



# Marketplace Moments

## Bibliophoria

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### These Things MUST Happen

#### Freddy Boey

One of the key doctrines of the Christian faith is the physical return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, much is shrouded in controversies, false alarms and guess work in years past by overly zealous and even obsessive believers. Just as the fable of the boy that cried, "Wolf!", Christians in general are desensitized now to mostly a mere curiosity and the return of Christ as one of those 'forgotten' tenets of faith that does not have any bearing in contemporary life. Even as I write this, I wonder if one finger has already sprung up accusingly of crying, "Wolf" again.

However, we must not be so. The Lord has His reason for tell us the certainty of His return yet unclear about the manner which He is returning. Through the centuries, Christians have given their lives (literally at the gallows or by fire) holding on to this hope of Christ's return. Somehow, we get a general sense of apathy rather than a urgent anticipation of His return and the urgency for the work of the Gospel today.

Prof Boey is both a church leader and a professor of material science. In his own words, 'In December 1997, as I set to prepare a series of messages for Riverlife church, tryng to make sense of one of the worst economic crises that has befallen this region, I felt a deep burden of the Lord's revelation in my heart. Four seem-



ingly disparate events that occurred over a period of 12 months through the year 1948 came together in my mind as one complete picture. It is for this burden given to me, that this book is written.'

Being a keen observer of history, inventions and trends, Prof Boey has given his perspective that world politics and availability in technology has set the stage for Christ's return. I like his analogy of the vitamin in relation to Jesus' warning in Matt 16.

'Jesus once warned against the sin of the leavened bread (Matt 16). He had repeatedly condemned the Pharisees for their sin of presuming they always know best—elevating their teachings to the level of God's word itself.

### Highlights

- These things must happen
- Conserving Kingdom Resources
- A Beautiful Mind
- Events Update

## Of the Heart and Mind

### Conserving Kingdom Resources

These past few months, all of us living in Singapore and elsewhere are feeling it; the rising cost of living. From a trip to the wet market or supermarket, a top up at the petrol station (for those who own cars), and even at food courts or hawker centers, either prices have risen or you see your bowl of noodles shrink. Maybe we should re-watch movie by Jack Neo titled 'money not enough'.

Just went to the bank and found that interest for my fixed deposit has fallen to a dismal less than 1%, while other cost in general are rising about 5-8% conservatively speaking.

The reasons for the rise are many but the root cause stems for the entire economical system. The problem is quite simple. There are limited resources, but every economy is demanding growth of anywhere between 3% to double digit depending on which part of the world you live in. The only way to sustain such growth is through consumption. This translates to waste.

Dorothy Sayers, a Christian writer in the early 20th century, wrote during the 2nd world war, 'A society in which consumption has to be artificially stimulated in order to keep production going is a society founded on trash and waste, and such a society is a house built upon sand.' During the war, Dorothy asserts that waste were transferred from things thrown away in land-fills to things

being blown up in battle fields. She asked, 'What is going to happen when the factories stop turning out armaments? No nation has yet found a way to keep the machines running and whole nations employed under modern industrial conditions without wasteful consumption. For a time, a few nations could contrive to keep going by securing a monopoly of production and forcing their waste products onto new and untapped markets. When there are no new markets and all nations are industrial producers, the only choice we have been able to envisage so far has been between armaments and unemployment. This is the problem that some time or other will stare us in the face again, and this time we must have our minds ready to tackle it.' She wrote of this about 60 years ago.

I met Dr. Larry Bates, a US economist and congressman about 4 years back. He said, there is no real wealth creation but rather a transfer of wealth. We see this happening in the stock market and commodities market. Ordinary folks lose wealth by putting our money in the banks, thinking that it is savings. But this savings will only reduce as inflationary pressures go up. Buying power is reduced. His advice back then was to conserve in real estates, precious metals and natural resources. Gold price was about USD 350 back then and in the recent weeks have broken the USD 1000 psychological barrier. Oil was about USD 30 a barrel and now crossed the



USD 110 a barrel.

I want to issue a very grave warning to all Christians and churches, that transfer of wealth is moving from industrialized nations to nations with vast reserves of oil and natural resources. If Christians are to continue to be able to do Gospel work into the next century (or till His return, whenever that may be), we need to consciously start conserving our wealth, hedging losses through inflation and be better managers of our wealth. For individuals and family, we need to start shifting the mode from improving our standard of living to living a step or a few steps below our means.

Let us understand this fundamentally; to advance the Kingdom, we need financial resources as well as other resources. We need to be better stewards in face of these times, to conserve wealth to be ready in the end times of these days, to fight the good fight and finish the race that is set before us. Let us stop indulging in squabbles of within churches and denominations, stop indulging in our own pleasures of a higher standard of living. The end is near. His Kingdom come, His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

By Timothy Liu

## Eyes in a Darkened Room

### A Beautiful Mind

Academy Award winning film for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Supporting Actress. It was also nominated for Best Leading Actor, Best Editing, Best Makeup, and Best Score; *A Beautiful Mind* tells the story of Prof John Forbes Nash, the Nobel Laureate (Economics) mathematician. The film was directed by Ron Howard and written by Akiva Goldsman. It was inspired by a bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-nominated 1998 book of the same name by Sylvia Nasar. The film stars Russell Crowe as John Nash, along with Jennifer Connelly as Alicia Nash, Ed Harris and Paul Bettany.

The story retells of Prof John Nash who actually suffers from auditory hallucinations and

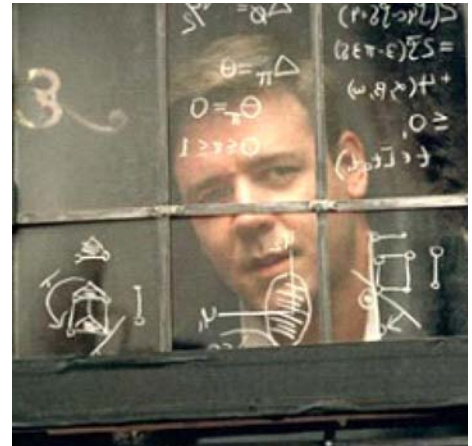
possible delusions, instead of visual hallucinations. However in the story, he was visually hallucinating of working with a Department of Defense agent Pracher (by Ed Harris) to decipher Soviet codes and has advice from his 'best friend' Charles Herman (by Paul Bettany) who was his imaginary room-mate from college.

He met his wife Alicia at MIT where he was teaching and posted a particularly difficult problem in class. When Alicia came to the office to discuss the problem. They fell in love and was later married.

After discovering John's hallucination, Alicia brought him to see psychiatrists. However, the medication had a detrimental effects on John as he was no longer able to do mathematics. After some dramatic events, John finally decided to face up to his hallucinatory characters, Charles and his niece Marcee (who never grows up). A large part of the story also relates the tension of Alicia's devotion to John and his struggles.

I like the movie because it dealt in larger than life context of a very fundamental human problem; namely our fallen nature as human beings and the redemptive power of love.

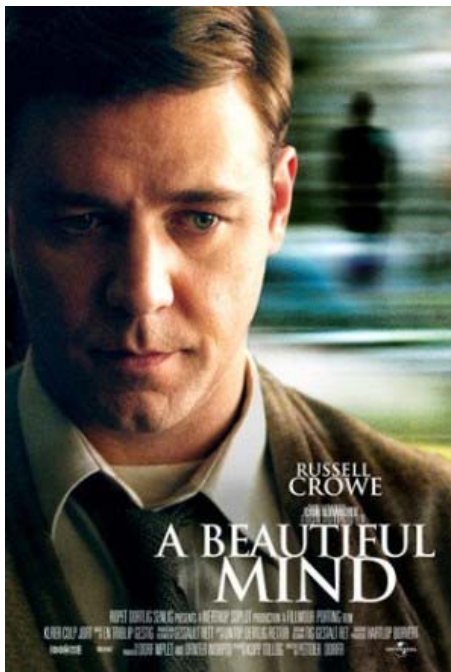
Though, not hallucinatory, each of us have our own 'demons' to deal with. We listen to the beck and call of those inner desires and 'personalities'. In Christian terms, we call them tempta-



tions and 'the sin that so easily entangles' (Heb 12:1). Often, they become such a part of us, that we could not separate it from ourselves. Yet, there is a beautiful person at which each is created and valuable in redemption. To face up with such 'demons', it is not only the responsibility of the afflicted, to denounce and bid farewell to those non-realities, but at the same time, the grace of someone (in the case of John, is Alicia) who gives unconditional love, building a loving and devoted community to support and keep account.

Of course, in a humanistic movie like this, it has omitted an important person; Christ and his transforming power in a person's life. 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

By Timothy Liu



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## Kingdom Building at the Workplace

### Coming Events

For more information check our web-site.

22 May – A Theology of Science  
By Engr & Sci CF (ESCF) 7:30pm

30 Jul – Crossings (Transition for school to work)  
By MCN. 7:30pm

Above Events at 420 North Bridge Road, #05-04  
Graduates' Christian Fellowship Office.

8-10 Aug – Intersect 08  
Everyday Spirituality in a  
Fallen World  
Austin Hills Golf Resort,  
Johore Bahru

19 Sep – GCF Annual Dinner  
Christian Disciplines in Times of  
Economic Challenges  
NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House



This signal warning awaits anyone who desires to deeply study the Manner of His Return. Certainly doctrines are important—they are like essential vitamins needed to prevent us from falling sick. But they are not the food that provides our daily nourishment. Taken in exclusion, it can make us very sick indeed.'

I have personally found that God gives us grace in a fallen world through 'uncertainties' in some things. It keeps us humble and less presumptuous, quick to listen and slow to speak. Yet He also gives us in no uncertain terms the cardinal truths such as His imminent return, to judge, to rule and to reign. Each day and each moment, we draw closer. How are we striving to lead godly lives, to truly be salt and light? Are we ready for persecution when it comes? Or are we too presumptuous

that this could never happen?

Prof Boey brings to our attention that behind all conflicts is the real Conflict pronounced way back in *Genesis 3:15*. "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Whether we like it or not, our fight is "not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Eph 6:12)

We have full victory in Christ, who has died and rose again. And will come again. As faithful witnesses, let us work earnestly to prepare for our King's return, keeping one eye to the revelation of scriptures and another to the unfolding of history.

By Timothy Liu