

Welcome to Clayton Community Church



Happy Chinese New Year!

The Chinese all across Southeast Asia and Taiwan often thought that Christianity was a foreign western religion. On the contrary, this One and Only God, the Creator of this universe, was known by the ancients but over the centuries many have forgotten about Him.

The Chinese written language, customs and philosophies have recorded this knowledge.

Firstly, let us look at the Chinese written language and compare it with some stories in the Bible, the Word of God.

The Bible records that when God was about to judge the world by sending a global flood, He told Noah to building an ark to save his whole family of 8 – his wife, 3 sons, 3 daughters-in-law and himself. The Chinese character of boat “ch'uan 船” shows an ark and 8 people (舟: vessel, 八: eight, 口: mouths, or people).

Secondly, let us look at some customs.

During Chinese New Year, a red piece of paper is placed on the entrance door of homes to ward off bad luck and spirits. In the Bible, we read of how God's chosen people, the children of Israel, became slaves in Egypt and how God wanted to set His people free. God sent ten plagues to show He is God in the face of Pharaoh's continued refusal to release the slaves.

The last plague was the destruction of all the Egyptian first-born in the land of Egypt. To protect the slaves from this judgement, they were instructed to paint the blood of a sacrificed lamb on their doors as a sign for the destroyer to pass over their houses.

Thirdly, let us look at the core concepts of the Chinese folk religion. All expressions of Chinese folk religion have a common core that can be summarized as four spiritual, cosmological, and moral concepts:

T'ien (天), Heaven, the source of moral meaning;

Ch'i (氣), the breath or substance of which all things are made;

Ching Tsu (敬祖), the veneration of ancestors;

Pao Ying (報應), moral reciprocity.

The Chinese also believe in a monotheistic God, the Supreme Being. Taoism expresses the concept of T'ien and Ch'i in its scripture, Tao Te Ching.

In Tao Te Ching (道德經), chapter 4, we read this:

道沖而用之，或不盈。淵兮，似萬物之宗。挫其銳，解其紛，和其光，同其塵。湛兮似或存。吾不知誰之子，象帝之先。

How deep and unfathomable the Way is, the Creator of all things! I do not know whose Son it is. It might appear to have been before the First Emperor. And in chapter 42, we read this:

道生一，一生二，二生三，三生萬物。萬物負陰而抱陽，沖氣以爲和。

The Godhead in 3 persons created all things. All things leave darkness and embrace light.

Compare these words in Tao Te Ching with what the Bible claims:

John 1:1-5 & 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 太初有道，道與神同在，道就是神。

2 這道太初與神同在。

3 萬物是藉著他造的；凡被造的，沒有一樣不是藉著他造的。

4 生命在他裡頭，這生命就是人的光。

5 光照在黑暗裡，黑暗卻不接受光。

14 道成了肉身，住在我們中間，充充滿滿的有恩典有真理。我們也見過他的榮光，正是父獨生子的榮光。

There are many more examples which show that the Chinese do have this long memory in their written language, customs and philosophies.

How wonderful it is to know that the Chinese have all along known of this One and Only God throughout their history.

The Word of God revealed to us that we have all sinned and fall short of the glorious perfection of God. We have been separated from God because of our sin. (*Isaiah 59:2 & Romans 3:23*)

Because of our sin, we are appointed to die once and after that comes judgement. There is no reincarnation. (*Hebrews 9:27*)

God is Holy and He needs to judge sin. We cannot come close to God because of our sin. Even our own efforts, religion and good works cannot save us. (*Ephesians 2:8,9*)

But there is good news in the Bible. Because God loves the whole world, He acted. God sent His only Begotten Son, Jesus, to die instead of us to pay the just penalty our sins deserve. His work of atonement is now complete. Sin and death were defeated in His death and Resurrection. When we accept this gift of God we can obtain forgiveness, eternal life and have relationship with Him.

We must come to God confessing our sin, acknowledging our helplessness and accept His only way of salvation. To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, is to accept Him personally as the gift of God. His death and Resurrection from the dead now are yours!

The Chinese character of Righteousness, “I 義”, shows a character “lamb” on top and “me” below (羊: lamb, 我: me).

We need God’s Righteousness to be saved. Only with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, the Holy Lamb of God, will we stand forgiven and cleansed before the Holy God .

**“For our sake He made
Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him
we might become the righteousness of God.”**

2 Corinthians 5:21

*Please come and Join us for Church Sundays at 10:45am
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