



CITY HILL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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BREATH AND AIR

What will you do if the *breath* that gives you life simply becomes *air*? Perhaps some of us have already encountered such moments, or will. I can't say that I have. Probably because I don't (and if I'm being honest, can't) think on such a profound level. Thankfully, there are those who do.

Paul Kalanithi never got to finish his memoir "**When Breath Becomes Air**." He died before he had the chance (his wife seamlessly finished the rest). Paul had and would have continued to perform tremendous acts of healing during his life. An exceptionally gifted neurosurgeon and on the cusp of finishing his neurosurgery residency, Paul was diagnosed with a cancer that would take his life. At that moment, his *breath* had become *air*. It did not stay that way for long though.

Experience the story of Paul's life. His childhood. His dreams of being a writer. His journey to medical school. Experience the grueling challenges of residency. The personal traumas of those around him. What really is a doctor? Why did he start a family then, knowing that he would so soon be leaving them behind in this world? His story in the face of the *ultimate* adversary of life—death.

His message to me was simple: live. What will it be for you?

—Michael Chang (has a copy to lend!)

WELCOME

Greetings, City Hill Church! A couple of years ago, I thought that having a church newsletter, that was informative but also fun, would be a great thing to have. Seeing this finally realized this summer is pretty satisfying.

We hope this newsletter allows our members to stay "in the loop" with church happenings, learn more about other members, gain some helpful theology, and even enjoy some humor.

If you wish to get involved with this or have any good ideas to add, please contact us soon!

Happy reading,
Pastor Robin

CONTRIBUTING

City Hill Church,

We need your help! We are looking to incorporate *original* content from *you*. Whatever your passions are, if they are reproducible on a print-based medium, we want to showcase it! I don't want to beg, but will if I have to. Otherwise, prepare to read works exclusively written by Pastor Robin and myself.

If you have any questions or are ready to submit your wonderful works, please e-mail me at mchang416@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Michael Chang

P.S. You *really* don't want to read things exclusively written by Pastor Robin and myself.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 30, 2017: Hiking Trip To Starved Rock

Details will be posted on the City Hill Church GroupMe.

September 2017: Fall Sports League

Please contact Jason Yoo or Sisa del Carmen if you have any questions. More details to come!

October 2017: The Reformation

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Pastor Robin will be preaching each week during the month of October on the "Five Solas" that summarized the beliefs of the Reformation.

THEOLOGY CORNER



With each newsletter this year, we hope to provide helpful articles that can provide our church with good supplemental theological content. This issue, we hope you gain much from this article from Ligonier Ministries (the Reformed publication ministry of R.C. Sproul) entitled "The Apostolic Church."

In our culture today, there is a rampant temptation to use worldly ideas and methods to influence the church, rather than the church standing firm in its Biblical identity and mandate to then shine light to the world. Often we hear of "pragmatic" attempts to "fix" the church by calling for churches to be run as businesses, turn pastors into "CEOs," and create programs to be the "be all-end all" of maintaining morale and attendance. The temptation is real, but as we read in this article, the church and its members must stay true to its biblical Apostolic/Gospel foundation and its biblical identity to truly have any influence as a "City on a hill" in this dark world. As with anything else, we must trust God with His Word and his design for the church, and not look to our own ways. Enjoy the article!
—Pastor Robin



CITY HILL CHURCH

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

"You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (vv. 19b–20).

- Ephesians 2:18–22

When we confess the Nicene Creed, we affirm our belief in "one, holy, catholic [universal], and apostolic church." God's people are united in the truth, set apart for His service, made up of people from every tribe and tongue, and founded on the teaching of the Apostles. Of note for today's study is Apostolicity—the notion that the Apostles are the foundation of Christ's church (Eph. 2:18–22).

In asserting that the church is built on the Apostles, we are not denying in any way that Jesus is the cornerstone of His church (v. 20). Affirming the Apostolicity of the church, in fact, highlights the authority of Christ over His people. This is due to the nature of the Apostolic ministry. The Greek term for the English word Apostle is *apostolos*, which in the first century was used of those who had the right to speak for an authority figure. For example, the caesar would appoint others to speak for him in other parts of the Roman Empire, and the words of these delegates had the same authority of the caesar. These delegates were known as *apostoloi*, that is, "apostles." Jesus' Apostles, in a similar fashion, represented the authority of Jesus Himself, and to deny Apostolic teaching is to deny the teaching of our Savior.

Without the Apostles, we do not have Christ. This means that we cannot pit the words of Paul, Peter, or any of the other New Testament authors against our Savior. What these Apostles teach is what Christ teaches, for He inspired them by His Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16–17). To be an Apostolic church is to be a church that is faithful to the teaching of Scripture.

Some theological traditions emphasize the idea of Apostolic succession. In these communions, Apostolicity means that they can trace their lines of bishops all the way back to the Apostles. Roman Catholicism, for instance, views itself as Apostolic because Peter, they claim, appointed a successor, who appointed a successor, who appointed a successor, all the way down to the current pope. We answer that a church is not truly Apostolic if it teaches things contrary to the gospel. How can we claim to stand in the line of the Apostles if we deny what they held dear? The Apostles warned us not to listen to false teachers who deny the truth (Acts 20:17–35), so if a church does not preach the gospel, that church is not Apostolic.

It may be important to know the historical succession of church leaders, but it is more important to preach the gospel faithfully. A church can be built on the Apostles only if it loves what the Apostles loved and affirms what the Apostles affirmed. That is why it is so important for church leaders to be grounded in the Scriptures. Pray for your church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel and teach it with boldness.

—By Ligonier Ministries

(available at <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/the-apostolic-church/>)

