



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 Ruth Wong/Kenny Tan

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong

\*Hymn **HOP 28** I Sing the Mighty Power of God

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Psalm 119:89-96

Hymn **HOP 290** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

\*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Hymn **HOP 8** Now Thank We All Our God

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

## Sign Gifts Ceased

\*Hymn **HOP 138** Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord

\*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

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Dear BPCWAIans, Today marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Lunar New Year. For the Chinese, families come together during this festival to gather and eat together on the eve of the festival, celebrating what is commonly called the reunion dinner. Even with today's globalisation, this tradition is still very much observed. Children working in far flung places away from their parents would try to return home during this time. Families gather around the dinner table, and even grown children dutifully bid their elders to "eat rice" before beginning to tuck into the sumptuous spread on the table. Asians have traditionally been known for their filial piety. The Chinese attribute it to Confucian ethics. But for the Christian, how should we view various traditions in our culture? Why do we do what we do? Do remember that, in the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment, God says "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12). So, this is not just an Asian culture, but for all Christians!

In today's "me generation", is this commandment still valid, or is it only for the children of Israel? Are we guided by Confucian and cultural ethics or by Biblical principles when it comes to honouring parents? God willing, we will examine this question.

**Biblical Law.** The Ten Commandments are part of God's eternal moral law. Hence, Christians are bound to obey it even today. We cannot pick and chose commandments, whatever the situation is in our time. In fact, the first 5 commandments is a summary of the Christian's duty towards God (Deut 6:5, Matt 22:37-38, Mark 12:30-31). Specifically, this commandment is again emphasised by the Apostle Paul in Eph 6:2-3, a popular Sunday School memory verse. But how would honouring parents be considered a duty towards God? In a question on the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment, the Westminster Larger Catechism explains - "By father and mother, in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, but all superiors in age and gifts; and especially such

as, *by God's ordinance*, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, church, or commonwealth." So, the honour of one's parents is simply because God has ordained them to be our parents. Of God's appointment, Romans 13:1 reminds us to "... be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" and further adds in verse 7 "Render therefore to all their dues: ... fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." Thus, honouring them is giving honour to God, Who has chosen our parents for us. Hence, we are guided by God's Commandment, not Confucian culture.

God has chosen to use the natural family relationship to help us understand the relationship between His children and Him. God the Father refers to us as children. A proper picture of the earthly parent-child relationship helps us to better understand the spiritual father-child relationship. Sadly, this picture has broken down in today's society, with the erosion of societal family values and the rise of individualism. Failure on both sides to fulfil their respective responsibilities and roles have contributed to this. So, first, we want to look at the responsibilities of the children towards parents.

**Duties of children.** We must first take note that this commandment establishes an authority-submission model between the parent and child. God is a God of order, and while there are mutual duties one towards the other, the duty of children are to "obey [your] parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." (Colossians 3:20) This is the first and primary duty of what it means to honour parents, and it is no wonder that this is an oft-neglected commandment in a world that teaches the young the ideal of "pursue your dreams no matter what people say" and "break free from all rules". We hear this in their songs, and it is promoted in their movies. Disobedient children cannot obey a Heavenly Father whom they do not see. By the children's very disobedience in matters that are right, they are

disobeying God by breaking His command to obey them. Though young, we must avoid chuckling at children who flaunt parental authority, excusing it as “cute” or “it is a different culture now”. In God’s eyes, there is nothing adorable about a child, however young, that is defiant and self-willed against godly parental counsel. These are just demonstrations of the sinful nature in man, regardless of age. And God intends to use the parent-child model to teach us about obeying Him “in all things.” Society today has overturned the whole order that God has ordained. Instead of children obeying parents, society has parents scuttling to answer the beck and call of the children. Where the parents’ rules used to reign in homes, homes today are often fashioned after the likes and dislikes of the children. Instead of children fearing mother and father (Lev 19:3), parents fear children. What we sow, we will reap in the years to come.

Are you such a child in your home? Are you defiant of authority at work? This honour that God requires of children towards parents extends beyond mere servile obedience. It includes carefulness in our speech towards our parents (Lev 20:9) that is reflected in how we speak about them (Prov 30:17). It includes an attitude of humility towards parents (1 Pet 5:5), and provision for them when they are aged (1 Tim 5:4,8). Children, this is practical, Biblical filial piety. In God’s eyes, this is far more valuable than bringing your parents out for a nice meal and buying gifts on father’s/mother’s day to “make up” for your lack of honour for them throughout the year. The practice of this comes with a promise “That it may be well with thee.” (Ephesians 6:3). Chinese New year must remind the Christians of the Biblical injunction of the honour due to our parents, seniors, and authorities.

Yours in our Lord’s service,  
Pastor

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

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1. The Session wishes members and worshippers a Happy Chinese New Year. May this festival be used to bring the gospel to those outside of Christ, and to cause us to thank God for His goodness upon us and our family.
2. **Lunch Fellowship:** After the Worship Service today. Everyone is warmly welcome to join us to eat together as a church family in the first lunch fellowship for the New Year.
3. **Adelphe Bible Study:** Please note that Adelphe will be in recess today. It will resume on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February.
4. **Holy Communion:** Will be observed next Sunday. Please prepare your hearts to partake in this Sacrament.
5. **Hymn Books:** There are some old HOP hymnals and family worship song books in labelled boxes in the library. Please help yourselves to a copy for your own use if you wish. Do note these are not in good condition as they are replaced by new ones for church worship.
6. **Programs planned for February:**

| DATE          | TIME     | PROGRAM                         |
|---------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 12/2 Sunday   | 3:30 pm  | Husbands' & Fathers' Fellowship |
| 18/2 Saturday | 10:30 am | Mandarin Care Group             |
| 19/2 Sunday   | 6:00 pm  | Men's and Ladies' Fellowship    |
| 24/2 Friday   | 10:00 am | UWA Campus Outreach             |
| 26/2 Sunday   | 3:30 pm  | Adelphe Bible Study             |

## **7. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for the opportunity to tell others about the Gospel of Christ during the recent Australia Day outreach. May the seed sown find good soil in hearts to bring some to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Thank God for keeping the school students during their holidays and bringing them back safely to Perth to start a new semester.
- Pray for the unity and steadfastness of BPCWA to strive together for the faith of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for wisdom to make necessary decisions for God's work at BPCWA during the Session meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Pray for God to direct in the planning for the maintenance and redevelopment needs of BPCWA.
- 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.
- Pray that God will call a full time resident Chinese Minister to BPCWA according to His will and timing.

| SERVICE DUTY                                 | 29/1 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch   | 5/2 COMBINED - Holy Communion  |
|--|--|--|
| Speaker/Interpreter                          | Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim   | Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim   |
| Worship Leader/Interpreter                   | Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong  | Elder James Wong/Dn Joel Wong  |
| Prep Hymns                                   | Kenny Tan  | Jason Tey  |
| Musician(s)                                  | Ruth Wong  | Winnie Lim   |
| Welcomers (Foyer)                            | Eddie Foo, Carol Foo, Yi Choong Liew                                       | Dn Michael Lee, Irene Lee, Lily Liow   |
| Offering Stewards<br>*To Help Count Offering | *Eddie Foo, *Kenny Tan, Caleb Cheng<br>Yan Wei, Edward Ee, Dn Stephen Chia | *Eddie Foo, *Terry Chong, Pei Shion Chai<br>Kenny Tan, Mark Heath, Jason Tey |
| Ushers (Sanctuary)                           | Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng<br>Shie Tian Wong                                | Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Ruth Wong  |
| P.A. System                                  | Albert Ho  | Kenny Chia   |
| Kitchen Duties                               | Yung Tsing Mew, Lilian Cheo<br>Julia Chia, Christine Chia                  | Ming Ming Th'ng, Shuin Ning Jong   |
| Transport                                    | Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)                     |  |

### Old Folks' Home Ministry

|             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Subiaco     | Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)                         | Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)        |
| South Perth | Hall A: Pastor Joseph Poon<br>Hall B: Caleb Cheng | Hall A: Mark Heath<br>Hall B: Allan Ang |
| Berrington  | Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)                          | Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)        |
| Bull Creek  | Mark Heath  | Mark Heath                              |

### APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

|           |  |          |   |
|-----------|--|----------|---|
| Tuesday   | 31/1   | 7:30 pm  | Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong, Caleb Cheng, Sharon Poon                             |
| Wednesday | 1/2  | 7:30 pm  | Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Systematic Theology (Anthropology)                          |
| Friday    | 3/2  | 7:30 pm  | Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG  |
| Sunday    | 5/2  | 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<br>Onslow Gardens – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco |
| 3:30 pm   | Nursing Home: Berrington, Subiaco – 45 Bishop St, Jolimont<br>Bull Creek – RAAFA Memorial Estate, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149 |          |   |

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (22/1)

Attendance: 180 (Combined-155; JSS-25); Prayer Meeting: 52

Offerings in Total: \$4637.65; General Fund: \$4637.65 (#4177-\$284.40; #4178-\$100.00; #4179-\$298.00)

**SHORTER CATECHISM: What is forbidden in the third commandment?** The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh himself known. (Leviticus 19:12; Matthew 5:33-37; James 5:12)