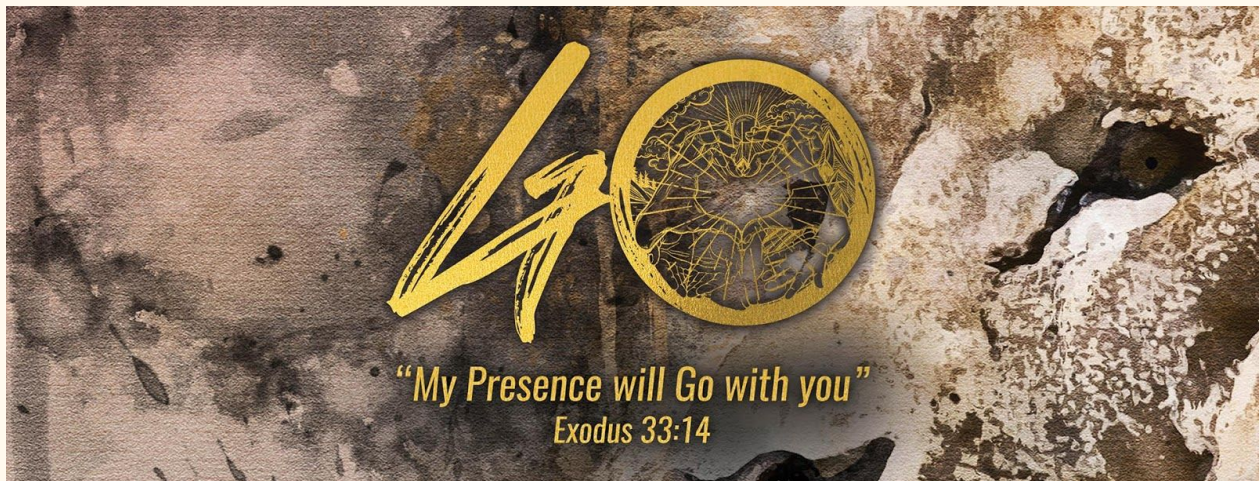


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# Ignite

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*"Lord, You told us to ask the Father to send out workers to bring in the harvest. This we must do. Please ignite a renewed passion for the gospel in our lives and a sense of urgency in our churches. Here we are Lord, fill us with Your Spirit and send us. Amen."*



## SERMON SUMMARY

**Note to Word Facilitator:** The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

## **All for the Sake of the Gospel**

**Brother A. Pradip**

### **1 Corinthians 9:19-27 (ESV)**

*For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*

### **Introduction 1 Cor 9:22-23**

DUMC's 5 Core Habits: *Honour, Humility, Be Real, Pass-It-On, Have Fun.*

“Doing ministry and serving others should come from His love for us and this love should overflow to others.”

“Ultimately, everything we do must be done for the sake of the gospel. It must lead someone closer to Christ. And that’s what makes us DUMC!”

The statements above are extracted from our church’s website,  
(<http://dumc.my/about-dumc/>)

Similarly, for Brother Pradip, his philosophy of life consists of: *Love God with all my heart, Hate sin and Have Fun!*

### **Two Takeaways Mark 10:45, Phil 4:1, 1 Thess 2:19, Acts 17**

There are two main takeaways from the bible passage above. Repeatedly, Apostle Paul mentioned about being all things to all men / people and that all that he did was for the sake of the gospel.

There were four purposes as to why the gospel was Paul's emphasis.

Firstly, that the gospel would win people over (from darkness to light, from death to life, from being lost to being found, and that they may know and believe in the Truth). Secondly, the gospel would save them from sin and its consequences. Next, through the gospel, they can share in its blessing and lastly, that they may receive the ultimate reward - an imperishable wreath.

Simplistically, we know that the *gospel saves* - when others are won over, they will have reconciliation with God through Christ's death on the cross - their sins will be forgiven, they will receive salvation, a new birth and regeneration in their lives. Well, more than that though, as we proclaim the gospel to others, the *gospel shapes* and transforms our own lives.

The blessings that flow from these two outcomes include the Holy Spirit himself, the presence of God, the promise of an eternal life, and the family of God. The gospel also brings joy, love and the boasting in the Lord.

The gospel is like a coin - on one side, it saves. On the other, it shapes.

Gospel saves: Paul was a Jew, a Roman citizen and well-versed in the Greek culture. In the book of Acts, there are twelve sermons which were preached by Paul. Interestingly, when he preached to the Jews, he would often start off with scriptures from the Old Testament and the Mosaic Law which were familiar to the Jews. To the Gentiles however, Paul would instead use texts from their poets and talk about the context of an unknown God to them. To both audiences, Paul knew how he could connect them to his messages.

This method is known as contextualization. It is important for us as we share the gospel to people. We need to know our audience. They may not understand us when we use jargons which we are used to or when we quote unfamiliar bible verses to them. We need to understand their *lingua franca*, culture, environment, food, musical choices etc. We need to be all things to all men.

Gospel shapes: In the passage, Paul used "I" many times, such as "I am free, I have made myself a servant, I became (4 times), and I have become all things to all men". It was Paul's description of himself transforming into Christlikeness.

When Paul said, "I am free from all things," he meant to say that his identity was now with and in Christ. It was not to say that he had erased his Jewish identity. Rather, as he was united with Christ, he could step out of his identity as a Jew to become like the people that he was preaching to. He was free to do whatever God wanted him to do.

How paradoxical and radical it is for one to be free so that he or she could become a servant or a slave! It seems contradictory but in reality, freedom isn't always about doing whatever we want to do. True freedom is when we choose not to be free. We must not get enslaved to freedom. It is easy to choose to be a servant, but it is not easy when we are treated like servants.

For Paul, when he said that he became all things to all men and did all things for the sake of the gospel, he chose in his freedom, to be a servant of all. Likewise, God is shaping us to be His servants that we may serve others. Are we willing?

**Reflection** *(provided for by speaker that you can revisit. These are different from the Application questions lower below):*

**1. What would it mean for us to say, “I do all things for the sake of the gospel”?**

It simply means “all of life”, seen through the lenses of gospel. All includes our hearts, our personal walk with God, our work, family, children, community, nation, the global world, or even our dreams, accomplishments and possessions. It is anything and everything.

If we were to take the gospel out of it all, trouble will surely ensue.

**2. How do we respond to the needs around us, locally and globally?**

Our church has Impact and Crossfield programs that we can participate in. It doesn't matter your age, the skills and gifts we have, our profession or the lack of it, consider a mission trip or outreach. Equip yourself through the trainings that are provided periodically. Get involved.

**Conclusion**

Let's commit ourselves to do all for the sake of the gospel and become all things to all men - to win, to save and to serve. Remember, that in our word and deed, we have to be Gospel or Jesus-centered so that we would be able to save and serve others. At the same time, the Gospel will benefit us by shaping and changing our lives.

# SERMON REFLECTION

In his personal testimony, brother Pradip shared that he is married with two sons. In the year 2000, he was set to relocate from India to the USA. At that time, he was reading *Romans 8:28*. As he prayed, he told God that while he was not afraid to die, he was worried for his family's well-being if he were to die. God chuckled and reminded him that it was Him who was already taking care of everyone. Relieved, brother Pradip was able to continue on with his missionary work through the years. Though there were risks due to the nature of his ministry, God has nonetheless provided for all their needs and protected them from harm.

Brother Pradip mentioned other notable missionaries, servants of God. Sidhu Sundar Singh devoted his life to being a Christian missionary when Jesus appeared in a vision the night he almost committed suicide. Though he was initially rejected, he thrust forward in his pursuit to travel around and evangelise to the North Indian community. He dressed himself in a saffron turban and robe, something more relatable to the people around him, rather than taking on the western influence in that era.

Hudson Taylor endured criticism as well from his own countrymen when he decided to adapt to dressing up as the Chinese people did in Shanghai as he wanted to make that as a bridge to bring the gospel to the natives. Hudson's missionary work in China lasted over 50 years. He was the founder of the China Inland Mission, now known as OMF International.

Closer to home, I know two friends who are now missionaries. Chrisandra serves at Metro World Child, New York while Christie is our church's missionary to Sumba. In pursuing their call to go abroad, they gave up the comforts of their homes here. Early this year, Chrisandra returned home briefly to meet up with her family after two years abroad. At a cell group meeting, she brought over some of her clothes, and accessories for others to take home. She didn't need them anymore. She picked up a martial art skill while in NY in case she is confronted with dangerous situations. I have known her since she was a teacher at a kindergarten. It is inspiring to see how

much she loves children unceasingly and to see her serving with a strong passion and conviction for the multitudes of kids at Metro World Child.

When Christie was settling down in Sumba, she would share about how different life is in a rural setting and her need to rely on others, even for a motorcycle ride out to the town to get provisions. At the moment, she is back here as the Covid-19 pandemic rages on in Indonesia. Rather than lamenting about not being able to do anything in Sumba, Christie is spending time to learn Bahasa Indonesia so that she can better communicate with the native people there. It is her perseverance and her undying pursuit for the salvation of the villagers in Sumba that draws me in to be outward-looking at the community around me.

**The gospel saves.** Every missionary I have come across, always had stories to share about where they have been and the people they have prayed with, for salvation. Look at the statistics of Metro World Child. After 40 years, the non-profit organization now reaches over 250,000 children weekly, across 13 countries.

**The gospel shapes.** I have heard and watched from many video postings on social media about how people's lives have changed when they accepted Christ into their lives. From brokenness to wholeness. From pain to joy. From nothingness to a life worth living.

I do ponder, if I am truly able to surrender all and do all, for the sake of the gospel. It is an arduous task. Wasn't it yesteryear that we were challenged to #ChaseTheLion? Oh, when would that *'someday, I will'* arrive?

For now, though I am hesitant, I tell God that if it is in His will, then I will **go**.

*Contributed by Wendy ML Tan*

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# APPLICATION

## **Note to Word facilitator:**

*As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficaciously. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.*

## **Suggested Icebreaker Question** (for Welcome that would link to the Word time)

- What are your pet peeves? Are there things that people do that annoy you?

## **Suggested Word Introductory Question:**

- What is your life's philosophy?
- Do you have a bucket list?

## **Suggested questions linked to the main points:**

- Think of someone that you want to reach out to. At what lengths would you go all out to share the gospel with him or her?  
*[For example, would you need to sacrifice your personal time and money to meet or hang out with them? Do you need to be more persuasive or bold? Do you need to eat the kind of food that you are not accustomed to? How could you participate along with their festivities like the Mid-Autumn Festival, and Deepavali?]*
- During the MCO periods, our church celebrations and CGs had to move onto virtual platforms such as the internet website and Zoom. How can we remain in context without losing authenticity? What can be improved on?
- What part of the gospel attracts you? Why?
- What part of the gospel offends you? How are you challenged by it? It is an attitude or habit that you need to change? Or your perspective about your nation or global issues?
- Do you serve in a church ministry? Do you feel appreciated or do you feel that you don't deserve the criticism that comes your way? Or as heads of ministry,

how can you appreciate your teammates better and help mold them to be better servants of God?

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**Question Bank** *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

- What is your reaction when you hear testimonies about gangsters turning over a new leaf, even becoming pastors? What is your reaction when you hear of celebrities like Justin Bieber or Kanye West who are converted? Too good to be true? Unbelievable? Why do you feel that way? Discuss.
  - No doubt you may be trying to share the gospel in a sincere manner, but outsiders may see you as a hypocrite. How do you balance your mannerism or tactics without losing your personality or character?
  - “True freedom is when we choose not to be free.” Can you really choose to be free? What if you have children or an elderly parent at home that you need to care for, or a business that needs your urgent attention during a time of crisis, or that you need to work longer hours and hold more than one job to make ends meet, how could you balance between work-home-church life?
  - Are you moved to consider going for a short term mission or outreach trip or do you feel there is a calling in your life to be a missionary? What would it cost you? What steps do you need to take to reach your goal?
- 



## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?





Photo by Judit Peter from Pexels

### **Story of the week...**

*"...In 2 months, I had lost 11kg and had no appetite, motivation or focus. It was horrendously lonely! I had found myself in a deep pit of despair with bouts of suicidal tendencies that caused a lot of pain for my loved ones and even grieved God. Amidst a vast array of struggles, I found myself broken, unmade and in want. But God, in His mercy and grace, showed Himself in a seemingly hopeless situation..."*

- Luke Tan, PJN6

\* Read the rest of Luke's story on [dumc.my/blog](https://dumc.my/blog)

*"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."*

- Maya Angelou

If you or your CG member(s) has a story to share related to today's Word or any other story that speaks of His goodness or of IMPACT Now, **share their/your story** [\[HERE\]](#)



# PRAYER

**Note to CGL:** You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

## **Praying for Malaysia**

*Holy Spirit, we ask that Your hand will upon the politicians - to bring about cleansed hearts, sincere motives, humility and good conscience, to genuinely serve the Rakyat with competence and integrity of heart. We pray that our ministers will discharge their duties and responsibilities sincerely in the fear of God. We continue to pray that all political posturing and selfish ambitions shall be thwarted, so as not to short change the interest and welfare of the people of this nation. We continue to persevere in prayer over the hidden plotting to scuttle high profile corruption cases in exchange for political power. We ask that Your justice will prevail, and those bent on manipulating justice for personal gains will be swiftly dealt with. We humbly ask You to intervene and overrule through Your sovereign authority over the affairs of men. We pray for our peoples to be discerning, honest and righteous, who know how to weigh right from wrong, not be deceived by religious and racial nationalism, and other forms of political propaganda and ideological deceptions. We pray for spiritual breakthroughs in the present political strife and impasses.*

*Lord Jesus, shine Your light into the concealed darkness in Malaysia, expose that which is hidden, and cause human darkness and demonic agents to fail and flee at Your powerful name. Lord Jesus, we ask for the demolishing of strongholds in the unseen realm of demonic activities, secret plotting and witchcraft. We pray that the intensifying efforts of the evil principalities and powers in stirring and stoking disunity, corruption and deception, and plotting unholy alliances, will all fail; that they will tremble and flee in fear of Your Name. Cleanse the spiritual atmosphere*

*over our land in Christ's mighty Name, for You alone can dispel darkness in the unseen realms of principalities and powers and bring light and hope to our nation.*

*We rejoice in knowing that You are continuing to work out Your purposes in our nation, for Your ways are higher than our ways, and Your thoughts are not our thoughts. We ask that the reality of "Thy Kingdom Come" - will be fully felt in this beloved nation of ours. Help us not to feel embittered, defeated and apathetic or be tempted to only look to political "chariots and horses" solutions. Help us to look to You first to deliver us from evil men; for You have said, "Vengeance is mine." Final justice belongs to You.*

*Father in Heaven, we pray for our Prime Minister and his Cabinet, and the health authorities led by the Director General of Health and his team - for Your blessing of guidance as they work towards delivering the nation from this new wave of greater intensity of the coronavirus pandemic. Grant them wisdom to restore the economic and socio-political health of this nation, providing sustainable solutions in the light of the damage done by the coronavirus and from global trade wars, and to bring stability at a time of intense power grabbing. Give them much wisdom to hold the balance between "life and livelihood", between the tension of health and economy - rightly. Grant that the people will be dutifully responsive in obeying measures advocated to flatten the pandemic curve at this crucial time.*

*Lord, we ask that You will strengthen the authorities and fortify the front-liners and give them wisdom to fight against this surge that is now spreading into the community. We pray for all affected clusters, institutions and states especially Sabah, Kedah and the Klang Valley. Lord God, we pray for deliverance from the Covid-19 pandemic as the states of Sabah and Selangor go under more restricted movement control. We ask for your protection for all medical professionals, healthcare workers and front-liners dealing daily with the intense pressures of this coronavirus crisis, especially on Sabah's East coast. Please strengthen them with resilience in weariness, discernment in diagnosis, and tireless compassion as they care for the sick. We pray for Your healing over Sabah, from the coronavirus and from decades of governance that are found wanting, that Your Light will shine through this present darkness as You bring Your healing.*

*We pray that the public will be vigilant and cooperative, even though they are suffering from "pandemic fatigue" and that everyone will do what is right and necessary in bringing this infection to a halt. We pray for businesses that are finding it difficult to recover, that You will give them resources, wisdom and strength to help keep their staff during these troubled times. Stir in us a deep compassion for those who are suffering during this pandemic from job and business losses, and salary cuts, and those who are struggling desperately to make ends meet.*

*Lord God, as the coronavirus pandemic is still a threat to Malaysia and the nations globally, we pray for those who are sick and who are grieving over lost loved ones. Please comfort those whose families have been touched by illness or death during*

*this season; enable them to move on from their grief and shock. In Your mercy, we ask that You will stop the spike in infections, and rid us of this virus for, "Sovereign Lord, You have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32:17*

*We pray, commit and ask all this in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and King. Amen*

*Prayers contributed by Kelvin Lee and Wee Jack*

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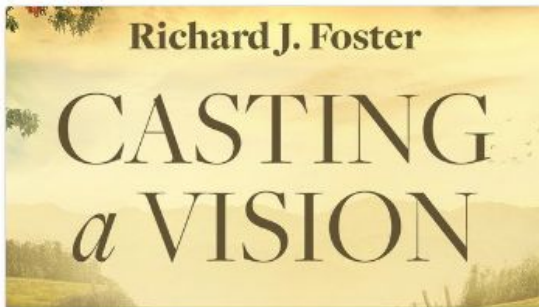


## **OTHER RESOURCES**

*Below are some links to resource you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!*

### **FEATURED**

*In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!*



 **Casting a Vision**

20 pages

renovare.org


The twenty-first century though has brought with it new c...

**Richard Foster**

**Prayer & Spirituality** **Discipleship**

**E-Book (Free)**



 **Where is God in the Pandemic?**

1 hour


youtube.com

**Tim Keller** **Francis Collins**

**Suffering** **Social Concerns** **Teaching**

**Video Clip**



 **God and the Pandemic**

1 hour

youtube.com

**N.T. Wright** **Francis Collins**

**Social Concerns** **Teaching** **Suffering**

**Video Clip**

## OTHER RESOURCES

*Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!*



### **DUMC STORIES**

*Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!*

