



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

July 16th, 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.

Prelude/Preparatory Hymn

Karen Ee/Claude Yiu

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship

Deacon Joel Wong/Sonny Lim

*Hymn

HOP 21 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading

Psalm 132:10-18

Hymn

HOP 216 The Solid Rock

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

HOP 383 Something for Thee

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:7-12

Hymn

HOP 139 Wonderful Words of Life

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip

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.

*Hymn

HOP 361 Redeemed

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 4

*Congregation Standing

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, And be gracious, The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.



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, Over the last 2 weeks, we have been looking at what God requires of Elders, from 1 Timothy 3. As qualifications, these criteria would apply to both the Pastor (the Teaching Elder), as well as to the Ruling Elder. We now come to an important qualification, but yet one that is much misunderstood. While, as we have been seeing, God sets a much higher standard for Elders as compared to Deacons, 1 Timothy 3:2 ends off with yet another essential criteria – that of being *apt to teach*. What exactly does it mean, and how does it refer to the Pastor and the Elder?

Some think that if an Elder must be “apt to teach”, doesn’t that make all Elders who teach “Teaching Elders”? There are 2 types of Elders in a church – 1) Teaching Elders and 2) Ruling Elders (BPCWA Constitution Article 14, 15, 17.1 and also in BP Form of Government, Chapter IV:2). While the church is ruled by the Board of Elders, the Apostle Paul later in the same epistle draws a clear distinction between the Elders. “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” (1 Timothy 5:17) While speaking of giving due honour in general to all “the elders that rule well” in the church, he points out differences in their roles, by highlighting in particular “they who labour in the word and doctrine.” The word “labour” here speaks of one who labours with wearisome effort and toil. In using this word, it does not merely refer to one who teaches on the occasion, as many in church may do so whether at Sunday School or other such ministries. This is an Elder who is deeply and constantly involved in proclaiming the Word and promoting the work of the kingdom of God and Christ through the God ordained Pastoral ministry. Paul then goes further to further elaborate on those who are in this latter group, by using the analogy of not muzzling the ox that treadeth the corn, teaching that this latter Elder is a “labourer” who “*is* worthy of his reward.” Hence, the Elder who is involved in toilsome labour in teaching the Word of God is also the one who is in the fulltime Ministry of the Word – what we call the Teaching Elder or the Pastor. Being an Elder does not necessarily make one a Pastor. God calls into His service those whom He intends to be involved in the fulltime teaching ministry and these Pastors are the teaching Elders, referred to as “pastors and teachers” in Eph 4:11.

Why is it important to understand this differentiation? After all, it's all in the Board of Elders. The reason is, when members vote for the Elders of the church, they must know and understand the different roles the different Elders are supposed to play in a church. As God requires, the Pastor *must* be involved in the Pastoral ministry of under-shepherding God's flock in spiritual care. Also, as Chairman of the Board (Article 17.2 of our Constitution) he is overall responsible for the church and *must* also be responsible for the rule and administration of the church. However, his *primary priority* is ultimately to toil in teaching and doctrine. As Christ called to Peter, God calls out some into the fulltime ministry of the word to "Feed my sheep." (John 21:16,17) The church in choosing a Pastor must assess if the Pastor is fulfilling what God requires of him, in ensuring that God's people are nourished spiritually through the faithful and fervent teaching of God's Word. Through all the ages, God has always set aside some to teach His Word. Those called to Pastoral ministry will have the gift of teaching and preaching. A man who is unable to do so is an unlikely candidate for this role. A Pastor that spends all his time in visitation and fellowshiping, neglecting his God-given teaching ministry, has failed to feed the flock and not fulfilled his role as a Pastor. While there may be physical limitations as to how much and how often a Pastor can teach, he is ultimately responsible for the teaching ministry of the church. Based on these Biblical convictions, we, unlike some other denominations, believe that the Pastor is responsible for the Pulpit ministry. The Pulpit ministry involves ministering the Word to the whole church, and must, as a priority, be undertaken by men that God has called fulltime into His ministry, and equipped through the training of the Word in theological education. When the Pastor does so, he is not trying to hog the limelight or be selfish. Instead, he is merely fulfilling his duty before God of what God requires of those He calls to be Pastors.

So, how then does "apt to teach" apply to Ruling Elders? In the role of an Elder who is expected to be "investigating delinquents and endeavouring to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of members," (Article 15.6 of our Constitution), he must be able to teach such ones. This means that

he is must be able to use Scriptures as they are intended, “for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16). That is why an Elder must first be a learner of God’s Word. One who cannot subject himself to learning under God’s ordained means of instruction in a Church under the Teaching Elder of the church will not be able to work in unity with the Board of Elders and God’s people in church. It is also absolutely essential that an Elder must be able to instruct those who bring in doctrines contrary to our beliefs, defending the truths we teach and uphold. An Elder cannot defend our beliefs if he does not agree with it, nor want to learn about it. Apt to teach implies that he is *active* in such defence – he must be able to soundly explain the faith and the church’s stand on it, especially if the beliefs of others are in disagreement with the church’s convictions. It means he must be able to help correct erroneous concepts of any who may promote unsound or unconstitutional concepts within the church. The Elder who is not well grounded in the Word and unable to explain and defend the Truth will not aid the unity of the church, but may add to its disunity because he may end up agreeing with those that bring in contrary doctrines to the church. He must be fully convicted, personally, of the Scriptures and what it upholds, because as part of the Board of Elders, he joins with the Pastor in the “discipline of the Church”. In the exercise of discipline, teaching is required. In restoring the backsliding, loving gestures are insufficient, but the very Word of God must be used to convict sinners of sin and return to God. It is not based on human relations nor on skilled persuasion, but on the very Word of God that God’s people must be counselled with. Hence, Biblical teaching is required. This means that an Elder must be one that loves the very Word of God. It must rule his life, for without that he can never teach others to let the Bible rule their lives. He must be fully committed to the faith that we hold on to, for without that he can never effectively counsel the erring ones to repent. The church will be in utter confusion if the preaching on the pulpit teaches against compromise, but an Elder teaches contrarily and encourages compromise with others in the name of “Christian love”. So, to be *apt to teach*, the Elder must have a high and right view of the Bible and be so committed to the faith that he would join with us in the united and active defence and propagation of it in the lives of the flock at BPCWA.

With all these qualities put together, the Elder is likely to be one who is called upon to teach as the need arises, when those trained in the Word are not available or not able to teach, perhaps due to other teaching engagements. However, we must not get confused. Just because a Ruling Elder *may* teach if called upon and may have the gift of teaching, it *does not* mean that he becomes a Teaching Elder, who is by Scriptural definition, is the Pastor. When this difference is not clearly understood, there will be a constant fight for the pulpit and teaching ministries in the church.

So, understanding the 2 roles that God has ordained must give us clarity in choosing Pastors and Elders for the church. While different in roles, they must share a common passion – a love for God’s Word and to promote God’s truth in doctrine and practices, the BP Faith, and BPCWA’s constitution for church unity. This is why one must not elect a Pastor or Elder who does not believe in the church’s stand, beliefs, and practices. If we do so, it will lead to chaos in the Session and the church. It is every member’s duty to God and BPCWA to understand and vote responsibly.

Yours in our Lord’s service
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Seniors Fellowship (This Saturday, 22 July, 10:30 am):** will be at church. Pastor will be speaking on the topic “The Reason for Health”. Lunch fellowship will follow after, so please kindly bring a dish to share. All are warmly welcome to join.
2. **Adelphie Fellowship (Next Sunday, 23 July, 3:30 pm):** It is a joy to be able to learn more of God’s Word so that we can grow to become more like the godly woman that God wants us to be. All ladies are invited and encouraged to come join us at Adelphie group to study God’s Word together.

3. **Combined Fellowship (Friday, 28 July, 7:30 pm):** Our BOE member, Rev Paul Cheng, will be speaking at a Combined Church Fellowship on the topic “The Second Great Commandment” (Matt 22:39). Rev Paul will minister the Word at BPCWA while Pastor is in Singapore to preach at a church member’s wedding.
4. **City Evangelism (Sunday, 30 July, 2 pm):** In obedient response to the Great Commission, the church will be going to the Perth city mall for street evangelism on Sunday 30th July from 2 pm to 5 pm. If you are attending, please register your details on the registration form in the foyer.
5. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**
 - Thank God for the start of another semester of teaching and learning at the Far Eastern Bible College. Pray that God will use the college to provide faithful and sound training for all, especially for those who are being trained for the full time ministry.
 - Thank God for the ongoing ministry at the Nursing Homes, for new residents that join and for providing labourers every Sunday.
 - Pray for lasting commitment, fruitful living, and church unity after having heard the family camp messages.
 - Pray for the Seniors Fellowship to be used to build up believers to live for God. Pray for godly encouragement and bonding between brethren during this time.
 - Pray for wisdom in the new series to be covered in the Adelphe Fellowship, and that sisters will continue to come and learn God’s Word together.
 - Pray for the Mandarin Bible Study and Mothers Fellowship groups to continue to be used to strengthen the faith and walk of the respective attendees.

SERVICE DUTY	16/7 COMBINED	23/7 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Joel Wong/Sonny Lim	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Kong Vui Yip
Preparatory Hymn	Claude Yiu	Deacon Joel Wong
Musician(s)	Karen Ee	Sharon Poon
Welcomers (Foyer)	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Ellainne Cheng
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Claude Yiu, *Eddie Foo, Yan Wei Deacon Adrian Cheng, Yi Choong Liew Deacon Stephen Chia	*Mark Heath, *Yan Wei, Caleb Cheng Deacon Michael Lee, Kenny Tan Kenny Chia
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng Lee Lee Yong	Edward Ee, Nancy Chai, Vincent Naing
P.A. System	Jay-son Lim	Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties	Yi Min Chieng, Phyllis Voun Shuin Ning Jong, Yi Jye Chieng Valerie Wan	Lee Lian Yong, Victoria Lew, Christine Chia Illhoa Ramachandran, Mable Soon
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)	Kenny Tan (Ben Kan)
South Perth	A: Mark Heath B: Allan Ang	A: Caleb Cheng B: Allan Ang
Berrington	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)	Kenny Tan (Ben Kan)
Bull Creek	Mark Heath	Allan Ang

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Tuesday	18/7	10:00 am	Mandarin Bible Study
		7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Deacon Joel Wong, Allan Ang, Sharon Poon
Friday	21/7	10:00 am	Mothers and Wives Fellowship: Genesis
		7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Saturday	22/7	10:30 am	Seniors Fellowship
Sunday	23/7	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
		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 Adelphie Fellowship

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (9/7)

Attendance: 184 (Combined-156; JSS-28); Prayer Meeting: 69

Offerings in Total: \$8,082.30; General Fund: \$8,082.30

(#4264-\$963.50; #4265-\$70.00; #4266-\$65.00; #4267-Library-\$10.00; #4268-\$285.00; #4269-\$81.90)

SHORTER CATECHISM: Which is the tenth commandment? The tenth commandment is, *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.* (Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21)