



# Fourfold Gospel

The Overview  
Oct.15 2006



# Mission Statement

The C&MA exists to know Jesus Christ, exalt Him as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King; and complete His Great Commission.





## Fourfold Gospel

- Fourfold Gospel (四重福音)
  - Simpson used to summarize his pastoral message
- Christ our Savior (拯救之主)
- Christ our Sanctifier (成聖之主)
- Christ our Healer (醫治之主)
- Christ the Coming King (再來之主)



## Four Gospel?

- Four separate gospel messages?
- Four part to the message?
- Four blessings?
- How many do you really need?
- Is it OK if have two of the fourfold?
- Will three out of four be safer?
- Why four?



## One Gospel

- “There are four messages in the Gospel, which sum up in a very complete way the blessings which Christ has to offer us”  
*A.B.Simpson*
- *If there is one gospel in Christ, why do we need the Fourfold?*
- “Fourfold Gospel is the church needed to hear to bring renewal” *A.B.Simpson*
- *What’s wrong with the Gospel we preach?*
- **Five minutes evangelism (Exercise)**



## Half Salvation

- Late 19th century, there was a tendency for evangelism to selling some sort of “cheap grace”
- People who have received God saving grace and said, “That’s enough of that”
- Those see salvation as:
  - a safeboat
  - a passport
  - a way get out of hell
- “Half saved” in Simpson’s term



# Full Salvation

- Fourfold Gospel to address this “part of the story” preaching
- *What is God’s intention of saving us?*
  - Experience the fullness of God’s grace
  - Live a whole new quality of life
- “You are not saved in the fullest sense until you’ve received all that God has, which includes sanctification, healing and hope in His second coming”  
*A.B.Simpson*
- *What did you preach minutes ago?*



# Christ Our Savior 拯救之主

Fourfold Gospel  
Series 1 of 4  
Oct. 15 2006





# What is life all about?

- Financial planners
- Insurance brokers
- Parents
- Commercial
- Politicians
- Sociologists
- Philosophers, Psychologists...
- Educators, Ecologists, Economists...



# What is life all about? (Cont')

- A Parable Jesus teaches (Lk 12:13-21)
  - A family dispute about money (v.13)
  - A certain rich man build a barn to store grains and goods (v.18)
  - Planning his retirement (v.19)
  - Pass away the very night (v.20)
  - At the end, money and retirement plan did absolutely him no good
- *Is this life all about?*
- *What is your answer about life?*
- *How would you answer the unbelievers?*



# Meaning of Life

- Day in, Day out
  - Meaningless ??
- Thousands years old question
  - Seeking the supreme being
  - Pleasing the deity
    - Worship, rural sacrifices, good deeds, etc
- Biblical view
  - Need of reunion with the Creator
  - Salvation in Judeo/Christian term



# The Fall

- God creates mankind
- Adam and Eve were set part from the rest of God's creation
- Created in God's image (Gen 1:27)
  - Made for personal and endless fellowship with God
- God told Adam that death would enter into his experience if he chose to disobey (Gen 2:17)
- Adam made that choice



## The Death

- A person consists of body, soul and spirit (I Thessalonians 5:23)
  - Body 身子
  - Soul 魂 (emotions, intellect, will, etc)
  - Spirit 靈 (meant to communicate with God)
- Our separation from God, through sin, our spirits no longer function in relationship with God
- Resulting in spiritual death (Eph 2:1-3)



## The Destiny

- We all born with this condition (Roman 5:12)
  - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned
- Result in eternally lost - if we die still in this condition
  - Condemned in final judgment (Rev 20:13)
  - Enter second death (Rev 20:14)
- *Is this the only destiny?*

## The Dilemma

- God is Holy and Perfect
  - Cannot exist in relationship with the imperfection (Fallen mankind)
  - Imperfection would pollute perfection
- For all have sinned (Romans 3:23)
- Attainment of personal perfection is out of our hands
- Nothing we can do to remedy this dilemma
- *That's it?*

## The Atonement 挽回祭

- God *presented* him as a sacrifice of atonement (Romans 3:25)
  - Turn aside God's wrath
  - Taking away sin
  - The procedure that makes us right with God
  - A compensation
- God is the active agent (God *presented*)
- The plan works through substitution
- Eternal atonement substituted for eternal punishment
  - 我們憑這旨意，靠耶穌基督，只一次獻上他的身體，就得以成聖 (Hebrews 10:10)



## The Plan

- Two individuals required for the substitution:
  - The imperfect (you and me)
  - The Perfect
    - The sinner (descended from Adam)
    - The sinless (descended from God)
- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (II Cor 5:21)  
神使那無罪的，替我們成為罪，好叫我們在他裡面成為神的義。
- God provide every person the gracious and just opportunity to choose

## The Substitution

- Jesus, the sinless ascended from God
- Remained sinless through the supernatural virgin birth
- Remained sinless throughout his life
- Chose to sacrifice His life as a substitute for every person (John 3:16)
- His death give opportunity to experience eternal forgiveness
- His atonement met the payment of perfection for return to perfection

## The Sacrifice

- In OT, God would give people the animals for sacrifice to make atonement
- The sacrifices were not meant to please God
- But cause people to recognize their need for God
  - Turn away His wrath
  - Experiencing the forgiveness
  - Once again perfect (right with God)
- ONLY Jesus made perfect forever
  - 叫那得以成聖的人永遠完全 (Hebrews 10:14)

## The Only Way

- I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6)
- Accepting Christ as our Savior:
  - The beginning of Christ's work in our lives
  - First entry into all of the blessing
  - Made us once again perfect
  - Reconcile with the Creator
  - Beginning of a new quality life
  - *NOT* just get away from hell!



# A Deeper Thought

- Eternal separated from God meant to be eternally separated from His characters:
  - Good
  - Loving
  - Just
  - Protective
  - Merciful
- As a reborn Christian:
  - *Do you have these divine characters?*
  - *Have you been renewed?*
  - *Where are you in your spiritual journey?*
  - *Still "Half saved"?*



# Christ Our Sanctifier 成聖之主

Fourfold Gospel  
Series 2 of 4  
Oct. 22 2006



## Himself - 今要主自己

Once `twas painful trying,  
Now `tis perfect trust  
Once a *half salvation*,  
Now the uttermost

前用己力苦試，今完全信靠  
前要一半救恩，今要全得救

• 生命聖詩, 393



## Half Salvation

- See salvation as:
  - a safeboat
  - a passport
  - a way get out of hell
- People who have received God saving grace and said, “That’s enough of that”
- Is this a problem?
- Is this all God’s salvation plan?
- What’s God’s intention on saving us?



## Full Salvation

- According to Simpson:
  - Not only escaping hell
  - Moving deeper in the riches of God’s grace in sanctification
- Not how little of God’s grace we can get away with
- But how much of God’s grace we can bring to life

## A New Life

- Accepting Christ as our Savior:
  - *NOT* just get away from hell!
  - Bring us back to perfect
  - The beginning of Christ's work in our lives
  - First entry into all of the blessing
  - Beginning of a new quality life
- How to get into such a gracious life?
  - Christ our Sanctifier 成聖之主

## Basin for Washing 洗濯盆

- Exodus 30:17-21
- Made of bronze, fill with water
- Place between Tent of Meeting and altar
- For priests to wash their hands and feet:
  - Enter the Tent of Meeting
  - Present offering on the altar
- So that they will not die (v.20, 21)
- So long as priesthood shall last (v.21)  
世世代代永遠的定例
- Signifying whoever comes to God must be washed from all sin and corruption



## The Meaning

- Meaning of sanctification derived from Greek:
  - Sanctified (*hagíadzo*)
    - To cause someone to have the quality of holiness
  - Sanctification (*hagíasmos*)
    - To dedicate to the service of and to loyalty to deity
- Separated (from sin)
- The purpose of serving God



## Positional Sanctification

- We are born again
- Seen as holy because of what Christ has done
- The price of sin is paid
- We are positionally sanctified
- Alliance position on Sanctification:
  - Not only legal declaration (children of God)
  - A part of our experience
  - An ongoing relationship
- A work of the Spirit in our life

## The Promise

- The night Jesus arrested (Referring John 14)
- Told the disciples he was about to leave
- Disciples were troubled
- Jesus comforts His disciples (John 14:25-27)
  - the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you
- God indwell us the Holy Spirit, give us all the resources to live a new life:
  - Separate from sin
  - Dedicated to God for service
  - Have an ongoing relationship with Him

## Slave to God

- There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1)
- Have become slaves to God (Romans 6:22)
- But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do (I Peter 1:15)
- As getting perfect score in every single games, which is next to impossible
- Himself, 今要主自己
  - Once 'twas painful trying
  - 前用己力苦試



## Slave to Sin

- You used to be slaves to sin (Romans 6:17)
- If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8)
- The habit of living in sin has been broken from our lives
- Even a strict disciplinarian, Paul, failed
  - For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do (Romans 7:15b)
  - 我所願意的，我並不~~做~~；我所恨惡的，我~~不~~去做。
- That's it?

## Paul's Failures

- Paul in trouble - Romans 7:21-24
  - Inner struggle with sin
  - Even a strict disciplinarian, a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee (Referring Phil 3:5)
- Paul cried "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24)  
我真是苦阿！誰能救我脫離這取死的身體呢？
- What keeps Paul fight this *hopeless* warfare?
- Have you ever fall in this "be good-then fail" circle?
  - "Painfully tried" in Simpson's term

## Paul's Realization

- In the struggle, Paul finally realized only Christ can deliver him:
  - Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks to be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:24-25)  
誰能救我脫離這取死的身體呢？  
感謝神，靠著我們的主耶穌基督就能脫離了。
- Paul decides to stop trying on his own, but rely on Jesus Christ as his sanctifier

Once 'twas painful trying,      前用己力苦試,  
Now 'tis perfect trust          今完全信靠

## Point of Realization

- Normally, people do not affixed on living the Christian life, but escaping hell
- At a point, people realize:
  - God's grace is *much more* than they aware of
  - There is a more victorious Christian life available
- Sometime this through a crisis
- Sometime a realization
  - God has set us apart to be holy for His purpose
- Sometime an event
- Have you experience such a realization?
  - Necessity/Urgent on Sanctification



## Alliance Position

- A process of progress
- Begins with God
- Continues with our response
- Never ends until Christ returns
  - But now that you have been set free from sin and become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads of holiness and the result is eternal life (Roman 6:22)
- Even I realize the necessity of holy living, what can I do?
  - Surrender to God
  - Submit to the Spirit



## Total Surrendering

A.B. Simpson's advice:

- "We must step down into the death of all our strength and all our life, and surrendering ourselves completely to Him, rise in newness of life with Christ, and thus receive the Holy Ghost as the seal and source of that new life."

You are the potter, I am the clay

## Total Submissive

### Paul's challenge:

- We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (Romans 6:2)
- Do not live according to sinful nature but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:4)
  - Have you pay attention to the conviction of the Holy Spirit?
- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30)
- Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit (Gal 5:25)
  - Are you run from sin prior to sinning?

## Be like Christ

### John's reminder:

- The result of sanctification is that we will be like Christ
  - When he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is (1 John 3:2)
  - 但我們知道，主若顯現，我們必要像他、因為必得見他的真體。
- Sanctification will help us develop the divine characters as Christ
  - Good, Just, Protective, Merciful...
  - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience... (Gal 5:22)

## Remain in Christ

- If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5)
- If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love (John 15:10)
- I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that you joy may be completed (John 15:11)
- Jesus simply wants us be happy and completed
- Just want to be with us

## Love of Christ

- Jesus cares about our relationship, our happiness;
- Don't you care about our Lord's?
- Love of Christ keeps Paul on the battlefield, live a holy living
  - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? (Romans 8:34)
  - 誰能使我們與基督的愛隔絕呢？難道是患難麼？是困苦麼？是逼迫麼？是飢餓麼？是赤身露體麼？是危險麼？是刀劍麼？



## The Fullness

- In sanctification that we are:
  - Renewed in our inner being
  - Indwelt and Empowered by the Holy Spirit
  - Progressively growing
  - Taking deeper into God
- Remain in the love of Christ (John 15:9)
- Have an ongoing relationship with God
  - A process, a working out, a developmental and progressive relationship
- Entering God's realm, promises, grace
  - "I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations. (Leviticus 20:24)



# Christ Our Healer

## 醫治之主

Fourfold Gospel  
Series 3 of 4  
Oct. 29 2006



## What is Divine Healing?

- Same as Miraculous healing?
- A form of spiritual healing?
- An alternative medicine?
- Refusal of modern medical techniques
- Lost ancient medical techniques?
- Requirement for canonization of a saint?
- Only applicable on incurable diseases?
- Only through faith healers?
  - Televangelist Benny Hinn
- A gift, once delivered unto the Apostles?



## Divine Healing - 信心醫治

- “It is simply the realization that the Lord Jesus has purchased and provided for His believing and obedient children physical strength, life and healing.”  
*A.B.Simpson*
- 主耶穌已經為其順服而有信心的兒女們，預備了身體所需要的力量與醫治



## The Health

- In the summer of 1881
- A year after serving at the 13th Street Church New York City
- Exhausting services is too much for his frail health
- Plagued by illness for much of his life since childhood
- Suffered from a bad heart





## The Doubt

- On a vacation in Maine
- Attended healing service at Old Orchard - a Christian retreat center
- Charles Cullis, a Boston physician who had come to believe in divine healing
- Listen to at least 200 people give account to their healing
- “I had believed that there were cases of healing – but the facts did not convince me” A.B.Simpson



## The Certainty

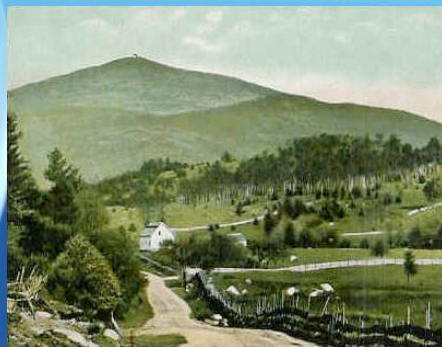
- Sent Simpson to the Scripture to settle the matter
- “If it was true, it was the most stupendous thing in life. And so went to my room and took my Bible thinking, *If that is here, I will stand on it; if not, I will let it go. If it is true, I will accept it cost what it will*” A.B.Simpson

## The Trust

- After went through the Scripture, plus Dr. Cullis' influence, Simpson put his trust in Christ for his healing
- One day, Simpson sat on the beach
- Simpson had a great sense of the presence of the Lord
- He believed God had healed him

## The Trial

- That weekend, he went to speak in a church in the mountains of New Hampshire
- The next day, he was invited to climb 3000 ft. Mt. Kearsarge
- True test for his healing





## The Affirmation

- As he climbed Simpson sensed *another* Presence helping him
- “When I reached the mountain top, I seemed to be at the gate of heaven, and the world of weakness and fear was lying at my feet” A.B.Simpson
- Consider the magnitude of his activities in the next 40 years till his death
- It certainly appears that Simpson experience a remarkable divine healing



## 1880's

- 1881 — Simpson resigns NYC pastorate to reach “the unchurched and neglected masses”
- 1882 — First issue of *The Word, The Work, and The World* (Alliance Life) published; New York Gospel Tabernacle and Missionary Training Institute (MTI) organized
- 1883 — The Missionary Union for the Evangelization of the World formed
- 1884 — C&MA begins ministry in Congo
- 1888 — C&MA begins ministry in China



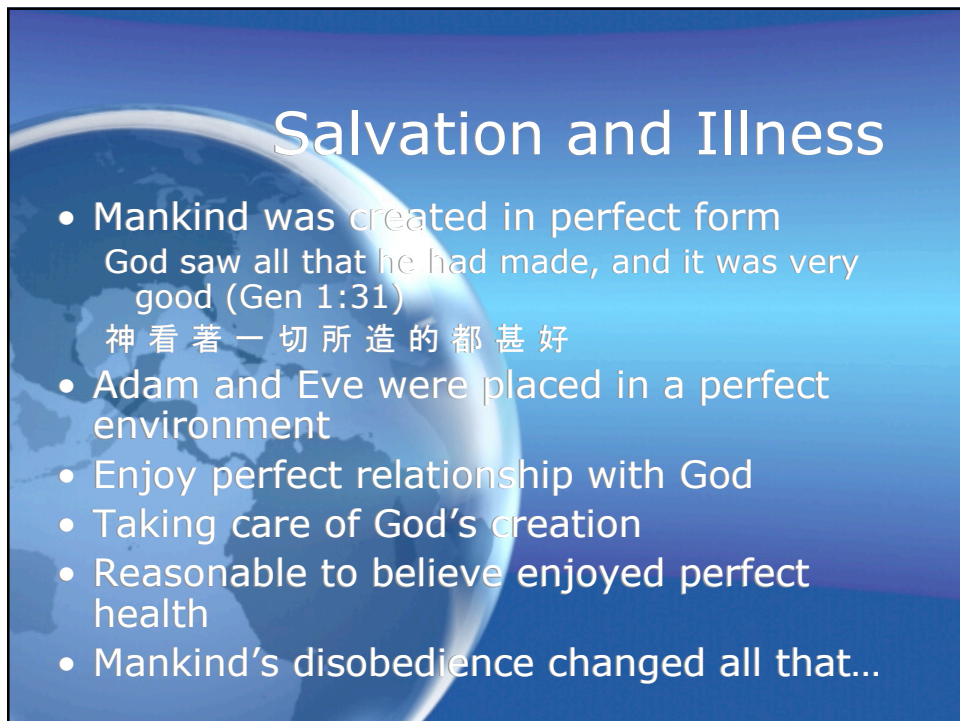
## 1890's

- 1890 — C&MA begins ministry in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria
- 1891 — C&MA begins ministry in Japan
- 1893 — C&MA begins ministry in India
- 1895 — C&MA begins ministry in Venezuela
- 1897 — The two societies merge to become The Christian and Missionary Alliance  
A.B. Simpson becomes first president  
C&MA begins ministry in Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador



## 1900's

- 1900 — C&MA begins ministry in Puerto Rico
- 1902 — Simpson edits religious monthly, Living Truths  
C&MA begins ministry in Philippines
- 1919 — A.B. Simpson suffers a stroke and dies at age 76  
C&MA begins ministry in Guinea



## Salvation and Illness (Cont')

- Lost the perfect environment
- Lost the perfect fellowship with God
- Death, both spiritually and physically entered the human race
- Part of the "death sentence" is illness, which can lead to physical death
- Not every illness is the direct result of an act of sin
- Source is the consequence of mankind's sin
- Unless atonement is made, mankind remains dead both spiritually and physically

## The Covenant of Healing

- "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you." (Exodus 15:26)
- 你若留意聽耶和華—你神的話，又行我眼中看為正的事，留心聽我的誠命，守我一切的律例，我就不將所加與埃及人的疾病加在你身上，因為我—耶和華是醫治你的

## The Covenant of Healing (Cont')

- The earliest promise of healing
- God prefer his children:
  - Walk in obedience
  - Live a holy living
- God keep us from sickness
- Sickness belong to:
  - The Egyptians, NOT God's people
  - The old life of bondage

## Source of Sickness

- Story of Job (Job Ch.1 and 2)
- Sickness comes from Satan
- Job was healed at the end
- Through giving up his self-righteousness
- One of the oldest book in history
- There's no physician, no remedy in Uz
- Job can only look up to God

## Complete Healing

- Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases (Psalm 103:3)
- 他赦免你的一切罪孽，醫治你的一切疾病
- In David's eyes, God is always the one and only deliverer
- It is a complete healing:
  - ALL his diseases, ALL his sins
- As the case of Job, sin and sickness must be healed together

## Turn away from God

- Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his GOD (2 Chron 14:2)
- 亞撒行耶和華——他——神眼中看為善為正的事
- By the trust in God, Asa won one of the most glorious victories (2 Chron 14:9-12)
- But success corrupted him...
- In the next crisis, Asa formed an alliance with Syria (King of Aram) instead of relied on GOD (Referring 2 Chron 15)
- Asa was angry and imprisoned the prophet
- Became sick and die, not seek help from God but put trust in physicians (2 Chron 16:2-3)



## Turn away from God (Cont')

- In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the LORD, but only from the physidians. Then in the forty-first year of his reign Asa died and rested with his fathers. (2 Chron 16:12-13)
- 亞撒作王三十九年，他腳上有病，而且甚重。病的時候沒有求耶和華，只求醫生。他作王四十一年而死，與他列祖同睡，

## The Promise

- Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows... and by his wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:4-5)  
他誠然擔當我們的憂患，背負我們的痛苦... 因他受的鞭傷，我們得醫治。
- Take up our infirmities and sorrows
- In some translations:
  - Infirmities as *Sicknesses*
  - Sorrows as *Diseases*
- Matthew applies it to physical healing  
He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases  
他代替我們的軟弱，擔當我們的疾病。(Mat 8:17)



## Jesus' Healing Ministry



## The Healing Ministry

- A great portion of Christ's earthly ministry was healing the sick
- No record of turning anyone away
- No disease was too difficult for Jesus to heal (He even raised the dead)
- In Luke 4, Jesus concluded healing was part of what he came to do (Lk 4:18-21)
- Both Matthew and Peter quote Isaiah 53 on Jesus' healing ministry (Matt 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24)

## Ministry of the Followers

- Jesus not only has the power of healing
- Also gave his disciples authority to heal in His name (Matt 10:1)
- The Twelve (Lk 10:1; Acts 3:1-10; 5:12, 15-16; 9:32-43)
- The Unnamed Seventy-Two (Lk 10:1, 9)
- Stephen (Acts 6:8)
- Philip - caught attention in Samaria (Acts 8:5-8)
- Ananias 亞拿尼亞- a believer in Damascus (Acts 9:17-19)
- Paul, Barnabas, Silas and other (Acts 14:8-10; 16:16-18; 19:11-12; 20:7-12; 28:7-10)

## Ministry of the Local Church

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:14-16)

你們中間有病了的呢，他就該請教會的長老來；他們可以奉主的名用油抹他，為他禱告。出於信心的祈禱要救那病人，主必叫他起來；他若犯了罪，也必蒙赦免。所以你們要彼此認罪，互相代求，使你們可以得醫治。義人祈禱所發的力量是

# Ministry of the Local Church

(Cont')

## Ingredients:

- Elders
  - Overseer of the church
  - Usually the most mature believers
- Oil
  - Nothing "Magical"
  - Symbol of Holy Spirit, who applies the works of Christ in life
- The Sick
- Prayer offered in faith
  - Both elders and the person seeking healing, the church
- Confession of sin
  - Sin keep a person from experiencing God's blessing
- The Name of the Lord
  - Christ is the Healer (Acts 4:8-12; 9:34)

# Purpose of Healing Ministry

- Ministry within a local congregation  
Simpson used to call the "Lord of the Body"
- Purpose is to build up the believers
- The Holy Spirit give gifts of healing  
(1 Cor 12:9, 28)
- Purpose for all spiritual gifts:
  - Edify, Strengthen and Comfort the church  
(1 Cor 14:3, 5, 12, 26)
- The use of the gifts should contribute to the building up the church

## FAQ for Divine Healing

- Does Christ still heal today?
  - YES! His power has never decreased
    - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb 13:8)  
耶穌基督，昨日、今日、一直到永遠、是一樣的
- Why are godly people not always healed?
  - Healing like any other work of God
  - A sovereign, supernatural work of His grace
  - God does not exist to fulfill our demands
  - We need to discern God's will, pray accordingly
    - that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us (1 John 5:14)
    - 我們若照他的旨意求甚麼，他就聽我們

## FAQ for Divine Healing (Cont')

- Is it wrong to take medication or seek medical help?
  - NO!
  - God has given physicians great understanding of the body, diseases, cures
- The question is: *What are you trusting?*
  - The medical science?
  - OR Christ as your healer?



# Christ the Coming King 再來之王

Fourfold Gospel  
Series 4 of 4  
Nov. 12 2006



## End Times - 末世

- What's in your mind about End Times?
  - Technology at climax
  - Moral collapse
  - Frequent warfare
  - Natural/Man-made disasters
    - Irish Potato Famine (1845-49), ~1 million died
    - Great Leap Forward (1958-61), 30 million died
  - Growing gap between rich and poor
- Do you think we are living in the End Times? Why?

## End Times - 末世 (Cont')

- "The Earth is degenerating today. Bribery and corruption abound. Children no longer obey their parents, every man wants to write a book, and it is evident that the end of the world is fast approaching."

*from an ancient Assyrian tablet*

- The End Times
  - A belief in many world religions
  - A time of tribulation
  - It will go before the coming of a "Messiah" figure
  - End of the world

## Buddhist Eschatology

- Buddha's teaching will disappear gradually
- Arhats (阿羅漢 - fully understand Buddha's doctrine) will no longer appear
- Content of the true Buddha's teaching would vanish
- Dharma (佛法) would be forgotten

## Buddhist Eschatology (Cont')

- People will follow the ten amoral concepts - theft, violence, murder, lying, etc
- Some time following, a new Buddha named Maiterya (彌勒菩薩) will arise
- Renew the teaching of Buddhism
- Rediscover the path to Nirvana

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

## Islamic Eschatology

- Qiyamah - Day of Resurrection
- Fundamental belief in Islam
- Trials and tribulations are detailed in Quran
- Every human, Muslim or not, is held accountable to his/her deeds and are judged by Allah
- The coming of judgment day is unknown to man
- Those ignored the Quran or converted to another religious are engulfed in hellfire



## Islamic Eschatology (Cont')

- True believe in Allah are rewarded with the pleasures of Heaven
  - Heaven, mostly described as a cool garden with running streams
  - Rewards described in physical terms - including unlimited food and drink, staffed palace, "perpetually-virgin" spouses
- Isa (Jesus) will return to overthrow al-Dajjal (similar to Anti-Christ in Christianity)
- Confirming Islam the only true religious

## Hindu Eschatology

- Kali Yuga - The Age of Darkness
- Last stage of development of the world as part of the cycle of Yugas
- Most Hindus believe that earth is currently in this dark age
- Human civilization degenerates spiritually
- People are the furthest possible from god
- Morality reduced to only a quarter of the golden age



## Jewish Eschatology

- Concerned with a Jewish Messiah
- Messiah will defeat the gentile nations
- Restore the Kingdom of Israel
- The Jews in exile will return
- Temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt
- War and famine will end



## Jewish Eschatology (Cont')

- The Hebrew word *Mashiach* means anointed one
- The continuation of the Davidic line
- Lead in a messianic era of peace for both the living and deceased
- Hebrew Bible has many references to the coming Messiah



## Jewish Eschatology (Cont')

- Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)
- "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2)



## Christian Eschatology

- Afterlife
- Return of Jesus
- End of the World
- Resurrection of Dead
- Last Judgment
- Heaven and Hell
- Establishment of The Kingdom of God
- Fulfillment of Messianic Prophecy



## Sign of End Times

- Matt 24:1-35 (Mk 13:1-37, Lk 21:5-36)
- Signs of coming End Times
- False Christs and Prophets
- Frequent warfare
- Natural disasters
- Persecution and Martyrdom
- Lose of morality
- Love grows cold
- Cosmic Signs



## Day and Hour Unknown

- As a bloomed fig tree signal coming of summer
- These signs indicate the return of Christ
- The "day" likes the days of Noah
- People were eating, drinking, working
- Keep watch and be prepared
- So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him (Matthew 24:44)
- 所以，你們也要預備，因為你們想不到的時候，人子就來了。

## Millennialism - 千禧年主義

- Derived from Revelation 20:1-6
- About the return of the Christ
- Literally means "thousand years"
- Satan will be bound
- Golden Age or Paradise on Earth
- Christ will reign with people have not worship the "beast"
- There be a final battle with Satan at the end of the Millennium
- Followed by the final judgment

## Millennialism - 千禧年主義

(Cont')

- Pre-millennialism
  - Christ will return
  - Rule over a period of peace and righteousness
- Amillennialism
  - Literally means "no thousand year"
  - A spiritual kingdom set up in the hearts of people where Christ will rule
  - Do not believe in a literal and physical one thousand years of Christ on earth
- Post-millennialism
  - Through one thousand year advancement of the gospel, the kingdom of Christ would be realized
  - Popular in 19th century

## The Great End

- “The coming of Christ is the great end of creation and redemption” *A.B.Simpson*
- Simpson’s theology is rooted in eschatology (末世論)
- Looking forward to what to come
- Salvation, sanctification, and healing all focus on meeting the returning King
- “The City of God does not spring up from the earth” *A.B.Simpson*
- “but, as the new Jerusalem, it comes down from heaven ” *A.B.Simpson*

## Bring back the King?

- The hope of the second coming is meeting Jesus
- In Simpson’s view, involvement in world missions will bring this closer (post-millennialism?)
- Majority of Simpson’s writing on the coming was directly tied to missions
- And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14)
- 這天國的福音要傳遍天下，對萬民作見證，然後末期才來到



## Bring back the King? (Cont')

- For Simpson this mean Jesus “could not” return until the gospel preached in all the world
- Simpson found great motivation for missions, which could “bring back the King”
- The motivation provided an urgency to Simpson’s missions activity
- Some thought Simpson was over interprets this verse (Matthew 24:14)
- The promise is that the preaching will be effective and will reach all the nations before Christ return



## Reflection

- Meaning of End Times for Simpson is preaching the gospel to all. What does it mean to you?
- Jesus tells us the signs of the coming End Times, but not the exact day and hour, why?