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課程預告 2

## 最新消息

◆感謝主，本院申請澳洲神學協會認可開辦學位課程已於五月十八日原則上批准，待本院呈交「經營計劃」並通過後即可作實。

◆本院現正檢討文憑及證書課程安排，新的安排預計明年開始，詳情容後公佈。

◆本院現已接受信用卡捐獻，歡迎弟兄姊妹使用信用卡「一次過」或按月奉獻，詳情請見第二頁。

## 代禱事項

✦請為董事會成員代禱，求主賜他們智慧，策劃學院的發展。

✦請為本院籌劃開辦學位課程一事代禱。

✦為本院的招生工作代禱，求主揀選報讀聖工學士或道學碩士的學生。

✦請為本院經費代禱，求主感動更多朋友大力支持，成為我們的神學教育夥伴。

✦請為設立圖書館及預備圖書一事代禱。

# 你為什麼要上澳神的課？

「你所念的，你明白麼？」(使徒行傳8章30節)

澳神董事、雪梨華人基督教會長老 王德



從使徒行傳8章30節，我們可以看到聖靈藉一位

耶路撒冷教會新選上的執事腓利，向這位大有權勢的北非太監發出的挑戰：「你所念的，你明白麼？」從這一段聖經我們可以知道：

### 1. 敬虔並不代表能明白神的話。

這位北非的貴人是一個敬虔的人，雖然他是一位外邦太監，卻仍是千里迢迢、不辭勞苦地上耶路撒冷的聖殿去做禮拜。按理他應是一個很明白聖經的人；但可惜的是，他的敬虔並不代表他能明白神的話。你可能已經信主多年、願意做一個敬虔的人、每週也做禮拜、並聆聽講臺上所宣講的，但「你所念的，你明白麼？」

### 2. 擁有學問知識不代表能明白神的話。

這位太監在女王干大基手下總管銀庫，等同於今天一國的財務部長，在非洲大有權勢。按理他是大有學問知識的，但他仍然是不能明白神的話語。你可能很有學問、亦擁有很多專業銜頭、對事物的分析很有條理、對某些經文也講得頭頭是道，但是你能否肯定的說，「你所念的，你都明白麼？」

### 3. 勤讀聖經不代表能明白神的話。

這位部長利用回程路上的時間，在中東沙漠浩熱的太陽下，在顛簸不平的馬車裏，仍然爭取時間去讀聖經。現代都市人都是大忙人，一天到晚都為各樣事情而奔走，營營役役，很少能抽出時間去讀聖經。若這位財務部長，雖然不盡明白，卻仍盡量爭取時間去讀神的話語，同是大忙人的你，在家中的空調下，能否撫心自問，「你所念的，你明白麼？」

### 4. 愛神的話語不等於就能明白神的話。

這位大臣雖然明知自己的有限，所知的不足，沒有人指教，很難明白神的話語，但他仍是「知其不可而為之」，可見他真是一個愛慕神話語的人，不會因為不明白而不去念聖經。但很可惜，這也不代表他能明白神的話。你可能已經閱讀聖經多年，也曾參加過查經班、主日學，很多時也有一些「心得」，但你怎樣去回應聖靈對你的挑戰：「你所念的，你明白麼？」

而這位敬虔的高官給我們的答案卻是：「沒有人指教，怎能明白呢？」雖然他是一個大有權勢的人，但難能可貴的是，他能謙卑自己，承認自己的不足，需要別人的指教。

一路走來，「澳神」都聘用海內外不同的屬靈導師，任教不同的課程，分享他們的屬靈生命，務求盡他們所能使同學們真能「明白」神的真理，回去教會事奉、服侍弟兄姊妹。

筆者雖然在教會中參與講道事奉多年，但關於聖經真理不明之處，實在還有不少；每每一次又一次的打擾很多屬靈長者，向其請教。特別是從我們的院長黃彼得牧師身上，獲益良多。很多時講道的前幾天，更要致電給他，求他指教各樣不同的真理，他總是不厭其煩的給我指引。內心真的感受到「沒有指教的，怎能明白呢？」這句話是何等的真確。願意澳神的課程可以幫助你更明白祂的道。

「你所念的，你明白麼？」



### Mr. Philip Chan

Mr Philip Chan was born in Shantou City, China, and grew up in Hong Kong within a Christian home. With the guidance of his Christian parents, he loved God since his childhood. In 1963, led by his teacher, he was baptised into Christ. Under the love, care and faithful instruction of his church pastors and elders, he learnt how to be a servant of God. In the past 40+ years, by God's grace he has been serving while holding a regular job – leading the church, preaching the gospel and pastoring believers.

Chinese churches in Sydney have grown very quickly over the past two decades. Pastors who can speak English, Cantonese and Mandarin are in high demand. Lay leaders who are well equipped in knowledge of faith and in godliness are of great importance in the church too. Six years ago, following a recommendation by Rev. On Law, Mr. Chan initially became involved in the work of the Chinese Theological College Australia (CTCA). Mr. Chan was inspired to see the vision and importance of theological education and therefore joined the existing Board members. In serving and learning at CTCA over the past few years, he was deeply touched to see the effort, time and financial contribution committed by his senior colleagues who started the ministry and even taught classes.

At the beginning of this year, by God's grace Mr. Chan decided to come out of his past two years of comfortable retirement and start his second stage of life – a return to student life to receive formal theological education, to be strengthened by the Spirit and to be further equipped in his Bible knowledge. The past six months have been tough but very rewarding. He hopes that the remaining years of his life can be used by God to do greater things.

CTCA has reached a historical milestone – it has applied to be registered as an accredited theological college under the Australian College of Theology. It will soon be able to offer accredited theological courses. Now we especially need many churches and believers to pray for this with unity and strength. May this task be accomplished by God's Spirit!



## 請柬

謹訂於二零零九年九月三日 (週四)

晚上七時半

假座寶活華人長老會

(46-48 Belmore St., Burwood)

舉行本年度畢業典禮。

恭請光臨，同頌主恩。

會後敬備茶點招待。

院董會仝人敬約

### Invitation

You are cordially invited to attend the

Graduation Ceremony 2009 on

Thursday, 3rd September, 2009 at

7:30 P.M.–9:30 P.M. at

Burwood Chinese Presbyterian Church,

(46-48 Belmore St., Burwood)

Board of Directors, CTCA

### Term 4 - 2009 Diploma and Certificate courses

Enrollment form can be downloaded from our website

#### The Book of Job

(Elective, 4 credit points)

Lecturer : Rev. Chris Chua

(Rev. Chua obtained a Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Arts (Theology) from the Moore College. He is now the Senior Pastor of the Chinese Christian Church, Sydney)

Language: Mandarin (Putonghua)

Date : 10/10– 21/11/2009

Time: Saturday afternoons from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. [21hours]

Venue: Burwood Chinese Presbyterian Church  
(46-48 Belmore St., Burwood 2134)

#### Spiritual Leadership

(4 credit points; Core for

Diploma in 'Biblical Studies and Ministry' and Certificate in Ministry; Elective in other programs)

Lecturer : Rev. Almon Li

(Rev. Li obtained a MBA from UTS, a Diploma in Theology, a Bachelor in Ministry and a Master of Arts (Theology) from the Morling College. He serves in the Alliance Church since 1996 is now the Senior Pastor of the Hills Christian Alliance Church)

Language: Cantonese

Date : 20/10 – 1/12/2009

Time: Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Venue: Chinese & Australian Baptist Church  
(1 Reserve Street, West Ryde)



澳神每年經常費預算: 約二十萬

CTCA Annual General Fund Budget: c. \$200,000

祈求神藉著下列支持者供應澳神所需:

- 20 特別伙伴，每位平均每年奉獻 \$5,000
- 20 伙伴教會，每會平均每年奉獻 \$2,000
- 167 澳神之友，每位平均每年奉獻 \$360

Pray that God will provide CTCA's need through the following supporters:

- 20 Special Partners: averagely each donates \$5,000 p.a.
- 20 Partner Churches: averagely each donates \$2,000 p.a.
- 167 CTCA Friends: averagely each donates \$360 p.a.



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## Why should you attend CTCA courses?

Do you understand what you are reading? (Acts 8:30)

Director, CTCA; Chinese Christian Church, Sydney, Elder Tak Wong

In Acts 8:30, the Holy Spirit, through a newly elected deacon at the church of Jerusalem,

Philip, issued a challenge to the powerful Ethiopian eunuch, "Do you understand what you are reading?" From this Scripture passage we can see that:

### 1. Being religious does not necessarily mean understanding God's Word.

This important official from Ethiopia was a religious man, for although he was a gentile eunuch, he travelled over long distance and took much trouble in order to worship at the temple in Jerusalem. Logically, he should have a good understanding of the Scripture, but unfortunately, his being religious does not mean he could understand God's Word. Similarly, you may well have been a Christian for many years, you are religious, attend worship every week and listen attentively to what is proclaimed from the pulpit, but "Do you understand what you are reading?"

### 2. Being academic does not necessarily mean understanding God's Word.

Serving under Queen Candace, this eunuch was in charge of the treasury, equivalent to being a government Treasurer in today's world, so he was a powerful person throughout Africa. Logically, he was a knowledgeable person, but he still could not understand God's Word. Similarly, you may well be a knowledgeable person, have various professional titles, an analytical mind and are well versed on certain parts of the Scripture, but are you able to say firmly that you do understand what you are reading?

### 3. Being studious does not necessarily mean understanding God's Word.

This Treasurer took advantage of his return journey and made time to read the Scripture, despite the hot desert sun in the Middle East and the bumpy chariot ride. We modern people are all fully occupied, constantly running around all day for this and that. We are seldom able to set aside time in our busy schedules reading the Scripture. But if this Treasurer, although he did not fully understand, still did his best to squeeze time to read God's Word, can a person as busy as

you, while taking a break in an air-conditioned home, say hand on heart that you really do understand what you are reading?

### 4. Having a love for God's Word does not necessarily mean understanding God's Word.

This eunuch knew that with his limited and insufficient knowledge, it would be very hard for him to understand God's Word unless someone explained it to him. Still, he "did what is impossible", undeterred by his lacking, so we can tell he has a genuine love for God's Word. Unfortunately, not even this means he can understand God's Word. Similarly, you may well have been reading the Scripture for many years, participated in bible studies, Sunday school, and had occasional "insights" in Scripture. But how do you respond to the challenge issued by the Holy Spirit, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The answer given to us by this eunuch was, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" The thing is, despite his influential position, he can humble himself and admit his deficiency and he sought for instruction.

All this time, CTCA have appointed spiritual teachers locally and from overseas to offer different courses. These teachers shared their spiritual lives and endeavoured to ensure students really understood God's truth, so that students could return to their churches and serve brothers and sisters well.

Although I have been preaching the Word of God for many years in the church, there are still much I do not understand. For this reason, I have many times troubled various spiritual elders for their instructions. I have especially learnt a great deal from the Principal of CTCA, Rev Peter Wongso. Often I have to call him just days before preaching, seeking clarifications on various Christian truths, and he would always go out of his way to give me guidance. My heart is so stirred by the saying, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" It is also my true wish that courses offered by CTCA will help you better understand God's Word as well.

**"Do you understand what you are reading?"**

## News update

✦ Praise the Lord, our application for accreditation from the Australian College of Theology was approved in principle on 18<sup>th</sup> May, confirmation depending on our submission of the College Business Plan.

✦ Our Diploma and Certificate program is under review and the new structure will be implemented in 2010. More details will be announced soon.

✦ We now accept donations by credit cards, you can make one-off or monthly donation by signing the authorization form on page 2.

## PRAYER POINTS

✦ Please pray that the board members will have wisdom in planning the future development of the college.

✦ Please pray for our plans in providing theological degree programs soon.

✦ Pray for recruitment of students, that the Lord will call people to enrol for the Bachelor of Ministry or Master of Divinity program.

✦ Pray that many fellow Christians may share the vision of providing a Chinese Theological College in Sydney and become our long term sponsors.

✦ Pray for setting up of the College Library and acquisition of library collections.