

## ***New Beginnings***

Hi, my name is Pastor Ed Yee. We are so glad that you could join us this evening. I hope you have enjoyed the food and the program. We really appreciate this group of people who were willing to come out from the Bay Area to join us here. They had a wonderful sharing.

I want to share a few thoughts about what they shared.

***Romans 5:6-8 (NIV) <sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

Romans 5:8 describes the wonderful love God has for us. While we were messed up, while we did not deserve it, God still loves us today. He didn't wait until we were better people before He loves us. He didn't wait. He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for you and me to demonstrate His love for us.

When Christ died on the Cross for you and me, He did something great. Just like the custom of celebrating the New Year, we are starting brand new. I mean really brand new. Just as in this custom of New Year, we rush around to clean up our house so that we can bring in the New Year in all clean and be ready in order for us to have a good, lucky year.

I understand about the importance of having good luck. This last summer my family and I went to Hong Kong and we saw an interesting sight, which I am



sure all of you already know about. You can immediately identify it because of the square hole in the large apartment building on the mountain opposite the small, well-looked-after beach. The hole has, according to local gossip, been left for the following reason: the Chinese believe that a dragon (who are in Chinese mythology basically benevolent creatures, but easily irritated) lives in every mountain and that

dragon needs an unrestricted view of the sea, or else.... The hole was left so that the dragon can still look out. The dragon is a symbol of power, strength, and good luck.

A whole building was built for a legendary animal from the past. Having good luck is a pretty important thing in the Chinese culture. Wouldn't it be great if we never had to worry about having good luck? Wouldn't it be great to not have to worry about Feng Shui?

You see, we don't need luck for a New Year anymore. Having good luck means that we could have bad luck. Good luck means that we do not know what is ahead of us and we sometimes worry about our futures. Having good luck means that we are sometimes helpless about knowing what will happen to us in the future. Good luck sometimes mean we have to make our luck. I don't know about you, but getting good luck seems like a lot of hard work.

Did you know that you can have a life where you don't worry about having good or bad luck? Did you know that we can actually not worry about our futures? The burden about our futures and new beginnings rests in the person of Jesus Christ. As was shared by these folks, Christ makes a difference in our lives where there is no more luck involved, but we have a hope that is not uncertain, but guaranteed. We don't have to work so hard to be good. We don't have to earn it. In fact, we can't earn it. We have to believe in it and allow Christ to change our lives from worrying about today to anticipating eternity with God.

What do you need to do to get this guaranteed future? We need to accept Jesus Christ into our lives as Lord and Savior, because He not only gives us a new year, but He gives us a new life. Luck is about the uncertain future. Christ is about a guaranteed future, which is eternally with God.

***Romans 10:9-10 (NIV) <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.***

## 新年新開始

譯余志強牧師短講

各位你好！很高興你來到基列聖經教會參加今天晚上的中國新年有情夜聚餐會。我希望你欣賞今晚的食物和節目；並非常感激角声粵曲團的團員，從灣區各處而來，為我們分享美好的詩歌及見証。接着他們的分享，我也有一思想與大家分享。

在聖經羅馬書 5:6-8 “因我們還軟弱的時候、基督就按所定的日期為罪人死。為義人死、是少有的、為仁人死、或者有敢作的。惟有基督在我們還作罪人的時候為我們死、神的愛就在此向我們顯明了。”

這段經文講述到神是如何的愛我們。在我而言，就是當我仍活在錯亂自我的人生中，沒有什麼值得之時，神已經在愛我了。祂並沒有等我做到好人才愛我，祂沒有等，却先去向我表明祂的愛，就是差祂兒子耶穌基督為我的罪死在十架上，成全一件極重大的事！好像過中國新年的習俗，最重要乃是一切都要新的。例如要把家中打掃清潔，煥然一新，迎新接福，過個好運年。

我是明白好運的重要。去年暑假我第一次帶同家人回香港一遊，看見一個很有趣的景點，就是在淺水灣一間建築在山前的大廈，中間空了一個四方大洞；而這大洞的建設是有它特別的意義。據民間傳說，每一座山都卧着一條品性本良喜却容易發火的龍，它一定要眼前沒有阻隔，能看到一望無

際的海境。這個大洞就是其中的原因，讓這條卧在山中的龍能夠從這個洞眺望海濶天空。而在中國文化裏，龍就是權勢，力量和好運的象徵！整個建築物乃是為過去這傳說中的龍而建造。得到好的運氣實在是中國文化裏非常重要的一環。可曾想過如果我們不須要再為好運和風水而擔憂是多好呢？

請想一想，其實新年並不須要好運。有好運亦就是說會有惡運。追尋好運並不會使我們對未來的擔憂減少；相反，可能帶來更多的憂慮。為了要有好運，很多時會叫我們感到無助因為知道未來會帶給我們什麼運程。追求好運往往是要我們去自創運氣。我不知道你會怎樣想，對我而言，好運是一件很吃力的事情。

你知道嗎？你可以過一個不須要為好運或惡運而活的人生。甚至你不須要為你的明天憂慮！我們今天的重担和未來的日子，並一切新的開始，都能在耶穌基督的身上得到解答，並可以安穩下來。正如今天到來獻唱的朋友並我們給你的分享：因着基督耶穌，我們的生命已不再一樣，與運氣全無關連。還有，我們在神裏面所得的盼望，是被保證直到永生。我們是亦不能以努力做好事去賺取神的平安，只有因着相信並接受耶穌為救主才可以得到。又因着相信，讓基督進入我們的生命，經歷新的開始，從憂慮的人生改變成為大有盼望並且迎接與神永遠同在的福氣！

