



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

July 2nd, 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/Kenny Tan
 The Lord Is in His Holy Temple **1**
 Call to Worship Deacon Joel Wong/Kong Vui Yip
 *Hymn **HOP 1** O Worship the King
 *Invocation/Gloria Patri **2**
 Responsive Reading Psalm 131:1-3
 Holy Communion [Deacon Michael Lee, Deacon Adrian Cheng
 Deacon Joel Wong, Deacon Stephen Chia, Robert Wong]
 Hymn **HOP 92** O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
HOP 185 According to Thy Gracious Word
 Presentation of Tithes & Offerings **HOP 391** The Love of God
 *Doxology **3**/Offertory Prayer
 Scripture Reading Acts 4:23-31
 Hymn **HOP 125** Open My Eyes, That I May See
 Pastoral Prayer Pastor Joseph Poon
 Message Rev Prabhudas Koshy/Yew Jinn Chieng

Be A Praying Church

*Hymn **HOP 275** Teach Me to Pray
 *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, After having looked at the qualifications for Deacons, we will move on to the Biblical qualifications for Elders. The Office of Elder is held by men only, not women. The Board of Elders (BOE) is responsible for the spiritual oversight of the Church in matters of doctrine, principles of government, church elections, admission and discipline of members and the administrative oversight of the Church (BPCWA's Constitution, Article 11.2). As such, the Elders have a significant impact on what BPCWA would be since they are responsible for the direction and spiritual activity of the church. So, it is crucial that Elders are chosen with utmost carefulness to ensure that they meet the qualifications of the Office. In a Presbyterian church, there are 2 types of Elders, namely 1) Pastors (who are also known as the Teaching Elders) and 2) Ruling Elders. This distinction is reflected in the BP Form of Government (Chapter IV, Article 2) and in our own Constitution as well. As we now begin to look at another Church Office, we should keep in mind that Elders must not only meet the qualifications required of Deacons, but because of the greater responsibility in this role, God sets even higher standards upon those in the Office of the Elder. Unlike the business world, the Office of Elder is not just an automatic "promotion" after one has served a certain number of years as a Deacon. What are the additional qualifications expected of an Elder, be it the Teaching Elder (ie Pastor) or the Ruling Elder? We will discuss a few of these qualifications from 1 Timothy 3.

Must be Blameless – This does not mean perfect sinlessness, or else no believer on earth can meet such a standard. The word "blameless" in Greek literally means "that cannot be laid hold of". This means that there is nothing in his life that anyone can take hold upon for censure. It implies that the character and faith of the man standing for this office must be above reproach. When one looks at this man's life after salvation, he has committed no grave sin that brings his reputation and thus the Office into disrepute. Both his public and personal life must stand up to scrutiny and

none can rightfully find fault with his doctrinal beliefs, his spiritual walk, and his general uprightness in character and actions before others. And the standard of measure for these is God's Word. "Must be" denotes that this element is not optional at all, but rather a compulsory qualification which the church must not alter or discount. This is because this office is a very high one and anyone who has been proven (as opposed to false accusations) reproachable in his family, work, church, and personal life will bring shame to God's Name. Regardless of how long the man has been in church, or how capable, or how influential he is, we cannot "close one eye" and be tempted to put the person into the Elder Office if he fails this non negotiable criterion. To ignore this is to have a low view of this Office, and a low view of God's standards.

Husband of one wife – This refers to the man being a faithful, one woman man. It does not mean he cannot be remarried if his wife has passed away, as he is allowed to do so, based upon 1 Cor 7:39. The key point is that he must not have a roving eye and cannot be flirtatious with women in church or outside church. He must be reputed to possess fidelity for his wife. This criterion makes it clear that the man who has committed fornication, adultery, or any sexual sins would be disqualified without question. To allow such a person into the Pastoral or Elder office would invite scorn to God's church.

Vigilant – The word *vigilant* speaks of being circumspect. It is associated with watchfulness and awareness. It speaks of someone who is restrained and self-controlled, especially concerning his passions. He is not rash, or uncontrolled in his emotions, or irrational, or come easily under wrong influence, but instead walks circumspectly. He is very conscious of areas of his weakness and does not allow it to overtake him, but instead controls it. In other words, he does not get swayed and drawn by sinful desires and worldliness. He is in control of his priorities when he serves God in this

office. His heart does not overtake his sense of duty. A man who is not vigilant in this manner would not be able to serve God with unwavering single heartedness because he can be easily drawn away in his spiritual walk and become inconsistent. He would fail God in his service, and be a bad example to the people of God.

Sober – This speaks of a man who has his senses about him. His mind is sound and clear. The world sometimes uses the description of “sober” to indicate that a person is not drunk and is able to think clearly. In this use, soberness does not merely refer to a non-drunken state. The focus is about his thought process. Summarily, he is a person who makes sound judgements based upon God’s Word. He thinks through decisions cautiously to ensure he is consistent with Scriptures. He is not someone who is unclear or muddled in his thinking. Instead, what he says and does is carefully and soundly deliberated. Put together, the vigilant and sober man will restrain himself from acting in a way that he will regret later.

Putting these two qualities together, Elders must be vigilant and sober at all times. His passions and thinking process are under the control of the Word. In a world that values speed and bends to the opinions and acceptance of the majority, the Elder is not one that will bow to pressure from the world and the people without thoughtful consideration of Scriptural principles. Instead, he will take a step back and put careful thought into his actions and the decisions made for the church. This does not mean that he does not act. Elders must know God’s Word very well so that his thoughts are Biblically guided and he acts based upon Scriptural principles. Even when he faces unpopular decisions, even when the flesh wants to shrink away from displeasing people, his actions will be consistent with what he has deliberated through Scripturally. Hence, the man must be one who is well versed in the Word, proven to consistently study the Word, and able to apply Scriptural principles to his thought process and decision making. This is true self-control mirrored in his thoughts and behaviour that is consistent with the Word of God.

When you see the role of the Elders in the Church, one can understand why this is included in the list of qualifications. Elders are responsible for the church's doctrinal stand, administration of finances, and lives of God's people in His church. The implications of what is done or not done in BPCWA must be thought through from a Biblical perspective. How will this affect the church? What will be the impact on other ministries? Who can serve? The importance of this cannot be underestimated. If Elders are discerning in theology, rash in financial management, give leadership or important roles to anyone simply because they desire it, the church will be in disarray. It will bend to the wind of every false doctrine and to the whims and fancies of man, instead of God. We must remember that because the Elder helps in the administrative oversight of the church, all the above qualities are important virtues each and every Elder must have.

Yours in our Lord's service
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. We extend our warmest welcome to Rev and Mrs Prabhudas Koshy and their daughter, Dorcas into our midst. Rev Koshy is the Thematic Speaker for our Family Camp this year, and Mrs Koshy will be teaching the children at the same time.
2. **Family Camp (Today – Thursday, 2nd to 6th July):** Camp commences this afternoon. All campers are requested to arrive at Orchard Glory Farm Resort before 3:30 pm. Camp briefing will begin at 4:30 pm in the main function hall. Camp messages will be made available online at <http://www.bpcwa.org.au/familycamp>.

3. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for a blessed time of learning and fellowship together at the Men and Ladies Fellowships. Thank God for those who have laboured tirelessly for many of these fellowship meetings.
- Thank God for the Combined Church Fellowship and the Family Seminar meetings. Thank God for the edification of saints through His Word and for all who came to learn and fellowship together at these meeting.
- Thank God for raising many who serve God diligently and cheerfully in the kitchen on Sundays and at our fellowship meetings.
- Pray for Rev and Mrs Koshy and Pastor Joseph as they prepare for the messages at the Family Camp. Pray that God will use the messages to forge a common purpose and bond for God's work at BPCWA. Pray for God's protection and prepared hearts upon the campers and day-trippers, and for blessed fellowship amongst brethren.
- Pray for BPCWA and her leaders to be God fearing, united in beliefs, and holy in practice, zealously working for God's work to magnify His Name.
- Pray for the Sunday School ministry and those who minister to our children, that they will build strong foundation as they sow God's truth in the hearts of the little ones. May all parents and teachers live lives reflective of the holiness of God and that will not stumble these little ones.
- Pray for Yew Jinn and Yi Jie as they fly to Malaysia later this week and then Singapore, and for Yew Jinn as he starts off a new semester of studies in Far Eastern Bible College on 17th July.

SERVICE DUTY	2/7 COMBINED - Holy Communion	9/7 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Prabhudas Koshy/Yew Jinn Chieng	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Joel Wong/Kong Vui Yip	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong
Preparatory Hymn	Kenny Tan	Allan Ang
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Winnie Lim
Welcomers (Foyer)	Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Yi San Chieng	Colin Tey, May Tey, Lee Lian Yong
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Alex Luu, *Claude Yiu, Edward Ee Pei Shion Chai, Benjamin Kan Colin Chng	*Eugene Leong, *Allan Ang Deacon Michael Lee, Benjamin Kan Colin Chng, Jonathan Woo
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Yi Choong Liew, Ellainne Cheng, Yi Jye Chieng	Kenny Chia, Julia Chia, Shie Tian Wong
P.A. System	Kenny Chia	Caleb Cheng
Kitchen Duties	Lee Lian Yong, Victoria Lew, Christine Chia, Ilhoa Ramachandran Mable Soon	Yi San Chieng, Lily Liow, May Chee Tey Edward Teng, Joanne Teng
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Recess due to church family camp	Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)
South Perth		A: Allan Ang B: Caleb Cheng
Berrington		Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)
Bull Creek		Caleb Cheng

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday to Thursday	2-6/7	BPCWA Family Camp
Tuesday	4/7	10:00 am Mandarin Bible Study
		7:30 pm Prayer Meeting: Yew Jinn Chieng/Deacon Joel Wong, Deacon Joel Wong, Yi San Chieng
Friday	7/7	7:30 pm Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	9/7	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
		12:30 pm Teens Q & A
		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 (25/6)

Attendance: 250 (Combined-215; JSS-35); Prayer Meeting: 65; Combined Fellowship: 100
 Offerings in Total: \$8,192.50; General Fund: \$8,192.50
 (#4255-\$94.80; #4256-Family Camp-\$68.00; #4257-\$163.00; #4258-\$140.50; #4259-\$417.00)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What is required in the ninth commandment? The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, (Zechariah 8:16; Acts 25:10; 3 John 12) especially in witness-bearing. (Proverbs 14:5, 25)