different Christ or spirit such as the Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses and those from liberal and false churches. Fret not, they will be separated at harvest time from true believers, like the tares from the wheat (Matthew 13:24-30).

Though unregistered in any churches, the salvation of the believing thief was recorded up there, and the day will come when many true believers will join him in heaven, separated from goats and bundles of tares, for Jesus had said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).

While membership to local churches is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged that believers be baptised into congregations of faith, provided they are Christ-honouring ones, for spiritual equipping, growth and protection, lest the enemy deceive and devour them like lost sheep with shepherd (1 Peter 5:8).

### Unofficial Work but Documented

Consider the church worker and the volunteer. Both perform their services in the integrity of their hearts, and with faithfulness and obedience. Both of them will indeed receive the blessings of the Lord here on earth, and also the true and lasting rewards that await them up there in heaven (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

And then, there is the follower of Christ who comes in the name of the Lord visiting the elderly and the sick in the nursing homes, sharing the good news with his neighbours and serving the needs of the lost, the last and the least around him (Matthew 25:40).

Will he not likewise receive the blessings and the heavenly rewards? Indeed, he will receive his portion. Though the faith-based works and deeds described of him are unofficial and outside of church sanction, they are done in the body and fully documented in heaven's books of deeds (Revelation 20:12).

In whatever capacity or role, whether in the church or outside it, do everything heartily as to the Lord and let our light shine before others, that they may see the good deeds and glorify God, our heavenly Father (Matthew 5:16, Colossians 3:23, 1 Corinthians 10:31).

### The Lamb's Book of Life

By grace through faith in Christ alone – this is the criteria to have one's name written in the Lamb's

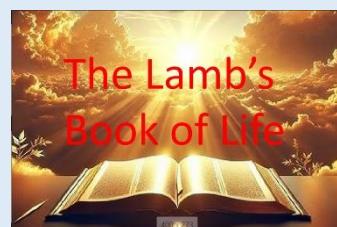
Book of Life with the assurance of salvation and eternal life (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9).

While the name of the believing thief on the cross is yet unknown

(and cannot be credibly established in any historical records), his name is recorded in this Book of Life.

There are other books that will be opened, judging the dead according to their works and deeds, by the things which were written in the books. But anyone not found written in the Book of Life would be cast into the lake of fire (Revelations 20:11-14).

Those whose names are in the Book of Life will also give account of themselves, according to what they have done, whether good deeds or bad ones, before the judgement seat of Christ for His recompense which is His reward for the good and His blood as payment for their sins (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 14:12, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelations 22:12).



### The Seal of the Covenant in His Blood

Jesus established the new covenant in His blood by His willing sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the dead after three days. Those who believe in Him are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of the inheritance in Christ until the ultimate redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Having our names recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life and sealed in the Holy Spirit to appear before the judgement seat of Christ, let our good works and deeds done in the name of the Lord be also written into and accounted for in the books of deeds.

Until the day of accountability, for the fear of the Lord and with integrity in the heart, let those who are alive in Christ and remain remember to do good and to share the good news, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (2 Corinthians 5:10-11, Hebrews 13:16).

*Written to encourage brothers- and sisters-in-Christ to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

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## Praise & Thanksgiving Report

- Attended Cru Summit with dedicated staff and key volunteers of Cru Singapore from 18 – 19 January 2025 in Johor Bahru. Encouraged and blessed by the messages on “Fruitfulness”.
- CNY “lohei” celebration on 3 February 2025 at MWS Yew Tee Nursing Home. On the generosity of brother David Tham, distributed oranges and ang pows to staff at Grace wards to thank them for their tireless service.
- Hosted dinner with Jean on 11 March 2025 for Rev. Hakan and Erika Gabrielsson of “Touching Asia” which started and supported bible training centres, churches and other missionary works in countries like India, Nepal, Myanmar and Japan.

### General Announcements

#### Upcoming Events / Prayer Requests:

- Announcing the cessation of SG MOI Alumni Group as of 09 January 2025. Members and past participants of the “Man of Impact” program are encouraged to join the Facebook Group of “The Significant Project (TSP)”. See link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/567297482851548>

- Pray for the TBM Fellowship screening of the 1979 film “Gospel according to Luke” on Good Friday, 18 April 2025.

Presentation and facilitated sharing on the good news of Jesus Christ.

- As we head towards this year's Pentecost Sunday on 08 June 2025, the following free e-booklets are available upon request:

- Wind in the Sail (I): The Triune Godhead
- Wind in the Sail (II): The Indwelling Spirit
- Wind in the Sail (III): The Flow of the Spirit

Do specify in the subject of your email "Free e-booklets" and send to [brandon.pek@tmb-bp.com](mailto:brandon.pek@tmb-bp.com).

- Subscribe / enrol in the following TBM Programs (preferential rate for individual or group sign-up by 30 April 2025):

Life skills mentorship-coaching program for youths and young adults with focus on building character values, self-mastery, thinking skills and relationship management.

Life coaching program – 3-month weekly support inclusive of subscription to "Positive Intelligence Quotient (PQ)" training series \* for mental fitness, performance and relationship building.

TBM's Expedition Series on "Total Fitness Proficiency" for a special enrolment rate to the PQ program for Mental Fitness \* with Christian Perspectives.

\* Independent enrolment to the PQ training series is also available.

To subscribe / enrol, specify program titles in the subject of your email (see poster below) and send to [brandon.pek@tmb-bp.com](mailto:brandon.pek@tmb-bp.com) for proposal.

Blessings,  
Brandon PEK  
The Boatman Ministry

## Life Coaching

Re-wire for lasting personal successes through self-mastery and winning mindset to thrive in life

**Boost Performance**

90%      76%      92%

Use Mental & Emotional Energy More Effectively      Improve Ability to Develop Others      Are Better at Teamwork and Collaboration

**Improve Wellbeing**

85%      91%      83%

Increase Happiness      Manage Stress Better      Improve Self-Confidence

**Strengthen Relationships**

82%      84%      97%

Improve Relationships      Are Better at Conflict Management      Improve Empathy

## Let's have a coaching CONVERSATION

Do you want to ...

- Step up in life, energise and refocus with purpose, significance and impact
- Activate and navigate with confidence through every challenge in life
- Grow and develop the whole person to achieve your fullest potential
- Explore possibilities and be empowered to scale new and greater heights

**Total Fitness Proficiency**



**TBM Expedition Series**

## Life Skills Mentorship-Coaching

**Character Building** is the central focus of the life skills development program, laying the foundation for satisfying, responsible and successful living. Personal core values such as integrity, love, empathy, perseverance & resilience provide a moral compass to help distinguish right from wrong.

**Life Skills** development program consists of three integrated components: Self-mastery for mental and emotional fitness, critical thinking skills and relationship management.



Sign up by 30 April 2025 for preferential individual or group rate. Specify in the subject of your email the program(s) title and send to [brandon.pek@tmb-bp.com](mailto:brandon.pek@tmb-bp.com) for proposal.