



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

April 29th, 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 Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong

*Hymn **HOP 31** Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Proverbs 6:12-19

Hymn **HOP 46** Our Great Saviour

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings **HOP 230** Trusting Jesus

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:28

Hymn **HOP 419** When We All Get to Heaven

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip

Put On Christian Work Ethics

*Hymn **HOP 314** Work, for the Night Is Coming

*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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PASTORAL LETTER

Discipleship: Am I Seeking Followers to Myself?

Dear BPCWAIans, To all His disciples, Christ says “Follow me” (Matt 16:24) as part of His call to discipleship. Disciples must be followers, and we are to call others to do likewise. But as we fulfil the Great Commission, there are some aspects about following that we must be mindful of.

Whether it is Facebook or Instagram or Twitter, social media has made the idea of “follow” a part of everyday life. Pages and articles teach people how to build a followership. People want to be noticed, and knowingly or unknowingly, having a “following” panders to a person’s pride. The movie industry knows how powerful a motivator a fan club is to a movie star. And subtly, having fans or followers has moved beyond the movie industry to the man in the street. People like to follow. But people like it even more when they are followed. As disciples, we must not follow blindly and thoughtlessly. Likewise, no one must desire a following.

No Christian should desire to have a following. It is a heady feeling and one that bears a commonality with the first sin ever committed. Even in the early church, there were men who “draw away disciples after them” (Act 20:30). There are many ways that one could draw people to themselves. It could be by teaching erroneous doctrines that are attractive to itching ears that cause people to follow you. Or it could be by building friendships in order to make oneself popular. It could simply be through making a person feel a sense of indebtedness or loyalty to

you personally. These are behaviours that arise out of the “pride of life, (which) is not of the Father, but is of the world.” (1John 2:16) Pride is the first sin in the world, and the sin that caused so many other sins. It is most frightening to love the sense of self-importance, to be looked up to, and to have a hold on others. When one serves in the church and receives the attention of others as a result of his or her service, it can get to one’s head and heart. This is why the Bible warns against allowing novices to serve in leadership positions in 1Tim 3:6 “Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil”. What a warning to be in the same condemnation as the devil! How should we avoid this condemnation? Every one of us must search our own hearts and be very honest before God that we serve and befriend others in the church with purest motives. Let it never be for any personal popularity, or to have others look up to ourselves, or for any other personal motivation or gain.

Serious warnings for wanting followers to ourselves. God further warns, Matt 23:11-16 “But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. (12) And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. (13) But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. (14) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. (15) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make

one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. (16) Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!" Would you like to be cursed? God will not bless or use any of such efforts at all. Instead, He pronounces multiples curses upon even those who may serve very hard and seem very spiritual; but for the purpose of exalting self and drawing others to themselves. God says they devour widow's houses, meaning they have ulterior motives in their "spiritual help" – to gain something for self. Woes and damnations are poured upon such people who are so religious in appearance. May such people not be found in BPCWA, and may none of us ever follow such ones!

How do I know I am not trying to get a following? Ask yourself the following and answer honestly before God - Am I no better than Absalom (2 Sam 15:2), befriending or wanting to help someone with the expectation of some benefits or help in return? Do I desire in my heart to be admired? Do I desire to be viewed as a leader because I enjoy the attention and praise that I may receive for helping others? God uses the word hypocrites repeatedly in Matt 23:13,15. Do serve. Do serve zealously. But let us also be very careful and honest with our hearts and motives lest the sin of pride subtly enters into our hearts. Else, our efforts will bear no fruit. As true disciples of Christ, let us turn men to our Lord, and not to man – worst of all, ourselves.

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. Do take the opportunity to mingle and get to know one another better.
2. **Church Family Camp 2018 (Today, after Worship in Fellowship Hall):** We are accepting Part Time registrations from today. If you are attending the camp Part Time or have yet to register for Full Time, please kindly do so as soon as possible before registration closes next week. Do pray and plan to come for the camp for a time of spiritual refreshment and Christian fellowship away from worldly distraction. Remember to apply your leave early!
3. **Condolences:** BPCWA extends our deepest condolences to Willy Ng and his family at the homegoing of Mrs Margaret Ng, on 23rd April in Singapore. May the knowledge of Christ's victory over the grave comfort and encourage their hearts.
4. **Condolences:** BPCWA extends our deepest condolences to Jonathan Woo and his family at the homegoing of his mother, on 27th April at Concorde Nursing Home. May the knowledge that she is now in the presence of her Saviour comfort their hearts during this time.
5. **For Purchase:** In response to interest and requests received, the following are available for purchase while stocks last – camp T-shirts at \$6, previous years' camp jackets at \$10, towels at \$2. Those who are interested may see Deacon Eugene.

6. Programs planned for May:

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
19/5 (Saturday)	10:30 am	Chinese Care Group
27/5 (Sunday)	2:00 pm	City Evangelism

7. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for those who have registered to join the Family Camp full time. Pray that many more worshippers will register for the camp.
- Thank God for seeing Yew Jinn and the Far Eastern Bible College students through their exams.
- Pray for spiritual and physical protection over BPCWA against attacks from without and disunity from within.
- Pray that worshippers will intercede for BPCWA, and that many will be stirred to seek God in prayer at our prayer meetings and in our prayer closets.
- Pray for the sick and those who are grieving to be strengthened according to God's will and purpose.
- Pray for Yew Jinn in his final week of studies at Far Eastern Bible College. Pray that all preparation for his return to serve with us at BPCWA will be guided by God's will.
- Pray for all Fellowship groups to continue to strengthen believers in the knowledge of God, and for strong bonds to be built for mutual encouragement within the groups.

SERVICE DUTY	29/4 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch	6/5 COMBINED - Holy Communion
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Joel Wong/Kong Vui Yip
Preparatory Hymn	Deacon Eugene Leong	Deacon Eugene Leong
Musician(s)	Winnie Lim	Winnie Lim
Welcomers	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Lee Lian Yong	Colin Tey, May Chee Tey, Kenny Tan
Offering Stewards	Wei Yan, Edward Ee, Colin Chng Pei Shion Chai, Stephen Chia, Kenny Chia	Jonathan Woo, Wei Yan, Kenny Chia Eddie Foo, Jason Tey, Michael Lee
Ushers	Edward Ee, Nancy Chai, Yung Tsing Mew	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Vincent Naing
Audio Visual	Yi Choong Liew	Caleb Cheng
Kitchen Duties	Yi San Chieng, Lily Liow, May Chee Tey Edward Teng, Joanne Teng	Lee Lian Yong, Victoria Lew, Christine Chia Illhoa Ramachandran, Lee Chin Yong
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Deacon Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

Nursing Home Ministry

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

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	29/4	12:45 pm	Teens Q and A
Tuesday	1/5	10:00 am	Chinese Bible Study
		7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Deacon Eugene Leong, Angeline Yong
Friday	4/5	10:00 am	Mothers Fellowship: Genesis
		7:30 pm	Fellowships Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CAF/CSF
Sunday	6/5	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

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCES & OFFERINGS

Attendances - Sunday Worship: 197 (Combined: 166; CSS: 31); Prayer Meeting: 85

Tithes and Offerings - Sunday Worship: \$6,164.75 (#4423: \$237.00; #4424: \$65.40); Designated for Kenny Tan: \$100.00

