

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 13/06/2021

Text(s): Hebrew 6:1–2; Matthew 3:7–12; 1 Cor 3:11–15

Sermon Title: Doctrine of Baptisms (Part 3): Fire & Suffering

Preacher: Rev Dr Jonathan Seet

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Hebrews 6:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Matthew 3:7–12 (NLT)

7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?”

8 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.

9 Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones.

10 Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

12 He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:11–15 (NIV84)

11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work.

14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. The start of the sermon touched on the topic of testing. How many of us enjoyed being tested in school by exams and quizzes? Share what you liked or didn't like about being tested, and whether you think exams should be abolished in all schools and colleges.**
- 2. John the Baptist said there will be a baptism of fire for God's people one day. Apostle Paul explained that it is a fire of testing (1 Cor 3:11–15). We all understand that we are saved by grace through faith, and not by works. What then is the purpose of this testing by the Lord Jesus? Is it unfair of God to test us since we are saved by grace?**
- 3. From the sermon, what are the things that will last for eternity? As a hint, the preacher mentioned both human beings and God. But why should it matter to us to know what are the things that will last for eternity?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. The other baptism explained in the sermon is the baptism of suffering. Christ Jesus talked about a baptism of suffering. Apostle Paul talked about his own suffering. Should we avoid suffering at all cost? Is there ever a good reason for suffering?**
- 2. We must remember that even though God may permit the trials, the attacks come directly from the devil. The preacher said God has given us the weapon to overcome the devil. What is this weapon he mentioned and how do you maintain this weapon?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See **MyPMC > PRAY** for the monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to truly desire things that will last for eternity and to live in them – Christ Jesus, the Word of God, and faith, hope and love.
- *Pray for our church to be a people who understand the need for the oil of the Holy Spirit and to yearn for the presence of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis.*
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.