



30 April 2023

GETTING BACK INTO THE RACE

The Christian life is a race. Through the gospel, God summons us to sustained and persevering effort. Faith is a living, athletic grace. Christ blazed the trail before us. He now calls us to follow him to the end (Heb. 12:1-2).

But realistically speaking, Christians are not always pressing forward with their eyes fixed on Jesus. Sometimes they wander off the narrow path and become disoriented. They may be tempted to give up on following Christ with all their hearts and to give in little-by-little to the world around them.

To the confused and injured runner, I say: God can help you. You can finish this race—and finish it well.

Age-Old Problem

What is backsliding? Backsliding is a season in the life of a professing Christian when his sin grows stronger and his obedience declines. Not all sin is backsliding. The Christian life is a constant cycle of sin and repentance, all under the atoning blood of Jesus. But at times the cycle of repentance is broken for a while. This is backsliding. It could lead to outright apostasy or falling away from Christ, thus showing that the person is not saved.

Backsliding need not involve any big, scandalous sin. It often begins with coldness in prayer and a sense of indifference towards the Word of God. We may blame the preacher, but in reality something bad is happening inside our hearts. An inner corruption begins to grow. Soon our attitude begins to stink. Hypocrisy and pride rise up in our hearts. We become impatient, discontent, and quick to anger towards people. Though we profess to be Christians, we find ourselves drawn to the world.

What bitter fruit comes from such backsliding! Even while we invoke the name of the Lord we bring shame and

disgrace upon him. If you are truly God's child, then the Father places his hand of discipline upon you until you repent. Your life becomes like smoke that darkens and poisons the atmosphere of your home and your church.

But there is hope for the backslider. Even though our backsliding insults him, dishonors him, grieves him, and pushes away his love, still he calls us to return to him. This requires repentance: coming to grips with the badness of our sins against God and turning away from them to the Lord with a firm resolution to follow his commands.

Means of Grace

In order to help us to renew our faith and repent of our sins, God gave us the means of grace. God gave us his Word to meditate on, prayer to claim his promises, and public worship to meet with him and his people. God also uses afflictions and human accountability to help us to grow, calling us to respond with submission. If you are serious about getting back into the Christian race, you must use these means. These are not methods by which we save ourselves. When you grasp hold of the means by faith, you discover that Christ has grasped hold of you.

Dr Joel R. Beeke

(Dr Beeke serves as president and professor of systematic theology and homiletics at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary.)

Hear Dr Joel R. Beeke LIVE at the Reformation Today Conferences from 13 – 17 Jun. Register here:

<https://bit.ly/43S6Wod>

("Getting Back In Into The Race" originally published on The Gospel Coalition website, edited for weekly bulletin)



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

• GOSPEL LIGHT'S GOT TALENT (FAMILY DAY 2023)

We want to see you showcase your talent! Do you have a special talent, passion, skill that you would like to share with others?

We enjoy all the array of talent God's given to everyone. Audition on video and share your talents at Gospel Light's Family Day!

For more info, visit: <https://bit.ly/418jru4>
Registration closes Fri, 5 May

• FAMILY DAY 2023

Being a Christian is about being part of a bigger church family. A family that cares and invests time in one another. But as a church grows in size, relationships can shrink in depth. Gospel Light's Family Day is an event for everyone! Jump into the excitement as we bond over a program of non-stop fun for all ages.

Activities: Bouncy Castle, Movie Screening, Handicraft, Talent Show, Games and prizes, Baking Class, Flea Market, Dinner!

Date: Sat, 27 May

Time: 3:00pm to 8:00pm

To register visit: <https://bit.ly/3U9r2FP>

Registration closes Fri, 5 May.

• BULLETPROOF MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

Who should attend? Pre-Marriage prep and married couples who desire to strengthen their marriage. We would like to emphasize that it is a 4-session commitment plus, a 3-6 months of journey with a marriage mentor couple assigned to each couple. Registration is limited to 10 couples.

Dates: Thursdays starting 6,13,20,27Jul via Zoom

*Subsequent workshops will be conducted in Nov

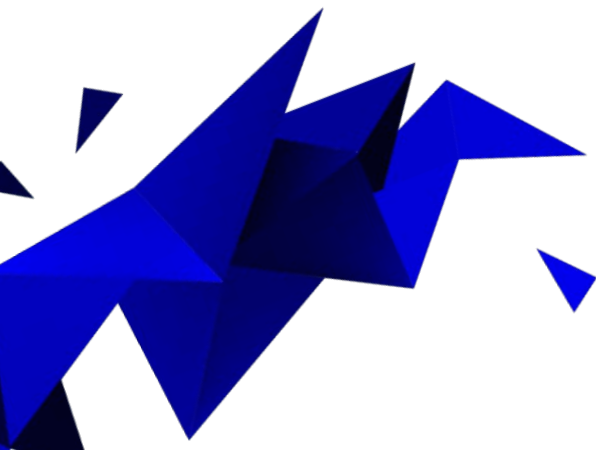
Time: 8:45pm – 10:30pm

Duration: 4 sessions

Click to register: <http://bit.ly/39bBsPt>

Registration deadline: Mon, 29 May

For more enquiries, contact Sis May Lim at kayhong.lim@gospellight.sg or 9859 4684.





CLASSES & TRAININGS

• BEGINNING INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY (BIBS) – REVELATION

Revelation is a letter from John to the seven churches in Asia in the first century. The purpose of the book is the revelation of Jesus Christ vis a vis the prophecy of things that must soon take place so that the churches may be faithful to persevere through the persecution and tribulation and overcome as conquerors.

The four visions that John saw are for our encouragement today, so that the called, chosen and faithful may overcome, living godly lives and watchfully waiting for Jesus' return in the clouds.

Maranatha.

Cost: \$15/- for the study guide and study materials.

Option 1

Dates: Fridays, starting 23 Jun

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Option 2

Dates: Mondays, starting 26 Jun

Time: 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Instructor: Brother Michael Lau

Classes will be conducted via Zoom.

Register at <https://bit.ly/3UnqzA1>.

Registration closes Sun, 4 Jun

• BEGINNING INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY (BIBS) – 1 & 2 SAMUEL (FOR MEN ONLY)

1&2 Samuel might seem like a historical record of Israel, of Samuel the Seer, of Saul the first king, and of David a man after God's heart. But theologically the book is about the LORD who *will give strength to His king, and will exalt the horn of His anointed... Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.*

Join us as we study 1&2 Samuel inductively and unpack the theme of the kingdom and the new covenant in Jesus Christ.

Cost: \$15/- for the study guide and study materials.

Date(s): Wednesdays, starting 17 May

Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Instructor: Brother Michael Lau

Classes will be conducted via Zoom.

Register at <https://bit.ly/42K8obu>.

Registration closes Sun, 7 May.



• REFORMATION TODAY CONFERENCE (WITH DR JOEL BEEKE)

The Reformation Today Conferences with Dr Joel Beeke will inform your mind and warm your spiritual affections. Come and be transformed by the Spirit's grace as we plunge into the wealth of the doctrines of God in key areas of Christian living.

Dr. Joel Beeke is President and professor of systematic theology and homiletics Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. Pastor of Heritage Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. And author and co-author of over one hundred books.

Dates: Tue, 13 to Sat, 17 Jun

Admission: Free

Registration opens Wed, 15 Mar and closes Tue, 30 May.

Conference synopsis and registration:
<https://ferc.org.sg/ReformationToday>.

• JOB RECRUITMENT

1. ShineKids Executive

If you or anyone you know would be interested to serve with us for the above position, please contact Benita Teo at benita.teo@gospellight.sg. Details of the job position are available via our website at [Careers](#).

• YOUNG MUMS PRAY AND SHARE

Are you a young mum of a newborn or primary school children? Mothering is a high calling and not an easy one. We understand and hope to support you in your parenting journey. Join us twice a month on Zoom to connect, be encouraged and equipped to be the mum that God wants you to be!

Date: Thu, 4 May

Time: 9:00pm to 10:00pm

Click Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/39TmGNQ>

Meeting ID: 865 7673 8143

Password: mums





WORSHIP SERVICE

- **Wednesday Prayer Meetings – 8pm**

Venue: Hall 3, Attic

- **Sunday Prayer Meetings – 8:15am**

Venue: Cry Room at Shine Auditorium (L4)

If you are interested to receive our weekly prayer list, please email shine@gospellight.sg

(A)Worship Services

Congregational Service	Day and Time	Capacity for On-site	Livestream Link
English @ Shine Auditorium (L4)	Sunday at 9am and 11am	800 pax	http://bit.ly/38BU0rA (only available at 9am)
Chinese @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Sunday at 9am and 11am	240 pax	http://bit.ly/2Ng0TXT (only available at 9am)
Filipino @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Sunday at 2pm	240 pax	http://bit.ly/30FjYFU
Youth @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Saturday at 4:30m	240 pax	https://bit.ly/2AaF8C3
Varsity @ Light 1 & 2 (L3)	Sunday at 2:30pm No service on 5 th week	140 pax	Subscribe to Varsity announcement channel https://t.me/+WDu3myEwjpcxZWU1
Bahasa @ Hall 1 (L2)	Alternate Sunday at 10:30am	20 pax	<u>Nil</u>
Telugu @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Sunday at 5pm and 8pm	240 pax	http://bit.ly/30G4fXl

(B) Children Service

All children's services are at **9am and 11am**:

(i) Primary Levels (7 - 12 years) at Level 3.

(ii) Preschool* (3-6 yrs) at Attic. **11am session, no 9am session (5th week volunteers meeting)**

(ii) Playgroup (12 mths till 3yrs) at Hall 3 @ Attic. **No lessons (5th week). Hall 3 is still open for parents and children to watch service together.**

*Preschool are for children age 36 mths to 6 yrs.





You may give your offerings in the following ways:

1) PayNow

Under the UEN/Bill Reference No. section you can:

- State "NA" - Offering will go towards General Fund
- State Missions - To designate the offering

(a) Via "Scan and Pay"

- Open up your bank app and select "Scan and Pay"
- Scan the QR code below:



(b) PayNow UEN

You can also opt to key in the UEN:

S88SS0082AGF1

2) Internet Banking

- Add payee as Gospel Light Christian Church
- Account Number: **033-021695-5**
- Name of Beneficiary Bank: DBS Bank
- Under the Remarks section, you can leave it blank for the offering to go towards the General Fund or indicate Missions if you want to designate the offering.

3) Cheque

- Crossed cheque made payable to "Gospel Light Christian Church"
- On the reverse of the cheque, write **Gospel Light Christian Church** and the respective bank account numbers:
 - General Fund - **033-021695-5**
 - Missions Fund - **001-042653-2**
- Cheques can be deposited at any POSB or DBS bank into the church's accounts.

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