



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

February 5th, 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 Winnie Lim/Jason Tey

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Elder James Wong/Dn Joel Wong

*Hymn **HOP 23** How Great Thou Art!

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Psalm 119:97-104

Holy Communion [Elder James, Dn Michael, Dn Stephen,
Dn Joel, Robert]

Hymn **HOP 96** Lead Me to Calvary
HOP 91 Rock of Ages

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Hymn **HOP 216** The Solid Rock

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

Tongues Speaking: Then and Now

*Hymn **HOP 125** Open My Eyes, That I May See

*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, Last week, we looked at the subject of filial piety in the light of the 5th commandment. Unlike worldly philosophers who propound good because of “innate goodness” in man and duties toward society, the honour that Christians give to their earthly parents and to those in authority is because God, Who is our Supreme Authority, has ordained them as our authority. So, obedience to parents is submission to God’s authority over us.

Limits of Obedience. While there is a Chinese saying that “Of all virtues, filial piety is the first” nevertheless, a mere moral-ethical view of this can lead to exaltation of man above God. While children have the responsibility to obey parents “in all things” (Col 3:20), they are also reminded that the obedience is “in the Lord” (Eph 6:1). The honour that children give to their parents arises out of their honour for God and His commands. Our loyalty to God and His commands rise above the highest of all relationships. Christ must reign Supreme in our hearts. “If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26) This is an important point to recognise at the same time. Both parents and children must recognise alike that all relationships are set in their order first based upon our relationship with God. Hence, what He commands rules and guides all our blood kinship and societal relationships.

Once understood in this light, Christians pressured to obey parents in matters of ancestral worship are able to respond rightly. In Confucian thinking, besides honouring parents and elders while they are alive, a filial child must mourn the parents and ancestors with the proper rituals at death. Filial piety includes remembering them after death or at festive occasions by offering sacrifices, bowing, or praying to their ancestral tablets or tombstones. This is a common act at Chinese New Year. But for Christians, honouring parents does not

come at the expense of disobedience or dishonour to God. The Bible tells us that upon death, man's spirit either departs into the presence of the Lord or into everlasting punishment. This is the reason why we do not bow down, serve nor pray to ancestral graves. To do so is to believe that the dead can still receive our respect and worse, our worship. Besides disobedience to God, this stumbles believers and unbelievers as well.

Duty of Parents. Now that we've seen the importance of obedience of children to parents, we want to look also at the duty of parents to children. God's commandment is mutual, and not only upon children. Parents are not to be honoured as if they were a god that can do no wrong. Parents are reminded not to provoke their children to wrath (Eph 6:4) by acting unjustly, improperly or unrighteously. Conversely, it also means that parents are capable of wrongly provoking their children to wrath by their actions.

When God ordains authority, it is for them to act on His behalf. Parents must not look upon this as a free reign to act as they wish. God tells us what He expects from the authority that He gives to them. They are to represent what His authority is like. For example, while parents are to provide physically for their children (2 Cor 12:14), yet this does not mean the focus is that the children get the "best" in life materially – with toys, gadgets, holidays and the best schooling possible. Unbelievers do that for their children because that is what they value. The honour and love that God intends parents to have from the children cannot be bought by material things. Of greater importance is the nurture and admonishment (Eph 6:4) and teaching of their children to obey God's laws (Deut 6:6-7), and the parents themselves living a life consistent with Scriptures. God's vested authority serves Him when they encourage good works and punish evil (Rom 13:1-4). Finally, as parents, we cannot pander to our children's wants and desires simply to "buy favour". We cannot "close an eye"

when our children blatantly disregard God's commands, honouring our children above God (1 Sam 2:29). Yet, all this is to be done with a desire to seek the best for our children (Lk 11:13) and in a spirit of love (Tit 2:4), not impatience, self righteousness, and demeaning actions. Even chastisement is done because of love for the child (Prov 13:24). Once we realise what God expects of us, we do not *demand* honour from our children, simply because we're older, or because we are their parents. Instead, we seek to be *honourable in God's eyes* – by fulfilling what He expects of us. Certainly, this is no easy task, but a God given task for us to serve Him in our families. Parents, do not be careless of this holy responsibility, for you will be held accountable too.

We live in the last days, “perilous times” characterised by disobedience to parents (2 Tim 3:1,2). This same characteristic is evident also in those who reject God (Rom 1:28-30). On the other hand, many parents are also taking their role more lightly, or passing it on to others instead of fulfilling the roles themselves. These are not merely societal problems. They are spiritual problems.

May we return to the biblical model of what God requires of parents and of children so that we may train godly seed for Him in our homes. Only such homes will bring glory to God. What we should see in God's house would be parents demonstrating godly conduct and truly being honourable according to God's Word, and children obeying and submitting themselves respectfully under God's authority placed over them.

Proverbs 23:24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise [child] shall have joy of him. ²⁵ Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

Yours in our Lord's service,
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Resignation:** Elder James has submitted his letter of resignation from Session on Thursday, 2nd February, effective 1st March 2017. After much prayer and careful consideration, God has given him a clear indication with peace and conviction in his heart that it is time for him to move on to the next chapter in God's plan for his life. This is not easy for all, but we wish to thank him for his service at BPCWA and wish him the very best as God leads him.
2. **Mandarin Tuesday Bible Study:** Resumes this Tuesday from 10-11:30 am in church. We will continue the study of God. Notes from "Theology for Every Christian" will be distributed to participants. All are welcome.
3. **Mandarin Care Group** will be held next Saturday (18th February) in church. The meeting will begin at 10:30 am followed by lunch. We will continue on the series on "The Christian Armour" (Ephesians 6:10-18). Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome.
4. **Men's Fellowship and Ladies' Fellowship** will be held on Sunday 19th February starting at 6 pm with a combined dinner. Come and learn together how you can live a more glorifying life as a man or woman.

5. **Transport Ministry:** In preparation to welcome new students to our church, there is a need for more drivers to transport them to and fro our regular church meetings and various student-welcome activities. If you are able to help drive the students during this peak period, please approach bro Eugene Leong or Allan Ang.

6. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for the opportunity to spend Chinese New Year with our family and Christian brethren in Christ. Thank God for the opportunity to testify of Christ with family and friends during this period.
- Thank God for His help and guidance in the Session meeting. Continue to pray for the redevelopment plans for the church in accordance with His will.
- Pray for the unity and steadfastness of BPCWA to strive together for the faith of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the Bible Studies and fellowships that are resuming after a period of recess, for the teaching of God's Word, and that worshippers will be drawn to come to learn God's Word and to grow together in spiritual unity.
- Pray for parents to be strengthened to bring up godly seed that will live for God and defend the Truth in their generations. Pray for families in BPCWA to be patterned after God's model for husbands, wives and children.
- Pray for many to continue to serve in the transport ministry so that students and those in need of transport can come to church to learn about God and grow in their faith.

SERVICE DUTY	5/2 COMBINED - Holy Communion	12/2 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Elder James Wong/Dn Joel Wong	Dn Adrian Cheng/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymns	Jason Tey	Claude Yiu
Musician(s)	Winnie Lim	Sharon Poon
Welcomers (Foyer)	Dn Michael Lee, Irene Lee, Lily Liow	Terry Chong, Lydia Chong, Yi San Chieng
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Eddie Foo, *Terry Chong, Pei Shion Chai Kenny Tan, Mark Heath, Jason Tey	*Claude Yiu, *Kenny Tan, Alex Luu Terry Chong, Dn Michael Lee Dn Stephen Chia
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Ruth Wong	Kenny Chia, Julia Chia, Ruth Wong
P.A. System	Kenny Chia	Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties	Ming Ming Th'ng, Shuin Ning Jong	Victoria Lew, Mable Soon, Lilian Cheo Lily Liow
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)	Mark Heath (Ben Kan)
South Perth	Hall A: Mark Heath Hall B: Allan Ang	Hall A: Caleb Cheng Hall B: Elder James Wong
Berrington	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)	Mark Heath (Ben Kan)
Bull Creek	Mark Heath	Elder James Wong

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	7/2	10:00 am	Mandarin Bible Study
		7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong, Elder James Wong, Yung Tsing Mew
Wednesday	8/2	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Systematic Theology (Anthropology)
Friday	10/2	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	12/2	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 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 (29/1)

Attendance: 165 (Combined-140; JSS-25); Prayer Meeting: 52

Offerings in Total: \$4983.20; General Fund: \$4983.20 (#4180-\$178.00; #4181-\$181.00)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What is the reason annexed to the third commandment? The reason annexed to the third commandment is, that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment. (Deuteronomy 28:58-59; 1 Samuel 3:13; 1 Samuel 4:11)