

3 June 2012 - Preached by Elder John Leong

Message Topic: **Benevolence to saints and strangers**

Scripture Text: Romans 12:13

1. In order to be committed to follow what God wants us to do in Romans 12 which is to love sincerely, to care for others, to be diligent, not to be revengeful etc, we must be spiritual and Christ-like. This requires us to be willing to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God and to die to self daily.

2. One area in our Christian life that we need to commit to is to contribute to the poor and show hospitality to strangers. The Lord has always a special regards to the poor and will take care of them. The poor and needy in our midst need not be discouraged or feel forsaken. They must learn to trust God to provide their needs. The strangers that we are asked to show hospitality to are those who serve God as travelling preachers of the Gospel. We can learn from them to serve God in faith and not worry of food or shelter.

3. To learn to give and contribute to the poor and needy saint, we need to know the following biblical truths:

a) We are to give according to what we have, and not what we have not. Thank God for what we have today and be faithful as stewards of these resources.

b) We are to give not just by praying for the poor but also our substance to help them with their physical needs.

c) We are to give to those that God brings into our lives who are needy and be the Good Samaritan to them.

d) The hindrance to our giving is greed and fear. We want more for ourselves and refuse to give to help the poor. We are fearful to help others as we fear we will not have sufficient for ourselves.

4. The Lord has promised that if we give to the poor, we will not lack. The Lord will bless us. We must learn to give cheerfully and willingly.

5. We must also be committed to show hospitality especially to strangers. These strangers cannot repay us so it is the best way to show our love knowing that we are not looking for earthly reward. We do it all for the Lord Jesus.