

**John 18:1-11 (NKJV)**

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. ²And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. ³Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" ⁵They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. ⁶Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," ⁹that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

Introduction

Whenever a hard situation like tragedy

occurs, there are always two opposing views among Christians. The first view is that God is uninvolved and has nothing to do with the tragedies. This view tries to eliminate God in the equation of sufferings and tragedies. The other view is that God is sovereign over everything that happens whether good or bad, but God is not responsible for evil. Since God has given His creation "free will", evildoers are responsible for their sins and will face judgment if they do not repent.

Job affirmed after all his suffering, which was caused by Satan.

Job 42:2

"I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

Although we may not in our lifetimes understand why God allowed our suffering, we can know that He will work it together for good because He is sovereign and He loves us.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Although Judas and the armed soldiers succeeded in arresting Jesus and although Peter by human force vainly sought to protect Him, Jesus was calmly

in control of the events leading to His death. He was not a tragic victim, but rather the good shepherd who willingly laid down His life for His sheep.

Jesus is Lord over all situations including His own death.

A. Our religion and pride opposed God's Holiness.**James 4:6**

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Even though these religious people knew the Old Testament (they saw or heard Jesus' teachings and miracles performed as fulfillment of the prophecies), they still rejected Him and stirred up the people against Him leading to His arrest and later His crucifixion.

They did this because Jesus threatened their power and the prestige they enjoyed. Also, Jesus confronted their root problem,

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Rev. Dr. James C. Sy
Administrative Pastor

Cultivating excellence through Holistic Development



Students actively participated in a week of preparations for the much-awaited 30th Founding Anniversary. The teams devoted time to rehearsing their group cheer, while contestants for various talent contests and pageants attended their official photoshoot. These activities allowed participants to refine their performances, build their confidence, and strengthen their teamwork ahead of the main events.

They are also engaged in challenging puzzle activities and various dance rehearsals. The students are nurtured not only with their talents but above all their character and values.



Awarding of Character Badge

Character badges are once again awarded to students and pupils who have shown outstanding character throughout the week. Some are found to exhibit positive attitude, while some show good behavior toward other kids. This will be a whole-year program which means every week, UCA students have the chance to complete all the badges.

Capturing Confidence & Talent

As excitement builds for Foundation Week, participants of The Voice, The Moves, and the pageants gathered for their official photoshoot. Dressed with confidence and elegant outfits, the contestants showcased different poses in front of the camera. Their posters will be uploaded in UCA's Official Facebook page. Support your favorite contestants!



Rehearsing Group Yell & Cheer

In preparation for the upcoming cheering competition during the foundation week, the land, air, and water teams gathered for a whole-day cheer and yell practice. Filled with enthusiasm and driven by teamwork, the students worked together to perfect their chants and routines.

Completing challenging puzzles

Students answered a series of challenging puzzles that tested their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The activity encouraged collaboration, perseverance, and creativity as participants worked together to solve each challenge. A special badge was given to all who completed the sets successfully.





PTR: WILLIAM'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Pagdiriwang ng buayang kaarawan

Puno ng kasiyahan, pasasalamat, at pagmamahal ang naganap na pagdiriwang para sa ika-70 kaarawan ni Pastor William G. Sy sa panambahan ng United Christian Fellowship. Dinaluhan ng mga kasapi ng simbahan, mga kaibigan, at mahal sa buhay ang okasyon upang ipagdiwang ang mahalagang milestone ng isang taong tapat at lingkod ng Panginoon.

Ginanap ang selebrasyon noong Sabado, Agosto 1, 2026 na dinaluhan ng kapatiran mula sa UCF Parañaque at maging ng kapatiran mula sa UCF Mt. Tabor. Hindi lamang ito isang simpleng pagdiriwang ng kaarawan—ito ay isang pagkakataon din para

pasalamatan si Pastor William sa taos-pusong paglilingkod niya sa Panginoon sa pamamagitan ng United Christian Fellowship sa loob ng maraming taon.

Isa sa mga pinaka-inaabangag bahagi ng programa ang mga espesyal na presentasyong inihanda ng bawat grupo ng kapatiran ng panambahan. Sunod-sunod na tumapak sa entablado ang mga *fellowship group* upang magpamalas ng sayaw at awitin—patunay na hindi lang isang lider ang nakikita ng mga kasapi kay Pastor William, kundi isang tunay na ama sa pananampalataya.

Presentations

Malugod na nakiisa ang kapatiran sa pag-awit at pagsayaw sa mga awitin ni Rev. Dr. William Sy na inspirasyon mula sa Diyos.



Buong galak na nag-alay ng pag-indak sa pagsayaw ang kababaihan at mga ina ng UCF sa magkasunod na sali ng "Liwang ng Buhay Ko" at "Siya ay Diyos." Naging kaindang indak ang pakiramdam maging ng ibang kapatiran.



Pinasabik ang kapatiran sa buong-bandang pagtatanghal ng mga bata, kabataan, young professional, at singles sa isang masiglang sayawan. Ang kanilang mga ngiti at kasiyahan ay nagbigay-buhay sa buong pagdiriwang.



Nagpamalas naman ang men's fellowship sa entablado ng isang pagtatanghal na may mensahe na ang ating Diyos ay mabuti sa ating mga buhay.



Fellowship

Hindi kumpleto ang anumang pagdiriwang ng kaarawan kung walang masasarap na pagkain!
Nagtipon-tipon ang lahat sa handaan habang nagpapatuloy ang saya at kuwentuhan.



Ang pagsasama-sama ng kapatiran ay lalong nagpapaigting ng kanilang relasyon bilang bahagi ng katawan ni Kristo. Ang pagmamahalan ng bawat isa ay tunay na nararanasan ng buong pamilya. Tunay na ang Diyos ang nagkaisa sa atin.



Nabalot ng saya at tawanan ang lugar para sa panibagong pagkakataong magkaroon ng fellowship ang kapatiran habang ipinagdiriwang ang kaarawan ng ating punong pastor.



Birthday song and prayer

Buong puso at galak na inawitan ng kapatiran si Rev. Dr. Sy bilang pagbati sa kaniyang kaarawan. Kanila ring ipinanalangin ang buhay ng ating punong pastor bilang pasasalamat sa buhay na ipinagkaloob ng Diyos.

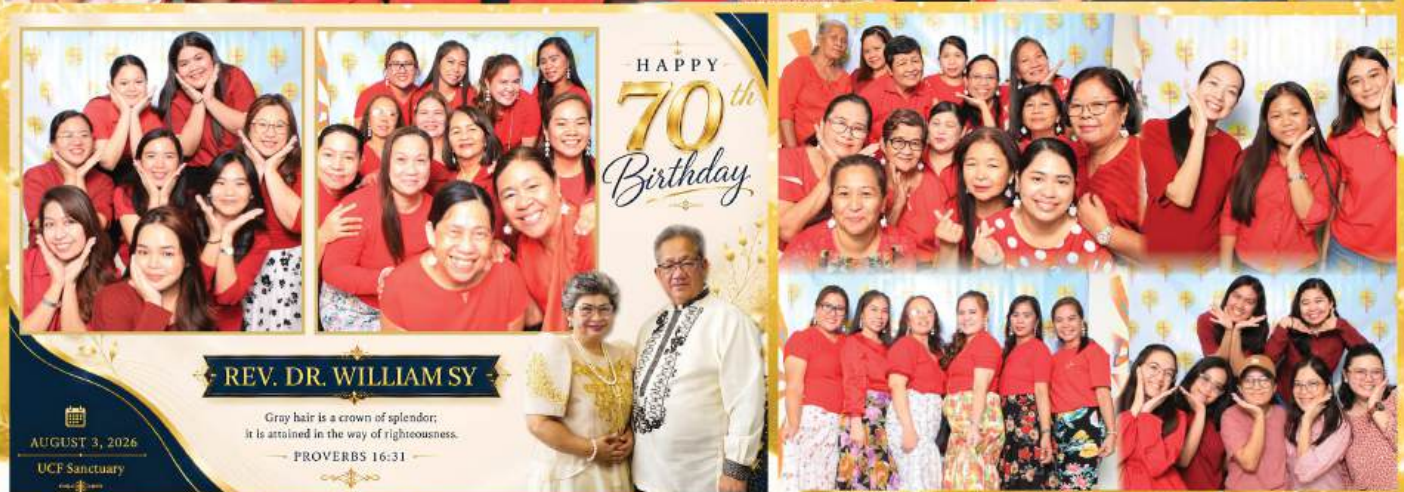


Photobooth

Bilang alaala sa masayang selebrasyong ito, ang lahat ay masayang nagpakuha ng litrato sa photobooth kasama ang kapatiran at kanilang mga pamilya.



Batid sa ngiti ng bawat isa ang kaligayahan na makasama ang pamilya ng UCF para sa espesiyal na araw ng ating punong pastor. Taos puso ang pasasalamat sa Diyos ng lahat para sa buhay Kaniyang lingkod na nag-alay ng buhay para sa kaharian ng Diyos.



REV. DR. WILLIAM SY

Gray hair is a crown of splendor;
It is attained in the way of righteousness.
— PROVERBS 16:31 —

AUGUST 3, 2026
UCF Sanctuary

God's is in...

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which was pride. They were proud of their religious practices.

Matthew 23:1-7

¹Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, ²saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. ³Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. ⁴For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. ⁵But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. ⁶They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.

Since religion is always based on a system of work, people who are into religion make two fatal errors:

- They overestimate their own goodness, mistakenly thinking that their good works will outweigh their "few" shortcomings on judgment day.

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹²For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³And

there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

- They underestimate the absolute holiness of God, whose eyes are too pure to approve of evil.

Habakkuk 1:13

You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?

1 John 1:5

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

B. Our secret sins will eventually lead to death.

Judas, a disciple of Jesus, had seen many miracles, including the raising of Lazarus from the dead. But what is not openly known is He was a thief.

John 12:6

This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

That greed eventually led Judas to betray the Lord of glory for

30 pieces of silver, which were useless to him after he got them.

We should learn from Judas to make sure that our faith is not external only, but rather a matter of our hearts.

When Jesus told the disciples at the last supper that one of them would betray Him, they did not all look knowingly at Judas. They did not have a clue at that point that he was the betrayer.

Let our prayers be like:

Psalms 139:23-24

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

C. Our secular and unbelieving heart blinds us from the Truth.

v.3-6 - ³Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" ⁵They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. ⁶Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. One detachment of troops (A Roman cohort) together with temple officers would be more than 200 soldiers.

When they heard Jesus saying,

"I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. The word of Jesus shows power (a flash of His glory) that makes more than 200 soldiers drew back and fell to the ground.

v.10 - Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Also, when Peter struck the servant of the high priest, Malchus, they saw how Jesus healed the detached ear back.

On a secular view, common sense dictates that Jesus is no ordinary man. But these people ignored facts and proceeded with the arrest anyway.

How much more evidence do you need to see for you to believe?

Conclusion

- Our religion and pride opposed God's Holiness.
- Our secret sins will eventually lead to death.
- Our secular and unbelieving heart blinds us from the Truth.

God desires us to have a relationship of love, not forcing us but rather inviting us to follow His will. But our religious works and pride, secret sins, and secular and unbelieving hearts blinds us from the Truth.

God is sovereign over everything that happens whether good or bad. He is in control.

SHARE HIS WORD



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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 AM (Parañaque)

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
3:00 PM (Cabuyao, Laguna)

HOUSE OF PRAYER
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

HOME BIBLE CHURCH & STUDY
Wednesday - Friday (Laguna & Cavite)
Thursday (Parañaque)

Scan these
QR codes to listen and
to watch the songs
UCF Gospel Music.



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