



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

April 22nd, 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.

Prelude/Preparatory Hymn Karen Ee/Claude Yiu

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Eugene Leong/Deacon Joel Wong

*Hymn HOP 30 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Proverbs 6:6-11

Hymn HOP 226 He Hideth My Soul

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings HOP 208 My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:28

Hymn HOP 405 I Am Resolved

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

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.

Put Off Stealing, Put On Working

*Hymn HOP 261 I Want a Principle Within

*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 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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PASTORAL LETTER

Discipleship: Studying with the Aim to Change

Dear BPCWAians, Every week and at almost every activity, we have the Word of God preached and taught to us in church. This is important, as it must be the focus of every church. Discipleship is not a magic zap that makes one holy. God's way to sanctification is through the washing of water of the word (Eph 5:26). Discipleship begins with learning through the listening of God's Word. We have Bible Studies for different groups in BPCWA. As your Pastor, I can only do my part to ensure that the teaching is sound and it is faithful. But how do you listen to the Word of God?

The wrong ways to listen to God's Word. Some schools offer a subject that covers the study of the Bible. However, for the vast majority of those that take this course, the study of the Bible does very little good for them. They may know the Bible studies, be able to memorise the minutest facts, and even very accurately repeat what is taught. Those taking this course may even score an "A" for the subject. The church should be full of worshippers that love God's Word, that love to attend Bible studies and listen more and more to God's Word. A church with little interest in God's Word is a church that is not interested in being the pillar and ground of truth (1 Tim 3:15). But the study of the Bible is not to be pursued as an academic book. To listen and study it only for the accumulation of knowledge is insufficient.

Then, there are some who listen to God's Word to use it for someone else. Sunday school teachers may be familiar with this situation. When you teach about a particular sin, the child will be happy to tell you about their sibling who has apparently sinned that sin and gloss over all mention

of their own failings. Adults are often the same. We are often happy to have hard hitting messages – as long as it hits someone else. We love sin to be preached about – as long as it's not my sin. We may even be echoing strongly in our hearts how the sermon is particularly fitting for our spouse, our children, our enemy or just simply for someone else. When we listen to a message, do we think self-righteously in our hearts “God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are...” (Luke 18:11)? There is a very dangerous condition that God warns about when we do not respond to God’s prompting in His Word, where their “heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed” (Matt 13:15). We thank God for keeping BPCWA faithful to His truth. Reader, if you come week after week under God’s counsel in the preaching of the Word and walk away thinking that you have not sinned in any way and the sermon never applies to you, be very fearful for your spiritual state and condition. God tells us that “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1John 1:8).

The right way to listen to God’s Word. To truly benefit from God’s Word, we must first understand the purpose of preaching. Why do you come for Bible studies? Christians are expected to study the Bible not just to know facts, but to know God better. We must study to learn more about His Person and attributes that we may worship and serve Him better. Why is the sermon a key part of our Sunday Worship service? Because God has ordained preaching to “reprove, rebuke, exhort” (2 Tim 4:2). Our prayer then when we hear God’s Word is “show me my sins so that I can change”. If God’s Word is faithfully taught and preached, then it is indeed “thus saith the LORD”.

This means that the attitude of the heart that accompanies the listening of God's Word must be that of humility. How do you know you have such a heart? When you listen with the purpose to change yourself. No one likes being reprov'd and rebuked, or being told what to or what not to do. One's pride often gets in the way to reject that. God resists the proud (James 4:6). He hears those whose hearts are tender to His word, and humble themselves before Him (2 Chron 34:27). It means putting myself under the subjection of God's authority and God's Word. It means learning afresh and renewing my mind about what to think about things that I may have been accustomed to thinking or do just by being and walking around in the world. It means seeing things in a new light – God's light.

The right response while listening to God's Word. This means relearning and allowing God to redefine in our lives what is right and what is wrong. What is worldly and what is holy. What is righteous and what is sin. What is encouraged and what must be avoided. In short, we must be willing to erase even what we have grown used to, and allow God to write afresh on our hearts, based on His Word, how we should think, live and choose. It must involve every aspect of our life – whether it is in our work, our families, or our personal lives. Is this what you look for and desire in the preaching of God's Word? Unless you have such a heart, you are not hearing God's Word rightly, and you are not following Him as you ought to be. God's Word must be applied personally – and firstly – to "me". This is a fundamental part of being a disciple. A disciple is a learner that goes away to do what he has learned.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Perhaps you have grown calloused to God's Word. Perhaps you have hardened your heart to not think of God's repeated rebuke and warning. Let us repent, and come back to God. Start with the right listening of God's Word. Pray as you read the Bible and listen to sermons every Sunday and at fellowships that the Holy Spirit will use His sword to probe into our innermost parts of our heart so that we may know more about how to please Him.

Yours in our Lord's service

Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Men's Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship (Tonight, Dinner 6 pm, Program 7 pm):** All are encouraged to join us in studying God's Word with Pastor speaking to the Men on "Handling Issues As Men" and Sharon Poon to the Ladies on "Mary and Martha: Sisters in Christ". Translation is available.
2. **Fellowship Lunch (Next Sunday, 29 April, 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.
3. **Seniors Fellowship (This Saturday, 28 April, 10:30 am):** Will be at church with Pastor speaking on the topic "The Reason For Sickness". Since there is fellowship lunch after, please kindly bring a dish to share. All are warmly welcome to join.

4. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for His guidance at the Session Meeting yesterday, and for the joy of serving in unity of hearts for His work.
- Thank God for the blessed privilege to be able to worship Him and the opportunity to renew our Christian bonds with each other every Sunday.
- Pray for the Seniors Fellowship ministry to be used to strengthen the faith of every believer so that they will use their lives to fulfil His purpose for saving us.
- Pray that worshippers at BPCWA will intercede for the church, His work and His people here, and that many will be stirred to seek God in prayer at our prayer meetings and in our prayer closets.
- Pray for Yew Jinn and Far Eastern Bible College students taking exams this week. Pray that the lessons learned will be imprinted deeply in the hearts of every student of His Word.
- Pray for God's grace to continue to be upon BPCWA, and for His protecting Hand against any effort to hinder His work here.

SERVICE DUTY	22/4 COMBINED	29/4 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch
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	Claude Yiu	Deacon Eugene Leong
Musician(s)	Karen Ee	Winnie Lim
Welcomers	Wei Yan, Bei Li, Mark Heath	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Lee Lian Yong
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Terry Chong, *Allan Ang, Caleb Cheng Eddie Foo, Kenny Tan, Yi Choong Liew	*Wei Yan, *Edward Ee, Colin Chng Pei Shion Chai, Stephen Chia, Kenny Chia
Ushers	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng Shie Tian Wong	Edward Ee, Nancy Chai Yung Tsing Mew
Audio Visual	Kenny Chia	Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties	Yung Tsing Mew, Andy Ho, Lee Fung Fong Ming Ming Th'ng, Mable Soon	Yi San Chieng, Lily Liow, May Chee Tey Edward Teng, Joanne Teng
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Deacon Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Allan Ang (Hannah Th'ng)	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)
South Perth	A: Alex Luu B: Yi Choong Liew	A: Caleb Cheng B: Pastor Joseph Poon
Berrington	Allan Ang (Hannah Th'ng)	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)
Bull Creek	Alex Luu	Pastor Joseph Poon

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	22/4	6:00 pm	Men's and Ladies Fellowship
Tuesday	24/4	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Deacon Joel Wong, Deacon Adrian Cheng, Yung Tsing Mew
Friday	27/4	7:30 pm	Fellowships Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CAF/CSF
Saturday	28/4	10:30 am	Seniors Fellowship
Sunday	29/4	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
		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

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCES & OFFERINGS

Attendances - Sunday Worship: 205 (Combined: 172; CSS: 33); Prayer Meetng: 84

Tithes and Offerings - Sunday Worship: \$8,644.80; (#4422: Combined Fellowship: \$529.10)

