



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

January 22nd, 2017

SUNDAY COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

1 The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord is in His holy temple: Let all the earth keep silence, Let all the earth keep silence before Him Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

2 Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father And to the Son And to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

3 Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.

4 The Lord Bless You and Keep You

The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace, And give you peace, The Lord make His face to shine upon you, And be gracious unto you, be gracious, the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.



Prelude/Preparatory Hymn

Sharon Poon/Jason Tey

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship

Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong

*Hymn

HOP 2 To God Be the Glory

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading

Psalms 119:81-88

Hymn

HOP 135 Standing on the Promises

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:27

Hymn

HOP 384 Love Lifted Me

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

One Spirit, One Mind, Together

*Hymn

HOP 324 Send the Light!

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 4

*Congregation Standing

THEME FOR 2017:

“... STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT, WITH ONE MIND STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL” (Philippians 1:27)

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PASTORAL LETTER

Dear BPCWAIans, Our church theme for 2017 is from Philippians 1:27, “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”. What is the importance, the focus and the outcome we desire from having this theme in 2017 and beyond?

The Importance. The Apostle Paul wrote this while still being imprisoned for the Gospel work. Though in bonds, he did hope to be released in time, and to visit the church in Philippi, which was the first church he founded in Macedonia. But he highlighted that “whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs”. Regardless of whether his visit would materialise, whether he was with or away from them, he wanted to hear of this particular thing about them – “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ”. This was high in the priority for the church. The word *conversation* is not just speech only. It is about their actions, behaviours, and aims. It is used to describe citizenship in a place and living by the law expected of them, thus reflecting their nationality. Their Christian life must be becoming, ie worthy, of the “gospel of Christ”, and not the world. What they speak about, what they do, and how they behave, must not only align to, but promote the “gospel of Christ”. This is what Paul was anxious for the church. This is God’s great concern for the church then and today.

The Focus. What then is the “gospel of Christ”? Today, many simply associate it with preaching to get people saved from hell. Though it certainly includes that, it means much more than just that in Scriptures. The gospel of Christ is the whole body of Truth given by Christ in His Word. To exclude the rest is to reduce it to the gospel

of man – as if Christ’s ultimate purpose is to save and serve man. The Christian life is not just about evangelism to the lost only. Paul wanted their lives inside and outside church to reflect all aspects of the gospel that Christ propounds. It includes reflecting God’s Attributes - His Wisdom, Holiness, Justice, Goodness, and Truth. It includes the doctrines and system of faith. In short, it is a wise life that is totally governed by the Word of the All Wise God. A holy life that separates from sin. A just life that deals righteously with all, and in all circumstances. A life full of goodness that reflects God’s Love. A life according to Truth means all the above are done according to what God says in His Word, not what we or people consider as wise, holy, just, and loving. It also means that we promote and defend God’s Word for His Word is Truth. All these are what the gospel of Christ entails. And these are what the Christian life must reflect in every aspect, and in every place. Hence, Paul is not propounding a focus only on preaching the salvation message, to the exclusion of the rest of God’s Truth. Neither is he promoting the gospel of social love and social justice without God’s Holiness and Truth.

The Outcome. The outcome Paul desired was for them to all “stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”. Notice the repeated theme – one spirit, one mind, together. God’s great desire is unity in the church. This is the aim and outcome we desire for BPCWA moving forward. Without this, Paul will not see or hear about a church whose conversation is becoming of the gospel of Christ. Why? Because instead of striving together for the gospel of Christ, there will be internal striving with each other. Each will have his own brand of gospel to promote, and pull down each other’s work instead of promoting one united Truth of the gospel of Christ. *Stand fast* has the picture of soldiers standing shoulder to shoulder, back to back, locking arms, bracing for and persevering unitedly in the battle.

“One spirit” speaks of unity of determination. It is what influences and drives their perspective, feelings, and actions about any matter. “One mind” speaks of unity of heart and soul in convictions. Only when this exists in a church are hearts knitted together in “striving together for the faith of the gospel”. A theological dictionary defines striving as, a “fight in which the leader of the community is engaged demands not only extreme exertion and readiness for sacrifice, but also discipline and ordered conduct”. And it is a relentless and selfless fight for the faith of the gospel which is the objective system of belief of the Christian faith. Hence, it is not just about preaching the salvation message, but also about earnestly contending for the faith and Biblical separation from the false gospel that offers salvation without repentance, from the gospel of health and wealth, and from man centered doctrines, and from compromising Truth to please man. Together, this is the gospel of Christ. Without united convictions over such matters, internal striving occurs, with different people pulling the church in different directions. So, what we at BPCWA should work towards is a church where the church leadership, members, and worshippers have a Biblical unity of convictions and practices, so that we can be effective for the gospel of Christ.

This is the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It must remind us of the martyrs who were united and determined to strive for the pure gospel of Christ. May the Lord grant BPCWA such steadfast unity in both Biblical love and doctrinal convictions about our faith and hence determined obedience to the practice of our beliefs, and spare BPCWA from the man pleasing gospel of man. But we must do our part to know the Word, and our *conversation* – ie our lives – must be in line with our convictions.

Yours in our Lord’s service,
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **City Evangelism on Australia Day** this Thursday public holiday. We encourage every worshipper, old and young, to be ambassadors of Christ in Perth by obeying God's Word to do the work of the Gospel. Come and participate in the Great Commission by meeting in the Church at 3:30 pm for a briefing and prayer before the outreach and bring your snacks, drinks and smartriders as we will be using public transport to and from the city. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel one to one with those that we meet in South Perth and the City before the fireworks at 8 pm.
2. **Lunch Fellowship:** Will be held next Sunday after the worship service. Please bring a dish to share. Do stay back to get to know each other better. All are welcome.
3. **Myanmar Mission Trip:** This year, BPCWA will conduct the Family Camp for First, Bethel (Dagon) and Ngalti Bible Presbyterian Church from 25th to 28th April. We will also be conducting a children's program, which will be held concurrently with the camp. The theme of the camp will be "Biblical Worship", and Pastor will be speaking for the camp's theme messages. Please see Alex Luu or Pastor if you would like more information about the Mission Trip.
4. **Committee Leads Contact List** is pinned on the notice board outside. This list is to enable worshippers to direct queries and feedback to the respective people, should they need more information on matters relating to Fellowships, Bible Studies or Ministries at church.

5. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for the privilege of serving Him during the Busy Bee yesterday. Thank God for the labour of those who came to serve Him in this ministry.
- Thank God for the eventual arrival of the current RPG devotionals.
- Pray for the unity and steadfastness of BPCWA to strive together for the faith of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the planning of the Australia Day outreach, and for prepared hearts to receive the gospel.
- Pray for the planning of the upcoming University outreach activities to be effective in inviting students to grow with us spiritually.
- Pray for God's leading and wisdom upon the Session concerning the redevelopment works in the church.
- Pray for those seeking employment and the spiritually discouraged to find direction, grace and joy in our Lord and His Word.
- Pray for those returning to their countries for the Chinese New Year, that they will continue to be a light and witness for Him in their homes.

SERVICE DUTY	22/1 COMBINED	29/1 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong	Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymns	Jason Tey	Kenny Tan
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Ruth Wong
Welcomers (Foyer)	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Yi Choong Liew	Eddie Foo, Carol Foo, Yi Choong Liew
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Terry Chong, *Mark Heath, Jason Tey Claude Yiu, Alex Luu, Dn Stephen Chia	*Eddie Foo, *Kenny Tan, Caleb Cheng Yan Wei, Edward Ee, Dn Stephen Chia
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Edward Ee, Rowena Cheng, Yi Mey Tan	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng, Shie Tian Wong
P.A. System	Albert Ho	Albert Ho
Kitchen Duties	Yi San Chieng, Lily Liow	Yung Tsing Mew, Lilian Cheo, Julia Chia Christine Chia
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Edward Ee (Ruth Wong)	Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)
South Perth	Hall A: Kenny Tan Hall B: Mark Heath	Hall A: Pastor Joseph Poon Hall B: Caleb Cheng
Berrington	Edward Ee (Ruth Wong)	Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)
Bull Creek	Kenny Tan	Pastor Joseph Poon

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	24/1	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong, Kenny Tan, Yung Tsing Mew
Wednesday	25/1	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Systematic Theology (Anthropology)
Thursday	26/1	3:30 pm	City Evangelism
Friday	27/1	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	29/1	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/English Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		12:15 pm	Church Van Depart
		2:00 pm	Nursing Home: Concorde – 25 Anstey Street, South Perth Onslow Gardens – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco
		3:30 pm	Nursing Home: Berrington, Subiaco – 45 Bishop St, Jolimont Bull Creek – RAAFA Memorial Estate, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (15/1)

Attendance: 178 (Combined-152; JSS-26); Prayer Meeting: 63

Offerings in Total: \$8394.90; General Fund: \$8394.90

(#4173-\$109.20; #4174-\$301.80; #4175-\$279.00; #4176-\$1000.00)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What is required in the third commandment? The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, (Deuteronomy 10:20; Psalm 29:2; Matthew 6:9) attributes, (1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Revelation 15:3-4) ordinances, (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:27-28) Word, (Psalm 138:2; Revelation 22:18-19) and works. (Psalm 107:21-22; Revelation 4:11)