



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

January 28th, 2018

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/Deacon Eugene Leong

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

Proverbs 2:1-9

Infant Baptism

Jonathan Cheng En You

Hymn

HOP 285 He Leadeth Me

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

HOP 8 Now Thank We All Our God

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 10:12-17

Hymn

HOP 125 Open My Eyes, That I May See

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

Love the LORD Thy God

*Hymn

HOP 392 More Love to Thee

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 4

*Congregation Standing



THEME FOR 2018:

"...what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul," (Deuteronomy 10:12)

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Are Some Traditional Ideas Actually Religious?

Dear BPCWAians, Last week, we looked at a show that portrayed itself as a cultural art performance, but was actually organised by Falun Dafa and was intended to propound a religious motivation and message. We briefly mentioned some of the underlying religious concepts. We will discuss this area a bit more this week. It is necessary because many of such concepts, which are expressed in different forms in various Eastern religions, are actually familiar ideas to many of us. Hence, we might even unconsciously adopt them. What are truly traditional ideas, and what has religious undertones? We must be able to differentiate and be watchful to ensure that wrong beliefs do not deceitfully influence our thinking and practices as Christians.

Some Eastern religions and philosophical beliefs include:

- 1) Though there may be a belief in spirits, there is also at the same time a divine essence and some energy in every human being that can be harnessed and developed. If we manage to do so, we can address health and mood imbalances. Because of this concept of forces and energies (see point 3), they typically do not believe in a unique, personal, Supreme God who is the sole Creator, and who gives and sustains all life.
- 2) The aim or purpose of man is a continual refining towards enlightenment. Sometimes, this enlightenment is also what they term as “salvation” or “spiritual perfection”. Along the way, there are several spiritual levels

to which the practitioner is believed to attain. There is a focus on moral improvements though the underlying philosophy is religious in nature still.

- 3) There is the belief in “Qi” which is energy in heavens, earth, and humans. There are also other forms of energy forces such as “Yin and Yang”. Some believe that Yin and Yang come from the Great Ultimate “taiji” which underlies Taijiquan, the Chinese meditation and health practice. For simplicity, these forces are like a kind of vital life giving and healing energy cum spiritual forces that can be “increased”, used and harmonised.

Can Christians hold on to these beliefs? Some readers may be thinking “What is wrong with it? After all, these propound moral values and emphasise the need for one to be virtuous. We can just ignore the religious principles under it and just reap benefits from them.” However, we must be careful as Christians not to “blend” these religious overtones into our way of thinking, beliefs and actions. We cannot halt between 2 opinions... or hide behind a “no opinion.” Either the God of the Bible is true and we follow Him wholly as the sole Giver and Sustainer of all life, or if we choose to hold on to a view of mystical forces that goes against the Bible, then we desert our Lord and call Him a liar. So, we must see what the Bible says about these beliefs:

- 1) Deut 4:39 leaves no doubt that there is only one Supreme Being. “Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.” All glory is due to Jehovah alone, because everything else is Created by

Him. On the other hand, after Adam's fall and all of mankind with him, everyone became totally depraved without exception. There is no spark of divinity in sinful man. "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Romans 3:10-12). Romans 3:23 leaves no doubt that no one has a "spark of divinity" within, because "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." And none can become better through meditation, nor develop powers to heal.

- 2) The Bible tells us we cannot refine our spirituality and reach salvation. The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), and only the blood of Jesus Christ his Son can cleanse us from all sin (1 Jn 1:7). We must be born again to see the kingdom of God (Jn 3:3, 7) and this is "not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God." (1 Pet 1:23) We are saved by grace "through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph 2:8, 9)
- 3) The Bible tells us that the Supreme Lord our God (and not some kind of "Qi" force) created everything, gives life and energy, and sustains all, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible... all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:16-17). The mystical ideas of impersonal energies and life-forces that improve man and enable healing go against Christ, because "in him was life" (Jn 1:4). The adoption of a "qi" and "taiji" force rejects the idea of a Supreme Eternal Immortal God who is the Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Romans 1:21-22 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” Let us not be fooled. Let us give God the glory due to His Name instead of giving it to Qi and Yin and Yang.

Yours in our Lord’s service

Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Fellowship Lunch (Today, after Worship):** All worshippers and visitors are welcome to join the fellowship lunch after Worship Service today. After lunch is concluded, those who have brought food are requested to remember to collect their utensils from the kitchen counter before they leave.
2. **Adelphé Bible Study (Today, 3:30 pm):** As Christians, we should always be seeking for God’s will in every part of our lives, but often many of us still wonder: “How do I know God’s will when making choices?”, “Can I walk out of God’s will?” or “Do we have free will?”. All ladies are encouraged to attend this Bible study as we discuss these questions and continue to study the sevenfold will of God.
3. **Church cleanliness:** In the recent busy bee clean up, chewing gums had to be removed from under the chairs in the church. Please help by disposing of your chewing gums properly.

4. Programs planned for February:

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
10/2 (Saturday)	7:30 am	Husbands and Fathers Fellowship
11/2 (Sunday)	6:00 pm	Men and Ladies Fellowship
17/2 (Saturday)	10:30 am	Seniors Fellowship
23/2 (Friday)	9:00 am	UWA Orientation Outreach
25/2 (Sunday)	3:30 pm	Adelphe Bible Study

5. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for the privilege to go out to tell others about Jesus Christ and the gospel of salvation during the Australia Day Outreach. Continue to pray for the seed sown to bear fruit according to God's purposes.
- Thank God for open doors to minister at the various Nursing Homes with the gospel for unbelievers and spiritual encouragement for believers.
- Pray that God will grant wisdom to Pastor and the Deacons for making the necessary operational decisions for the church at this Saturday's Session Meeting.
- Pray for the Fathers Fellowship and Mothers Fellowship to be used to build up strong families that will glorify God and bring up godly seed in the next generation.
- Pray for parents to continue to teach their children at home about God. Pray for children to be saved at an early age and be godly Christians in the next generation.
- Pray that every worshipper will fear and walk with our Lord, love and serve Him with all our heart and soul every day of our lives.

SERVICE DUTY	28/1 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch	4/2 COMBINED - Holy Communion
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Joel Wong/Kong Vui Yip	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Sonny Lim
Preparatory Hymn	Deacon Eugene Leong	Deacon Joel Wong
Musician(s)	Winnie Lim	Winnie Lim
Welcomers	Wei Yan, Bei Li, Mark Heath	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Lee Lian Yong
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Edward Ee, *Jonathan Woo, Kenny Chia Claude Yiu, Colin Chng, Wei Yan	*Eddie Foo, *Mark Heath, Terry Chong Allan Ang, Caleb Cheng, Michael Lee
Ushers	Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan Jay-Son Lim	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng Shie Tian Wong
Audio Visual	Yi Choong Liew	Kenny Chia
Kitchen Duties	Yi Min Chieng, Phyllis Voun Shuin Ning Jong, Yi Jye Chieng, Valerie Wan	Lee Lian Yong, Lily Liow, Victoria Lew Valerie Wan, Shuin Ning Jong
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Deacon Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)	Allan Ang (Hannah Th'ng)
South Perth	A: Kenny Tan B: Mark Heath	A: Caleb Cheng B: Kenny Tan
Berrington	Edward Ee (Yung Tsing Mew)	Allan Ang (Hannah Th'ng)
Bull Creek	Mark Heath	Kenny Tan

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	28/1	12:45 pm	Teens Q & A
		3:30 pm	Adelphie Bible Study
Tuesday	30/1	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Deacon Joel Wong, Deacon Adrian Cheng, Yung Tsing Mew
Wednesday	31/1	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Genesis
Friday	2/2	10:00 am	Mothers Fellowship: Genesis
		7:30 pm	Fellowships Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CAF/CSF
Sunday	4/2	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	Chinese Adults 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

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (21/1)

Attendance: 166 (Combined-140; CSS-26); Prayer Meeting: 72

Tithes and Offerings: \$8,842.10 (#4382: \$32.00; #4383: \$67.00; #4384: \$130.50; #4385: \$602.60)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us? The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*, teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, (Daniel 9:4, 7-9, 16-19; Luke 18:1, 7-8) and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him; (1 Chronicles 29:10-13; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 5:11-13) and, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen. (1 Corinthians 14:16; Revelation 22:20)