

Date: 10 February 2019

Speaker: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Topic: Gong Xi Fa Cai

Scripture text: 3 John 2

1. During Chinese New Year, unbelievers would wish each other "gong xi fa cai" (恭喜发财) but believers usually do not do so because it focuses on material prosperity. However, believers can wish each other health and wealth as Apostle John wished Gaius health and wealth in this passage. The context is the key to having a right understanding on this matter.

2. Firstly, we wish health and wealth for those who are walking in the truth (verses 3-4). We can wish health and wealth to those who believe and are obedient. But not to unbelievers. We must not confuse this with the true gospel of Jesus Christ and so we reject the health and wealth gospel. We do not wish blessings for those who are not in the truth. For unbelievers, we wish for their salvation, not their health and wealth.

3. Secondly, we wish health and wealth for those who are practising charity (verses 5-8). The purpose of having health and wealth is to be charitable to serve and glorify God. It is to be hospitable and always giving towards the spiritual work. It is not to satisfy our own wants but to care for others. In Singapore, we have peace and prosperity and so we must give. We should think about how we can contribute to God's work. Let us be generous with the resources that God has blessed us with.

4. God knows how to provide for all our needs and will bless us if we obey Him and follow His Word. Health and wealth in themselves are not bad or wrong. It is the love of money that is the root of all evil. We must have wisdom to know how to use our resources for God's glory.