



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

February 11th, 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 Sharon Poon/Kenny Tan

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Eugene Leong/Deacon Joel Wong

*Hymn

HOP 2 To God Be the Glory

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading

Proverbs 3:1-8

Hymn

HOP 368 The Lily of the Valley

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

HOP 394 Is Your All on the Altar?

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:12-16

Hymn

HOP 241 Nothing Between

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

The Ultimate Goal of Church Building

*Hymn

HOP 305 Hold the Fort

*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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Understanding Today's TCM

Dear BPCWAIans, Continuing from last week, we want to answer if Christians can take Chinese medical herbs, have massages, and needle treatments. In order to answer that, we need to first look at the meaning of the terms TCM and Chinese medicine, and then understand some principles.

The terms TCM and Chinese medicine. In today's common usage and context, the term "TCM" (an acronym for Traditional Chinese Medicine) refers more to relatively recent developments in Chinese medicine's long history. As such, though it is called "Traditional", it may be a different form from how Chinese medicine was practiced when it first began. Chinese medicine in all its components has 4,000 to 5,000 years of history whereas this form of TCM, from its development and in the currently popularised form taught in universities, has around 2,500 years of history. So, in the Pastorals, what we are covering is what is known as today's TCM, covering the latter part of Chinese medicine history. This relatively modern TCM has its fundamental principles based upon the Taoism (generally recognised to have begun 2,500 years ago) teaching of Yin Yang Qi philosophies. So, we are not against all components of Chinese medicine, but specifically on Chinese medicinal principles based on the balancing and harmonising philosophies of Yin Yang Qi. It is not Qi that gives life, but "The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life" (Job 33:4). God provided medical discoveries through China in His common grace which benefited man. Besides the more well known TCM areas of herbal, massage and acupuncture cures, Chinese medicine also encompasses other fields such as treatment of wounds, trauma, joints, among others. It is the TCM component which is based upon Taoism's Yin-Yang Qi that Christians cannot subscribe to.

Which Qi? This later form, TCM, applied Taoist’s religious philosophies to the earlier original thousands of years of Chinese medical practices. Early Chinese medical practice recognised the importance of blood for life and healing. For example, they observed and understood the importance of Qi, which is more about oxygen in the blood for health and healing. Moreover, early Chinese medicine also documented antidotes to treat different illnesses using natural herbs. But Taoism applied its cosmological Qi (vital energy of life in the universe) and mystical counterbalancing Yin Yang forces to heal illnesses. This latter Qi (a mystical energy) differs from Chinese medicine’s early focus on the importance of oxygen and blood. With this Taoist philosophy of mystical Qi, they saw cures as the counterbalance of the Yin-Yang Qi instead of as antidotes. This trend began to take over the majority thinking of TCM. From there, and for about 2,500 years, Taoism’s Yin Yang Qi began to inform medical works, and medical theories began to be systematised based upon this religious philosophy. The Taoism logo depicts the needed flow and balance of the Yin Qi (dark part) and Yang Qi (white part). It believes that the universe is shaped and maintained by two fundamental Qi forces called Yin and Yang.



Taoism’s erroneous concept of balancing Yin-Yang Qi forces for health

What is TCM today? Sadly, you will be hard pressed to find any Chinese Medicine school today which does not teach Chinese medicine as predominantly this form of TCM, which uses Ying Yang Qi as its first and fundamental principle and basis. Visit the websites of China’s top 2 ranking Chinese medicine schools, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine and Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, and you will find that their TCM curriculum of the Basic Theory of Chinese Medicine begins with “Yin-Yang Theory” as the basis for TCM. This is representative of what is covered in the Chinese Medicine faculties of other universities in China. You will likewise see the same fundamental curriculum with Taoism’s Yin-Yang Qi in universities and colleges teaching TCM in Hong Kong, Singapore, and

United States. After last week's Pastoral, some enquired as to why it was said that all TCM is based upon the Yin-Yang Qi principle. Well, by definition, this is what TCM has come to stand for. TCM practitioners may not mention Qi and Yin Yang in their treatments, but it is still the basis upon which they function. I hope this clarifies the terms. To re-emphasise, it is not Chinese medicine that we are against per se but this TCM which is based upon Yin-Yang Qi that we must be wary of.

The Principles. So, can a Christian have massages, needling, drink "liang teh" or "cooling drinks"? Just because some religions worship cows as gods does not mean Christians should not eat beef, nor use other parts of cows for various uses. Just because TCM uses Yin-Yang and Qi philosophies does not mean that the herbs and the treatments it uses are not to be used by believers. But there are some important qualifications. Firstly, we must reject anything that is superstitious. Secondly, we must not apply its Qi (vital life force) and Yin-Yang balancing principle in our thinking and usages. Anything more than that is syncretism. Thirdly and importantly, the believer must know that the intrinsic value in herbs are God's creation and His common grace to mankind. We must attribute its benefits to God's goodness rather than to the Taoist philosophy of Qi. God gave useful medical discoveries to many countries including China. So, current TCM's Yin Yang philosophies holds no propriety to it. Needle treatments, massages, and herbal drinks have medical explanations behind them, not mystical balancing of Qi forces. Of course, we reject anything that is mystical or superstitious for example transferring of Qi energy from the practitioner's hand to your injured parts. Massages and needling basically causes micro traumas and injuries which activates the brain to send more blood to that area. This is why relief and healing occurs. Massage increases blood flow and natural well being. Herbs are God's creation. He put in them nutrients for man's benefits, because "the living God... giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Tim 6:17). Christians can drink "liang teh" or "cooling drinks" but we should not attribute it to the Yin-Yang balancing of heatiness for example. Different herbs and food

have inflammatory or anti-inflammatory effects, not Yin (cool) and Yang (heaty). But we are often accustomed to using these terms. We just need to be mindful what we mean, having understood the difference. Let it begin with this transformation in the renewing of our minds (Rom 12:2). Just like we used to say “lucky”, now we learn to say “thank God”. Now we receive it with thanksgiving and we say we partake of God’s nutrients, not Yin Yang (1 Tim 4:3,4).

Yours in our Lord’s service
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Men’s Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship (Today, Dinner 6:00 pm, Program 7:00 pm):** All are encouraged to join us in studying God’s Word with Pastor speaking to the men on “Terrible Effects of Sin” and Sharon Poon to the ladies on “Are You a Martha?”. There will be translation to Mandarin.
2. **Seniors Fellowship (This Saturday, 17 February, 10:30 am):** This will be our first meeting of the year and will be held at church. Pastor will be speaking on the topic “The Reason for Earthly Possessions Part 2”. There will be a “steamboat” lunch fellowship after the meeting. All are warmly welcome. Please bring something to share for the steamboat lunch. For more information, please see Douglas Th’ng.
3. **University Campus Outreaches:** This year we are going to The University of Western Australia on Friday, 23rd February, and to Murdoch University on Thursday, 1st March. Our church has secured a stall at both universities to reach out to students with the Gospel and welcome them to church. If you are able to help with any of the activities please speak with Allan Ang or Yi Choong Liew.

4. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for His watchful care over BPCWA in keeping His church so that we can continue to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth here.
- Thank God for love in Christ as a household of God and opportunity to fellowship with likeminded brethren at BPCWA.
- Pray for tonight's fellowship to build up the men and the ladies at BPCWA in their respective areas, in obedience to God's Word. Pray for opportunity to fellowship with and to get to know one another better during the dinner.
- Pray for the Seniors Fellowship to continue to help the elderlies understand how to live for God in their stage of life, and to have mutual encouragement with one another.
- Pray for BPCWA to continue to grow in the fear of God, to obey, love, and to serve Him in every aspect of our lives and with all our heart and our soul.
- Pray for wisdom in the selection of the architect to work on the Nehemiah Redevelopment Project.

SERVICE DUTY	11/2 COMBINED	18/2 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Eugene Leong/Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong
Preparatory Hymn	Kenny Tan	Deacon Eugene Leong
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Karen Ee
Welcomers	Colin Tey, May Chee Tey, Yi Choong Liew	Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Kenny Tan
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Kenny Tan, *Yi Choong Liew, Claude Yiu Edward Ee, Colin Chng, Pei Shion Chai	*Benjamin Kan, *Wei Yan, Jonathan Woo Kenny Chia, Alex Luu, Stephen Chia
Ushers	Edward Ee, Mable Soon, Yung Tsing Mew	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Vincent Naing
Audio Visual	Caleb Cheng	Albert Ho
Kitchen Duties	Yi Min Chieng, Phyllis Voun, Yi San Chieng Yi Jye Chieng, May Chee Tey	Yung Tsing Mew, Edward Teng, Christine Chia, Ilhoa Ramachandran, Joanne Teng
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Deacon Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Colin Tey (Benjamin Kan)	Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)
South Perth	A: Alex Luu B: Mark Heath	A: Pastor Joseph Poon B: Caleb Cheng
Berrington	Edward Ee (Benjamin Kan)	Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)
Bull Creek	Mark Heath	Pastor Joseph Poon

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	11/2	12:30 pm	Teens Q & A
		6:00 pm	Men's Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship
Tuesday	13/2	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Deacon Joel Wong, Deacon Eugene Leong, Sharon Poon
Wednesday	14/2	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Genesis
Friday	16/2	10:00 am	Mothers Fellowship: Genesis
		7:30 pm	Fellowships Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CAF/CSF
Saturday	17/2	10:30 am	Seniors Fellowship
Sunday	18/2	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 (4/2)

Attendance: 190 (Combined-160; CSS-30); Prayer Meeting: 70

Tithes and Offerings: \$6,092.10 (#4386: \$654.80; #4387: \$69.00; #4388: \$4.00; #4389: \$80.00)