



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

August 20th, 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

Winnie Lim/Kenny Tan

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship

Deacon Joel Wong/Kong Vui Yip

*Hymn

HOP 360 We Praise Thee, O God

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading

Psalm 136:1-12

Hymn

HOP 237 It Is Well with My Soul

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

HOP 289 God Will Take Care of You

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:15-18

Hymn

HOP 137 Holy Bible, Book Divine

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 245 More About Jesus

*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, 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

Is a church important?

Dear BPCWAians, Over the last 2 weeks, we have been writing about praying for churches. We are all familiar with the word “church”, but what does it really mean to us personally and our family? As long as we are saved, is it important to be in a church today, a part of a visible congregation of worshippers? Many of us know about the stories of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We are familiar with the children of Israel. We are familiar with how God led them out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and finally into a promised land. We know that they became a nation. To many of us, we just know of them as a “special” nation. Almost the whole of the Old Testament documents and reminds us of what God had done for this people. Then, in the New Testament, the focus *seems* to change. We see in the book of Acts of the Apostles the prolific establishment of NT churches while Israel seems to be no more in focus. Instead, the epistles in the New Testament are addressed to churches.

Are churches part of God’s plan? To answer this question, we must first understand what happened to Israel. Israel was God’s chosen people. God told the Jews that “if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.” (Ex 19:5-6). They were to worship Him alone as their God. How they lived was to be a special witness to all the earth. And, as their Lord, He would have a special care over them. Israel received God’s Word, not other nations. They were to reflect God’s character as a people by their obedience to His Word. And they were to bring the Truth to the world. But over time, Israel only wanted to be “special people” who received blessings. They neglected their obligations to God, and forgot that God established them so that they would be a nation that would point men to the God whom they served. How Israel lived and functioned was supposed to reflect who God is and point man to repentance. By their lives, they must represent the Holy God and loving God that would one day send a Saviour

to save man from their sins. Refusing such a role, they were removed as His witness and kicked out of the Promised Land. Moreover, when God's Promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, came, they rejected Him and crucified Him instead. They did not treasure their God given privilege. The Jews not only ignored their purpose on earth, but also rejected their King.

Temporarily setting Israel aside as God's national witness to the world, God began to establish individual lights around the known world. God did not change His purpose, but the instruments He chose to use changed for now. Where Israel had failed as a nation to be "a kingdom of priests", churches now continue, to be "... lively stones, ... a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5)

Why is the church important? When we understand God's plan, then we must realise the importance of a church. We must not fail as Israel did. Today, some Christians don't see the importance of a church. The thinking is "as long as we are saved, we go our own jolly way". We do not see the need to be part of a church because I can pray and read the Bible and even worship by myself at home. To many, faith is totally individualistic and self serving in purpose. But the Christian must view the church from God's plan and purpose. God said to Israel that He made them His people and He will be their God (Ex 6:7). But when Israel ignored their privilege, with everyone living for themselves, and doing what was right in their own eyes, then God says to the Gentiles, "I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved." (Rom 9:25) Israel, as a nation, represented a collective group of God's people. The church as a local assembly of believers represents a collective group of God's people. To those that say that a church is not important, do they read in the Bible that God intends it to be a churchless Christianity today? The answer to this is a resounding "no".

In God's plan for now, the church is the instrument to which He entrusts the witness and the teaching of the Word of God (1 Cor 12:28). It is through the instrumentality of the church that saints get sanctified (Eph 4:11). Moreover, the church is important to you, His child, as it is the place in

which you must gather with other Blood bought siblings. Why? Because the church is God's gift to His children for their spiritual safety and growth. Summarised in the Westminster Confession of Faith 25.3, it accurately explains that God "has given [to the visible church] the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life, to the end of the world: and does, by His own presence and Spirit, according to His promise, make them effectual thereunto." We cannot separate the visible local church from the practice of our Christian faith. What God gave to the church are essential and fundamental for making us an effective witness and for our edification. When these are absent in our lives due to our neglect of the assembling of ourselves, our Christian walk will falter, and God's testimony will be affected.

What does this mean to us at BPCWA? The local church is God's provision for the believers to be equipped and to fulfil His purposes. It is hence an important part of the individual believer's life and for their families alike. God uses it to feed His sheep and to shine forth as His Light. Israel failed because they only wanted to enjoy the land but not live lives that made them different from the world as a people. The priests failed to teach, the people had no desire to obey God. The Temple life was soon a farce. It was a downward cycle. Have you and your family been treating the church as an appendix, and the pursuits of the world and our personal life as the central focus instead? When Israel ignored God's warning, God removed the light from them. We must be part of God's local church. Be diligently present when the Word is taught so that you will grow spiritually. Be actively serving together for the cause of Christ. Be engaged in loving fellowship with Christians at church.

We must strive with all our might, and watch in prayer, that BPCWA will not fail. BPCWA is not a perfect church. There is no "perfect church" today, and there never can be before Christ comes. But as long as God continues to keep the way open for us to be a faithful testimony for Him here, we must earnestly strive towards fulfilling His purpose for the church. And we must do it together. We must not distance ourselves from church. Instead, let us learn to love His church, let us learn to pray for His church, let us

learn to care for one another in His church. Let us be an integral part of the church because it is God's provision for us to fulfil His purposes on earth.

This is why, as long as God has put BPCWA here and put you in this church, and because church matters, then

*For her my tears shall fall;
for her my prayers ascend;
to her my cares and toils be given,
till toils and cares shall end.*

*Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways:
her sweet communion, solemn vows,
her hymns of love and praise.*

Yours in our Lord's service

Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Men Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship (Tonight, 6 pm):** The combined dinner will start at 6 pm. The Men Fellowship will start at 7 pm upstairs with Pastor on the message entitled "When a Man After God's Own Heart Falls Into Sin". The Ladies Fellowship will be downstairs at 7 pm with Sharon Poon speaking on "The Syrophoenician Woman: How Do You Approach God?". Chinese translation will be available, all are welcome.
2. **Fellowship Lunch (Next Sunday, 27 August, after worship):** Please bring a dish to share. Do stay back to get to know and encourage each other, visitors and students in our midst. All are welcome.
3. **Adelphé Bible Study (Next Sunday 27 August, 3:30 pm):** Come join us at this bible study group as we begin a new topic of study. Many ladies who attend would agree that this study group has been beneficial in helping us to grow spiritually and in our understanding of God's word, and we highly encourage those of you who are not yet attending to come join us. Pastor will be leading us in this study.

4. **Combined Fellowship (Friday, 1 September, 7:30 pm):** We will commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation with a series of messages on “The Spirit and Men of the 1517 Protestant Reformation”. Do come and hear more about the events and how God used men to change the whole course of the church’s history.
5. **Annual Congregational Meeting & Triennial Election (Sunday, 17 September, 11:30 am):** All members are required to attend the Triennial Elections and ACM which will be held after the Worship Service. Please note also that worship service will commence at 9 am that Sunday.
6. **September 30in30 (Sign up today):** To help participants develop an obedient response every day to the Great Commission, September 30in30 outreach packs will be distributed to participants next week. Will you reach out to 30 people this September with the Gospel message that saved your soul? Sign up and find out more at the registration table in the fellowship hall today.
7. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**
 - Thank God for the encouragement in God’s Word and with one another at the Husbands and Fathers Fellowship last Sunday.
 - Thank God for the preaching and fellowship at the Mandarin Care Group meeting yesterday, and the opportunity to grow together spiritually.
 - Pray for a time of mutual encouragement and strengthening of fellowship bonds at the Men Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship meeting tonight. Pray for edification of saints through His Word.
 - Pray for Session Meeting this Saturday, for God’s guidance in the discussion and preparations for the Elections, ACM and decisions on other church matters.
 - Pray for God’s undertaking for the Annual Congregational Meeting, that it will reflect His direction for BPCWA. Pray for preparation of hearts for candidates being put up for Elections, that they will serve God in unity, fervently and according to His Word.
 - Pray for the sick and afflicted to be strengthened in their faith and for God’s daily grace to sustain them. May their testimonies shine brightly for God’s glory.

SERVICE DUTY	20/8 COMBINED	27/8 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Joel Wong/Kong Vui Yip	Deacon Michael Lee/Deacon Joel Wong
Preparatory Hymn	Kenny Tan	Kenny Tan
Musician(s)	Winnie Lim	Karen Ee
Welcomers (Foyer)	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Yi San Chieng	Colin Tey, May Tey, Lee Lian Yong
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Allan Ang, *Mark Heath, Eugene Leong Yi Choong Liew, Jonathan Woo Deacon Stephen Chia	*Kenny Tan, *Colin Chng Deacon Stephen Chia, Jason Tey Deacon Adrian Cheng, Yi Choong Liew
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Yi Choong Liew, Ellainne Cheng Yi Jye Chieng	Yi Choong Liew, Julia Chia Shie Tian Wong
P.A. System	Kenny Chia	Caleb Cheng
Kitchen Duties	Yung Tsing Mew, Andy Ho Lee Fung Fong, Ming Ming Th'ng Xuan Rui Yong	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	Caleb Cheng (Benjamin Kan)	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)
South Perth	A: Kenny Tan B: Jason Tey	A: Allan Ang B: Mark Heath
Berrington	Caleb Cheng (Benjamin Kan)	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)
Bull Creek	Kenny Tan	Mark Heath

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	20/8	6:00 pm	Men Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship
Tuesday	22/8	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Deacon Joel Wong, Angeline Yong
Wednesday	23/8	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Deuteronomy
Friday	25/8	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	27/8	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
		12:45 pm	Teens Q and 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 Adelphie Bible Study

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (13/8)

Attendance: 188 (Combined-161; JSS-27); Prayer Meeting: 80

Offerings in Total: \$6,212.05; General Fund: \$6,212.05

(#4290-\$166.50; #4291-\$44.00; #4292-\$170.30; #4293-\$147.50; #4294-Camp T-shirt-\$36.00)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What doth every sin deserve? Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come. (Matthew 25:41; Galatians 3:10; Ephesians 5:6; James 2:10)