



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

October 22<sup>nd</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.

Prelude/Preparatory Hymn

Winnie Lim/Claude Yiu

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship

Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong

\*Hymn

**HOP 3** O God, Our Help in Ages Past

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading

Psalm 143:1-12

Infant Baptism

Joanna Si En Chong, Olivia Nicole Maranan

Hymn

**HOP 22** Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

**HOP 285** He Leadeth Me

\*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Choir Presentation

**HOP 140** Amazing Grace

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 3:1-7

Hymn

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

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.

## Revelation Made Known

\*Hymn

**HOP 137** Holy Bible, Book Divine

\*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

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## Works Not of Faith

Dear BPCWAians, Last week, we looked at the question of whether faith exists without works, and established that what the Bible teaches is that “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20). Genuine saving faith naturally bears forth fruit. However, while we teach and emphasize the need for good works in a believer’s life, we must also understand what kinds of “good works” are really not Biblically good works in God’s eyes. What the world, and even some professing Christians’ consider as good works can be very different from the good works that God speaks of for a believer’s life. The following are not considered as good works from a Biblical perspective:

**1) Works done in order to earn or maintain salvation.** Works done in order to merit salvation and done to maintain salvation are not good works according to the Bible. Many parts of the Bible speak of “works of the law” (Rom 9:32, Gal 2:16, 3:2, 3:5). So, not all works are deemed to be good in God’s sight. This is also where Israel stumbled. In these passages of the Bible speaking of the “works of the law”, God is reproving them for seeking to be “justified by the works of the law” (Gal 2:16). Anyone who believes that salvation requires even the slightest bit of “good works” done cannot be saved. Justification is a free gift of God through Jesus Christ. We cannot do anything to earn salvation on our part. The Bible says that “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isa 64:6). We must realise that even with the best of efforts, “good works” can never merit salvation. There are 3 reasons why. Firstly because we are born sinners. Secondly because we can never obey God perfectly, ie our works are always tainted and do not meet God’s holy standard. Thirdly, any work

done by a person cannot be used to “balance off” sinful works because each sin must be punished.

**2) Political and Social good works.** This is a key focus of the ecumenical movement, beginning with the ecumenical Life and Works movement which eventually led to the formation of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The purpose is to establish political and social works in the name of Christianity, providing social ministries and relief services, and being involved in international affairs. Today, the initiatives of the WCC continue this thrust, with a redefinition of *diakonia* (Greek word for service) as being that which serves the world’s needs for justice and peace. The WCC’s “Public Witness and Diakonia” calls “for a sustainable future, turning back the impact of climate change, in an economy that offers life for all, securing water rights, in the empowering of women and lifting up of youth. It may also be seen in advancing peace through social justice, capacity building for service, the healing ministry of the churches today and HIV and AIDS work.” Its activities include improvement of children’s well-being, promotion of health and healing for all people and addressing economic injustice. Such activities so closely parallel that of secular organisations that WCC has an “Ecumenical United Nations Office” that advocates on behalf of member churches and ecumenical partners towards United Nations and member states. These works in themselves are not necessarily evil but the promotion of social agenda is not the focus of the Christian’s duties. This is especially so when such social work involves or leads to compromising Christian faith in order for collaboration. Instead, the focus of Christian good works is a spiritual one. It is about leading people to Christ and discipling them, not merely focused on relieving physical needs and solving society imbalances.

Christ taught this clearly in John 6:26-29, Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. (27) Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. (28) Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? (29) Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

We will see some more in another Pastoral letter, God willing. But for now, do realise that the Christian's involvement in the social Gospel with its social agenda is not what the Bible refers to good works that pleases God. This social gospel has blurred the line between Truth and falsehood. Their aim is ecumenical collaboration where the aim is about socially beneficial work, and it does not matter even if it promotes the cause of Roman Catholics, Liberals, cults, or even other religions. Doctrines, sin, repentance, hell, and salvation through Christ alone, and the future kingdom of God are played down. Instead, mixing with Christian ethics, the main focus is about solving poverty, alcoholism, social inequalities, nutrition, improving education, reducing crime and wars. This is why BPCWA does not engage with movements, churches, or joint mission work that promotes this social Gospel work. You also need personally to be very careful also what work you give the money God puts in your hand because of this. Do not think you are doing good works by engaging, joining, or supporting such work that come under a Christian guise.

Yours in our Lord's service  
Pastor

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION**

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- 1. BPCWA Church Group Photo (Today, after Worship Service):**  
All BPCWA regular worshippers are requested to remain in the sanctuary at the conclusion of Worship service for a quick briefing before gathering in front of the church building for the photo taking. If you have parked in front of the church, please relocate your vehicle after the briefing to facilitate the photo taking.
- 2. Men Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship (Tonight, Dinner 6 pm, Program 7 pm):** Men, Ladies and children are encouraged to join us in studying God's Word with Pastor speaking to the Men on the second part of "When a Man After God's Own Heart Falls Into Sin (Part 2)" and Sharon Poon to the Ladies on "The Adulteress: Is Law Against Love?". There will be translation to Mandarin.
- 3. Fellowship Lunch (Next Sunday, 29 October, after worship):**  
Please bring a dish to share. Do stay back to get to know each other and visitors in our midst. All are welcome.
- 4. Congratulations to Kenny and Julia Chia on the birth of their baby son Daniel.** With God's help, may they bring him up to be a godly seed, and a courageous man of faith.

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

- Thank God for the blessing of babies He has entrusted to families in the church, and the parents who have vowed to bring up godly seed that will glorify God. Pray that they will be faithful to their vows and be godly examples for their children at home and at church.
- Thank God for the freedom of worship and the privilege of being able to gather to worship God in truth at BPCWA.
- Pray for families at BPCWA to be knit together in God's truth and in love so that they may glorify God by their testimonies and bring up children that will walk in God's ways throughout their lives.
- Pray for wisdom and God's leading for the planning for the redevelopment of Nehemiah's place.
- Pray for the Friday fellowship group programs to continue to strengthen the young people and adults alike to love our Lord, be fervent, and to stand strong in a crooked and perverse generation.
- Pray for those intending to take their membership vows and join BPCWA, that they will continue to grow spiritually and serve together with us for God's work.

SERVICE DUTY	22/10 COMBINED	29/10 COMBINED Reformation Sunday Fellowship Lunch
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Joel Wong/Sonny Lim
Preparatory Hymn	Claude Yiu	Allan Ang
Musician(s)	Winnie Lim	Sharon Poon
Welcomers (Foyer)	Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Yi San Chieng	Jonathan Woo, Bonnie Woo, Lily Liow
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Kenny Tan, *Allan Ang Caleb Cheng, Alex Luu, Jonathan Woo Wei Yan	*Jonathan Woo, *Eddie Foo Benjamin Kan, Stephen Chia, Mark Heath Jason Tey
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan, Benjamin Kan	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Cheryl Lin
P.A. System	Yi Choong Liew	Caleb Cheng
Kitchen Duties	Yung Tsing Mew, Andy Ho, Lee Fung Fong Ming Ming Th'ng, Xuan Rui Yong	Yi Min Chieng, Phyllis Voun Shuin Ning Jong, Yi Jye Chieng, Valerie Wan
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Deacon Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

### Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Colin Tey (Hannah Th'ng)	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)
South Perth	A: Caleb Cheng B: Kenny Tan	A: Allan Ang B: Mark Heath
Berrington	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)
Bull Creek	Kenny Tan	Mark Heath

### APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	22/10	6:00 pm	Men Fellowship & Ladies Fellowship
Tuesday	24/10	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Deacon Joel Wong, Deacon Eugene Leong, Ellainne Cheng
Wednesday	25/10	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Deuteronomy
Friday	27/10	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	29/10	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	Mandarin Sunday School/English Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		12:45 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 (15/10)

Attendance: 202 (Combined-170; JSS-32); Prayer Meeting: 66

Offerings in Total: \$8,247.85; General Fund: \$8,247.85

(#4325-\$3.85; #4326-\$654.50; #4327-\$113.20; #4328-\$153.00; #4329-\$50.00; Thanksgiving-\$500.00)

**SHORTER CATECHISM: Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?** The sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism, (Matthew 28:19) and the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)