



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joel Wong

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Eugene Leong/Kong Vui Yip

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

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Proverbs 7:1-5

Hymn **HOP 149** The Light of the World Is Jesus

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings **HOP 216** The Solid Rock

\*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading James 1:12

Hymn **HOP 269** Nearer, My God, to Thee

Message Yew Jinn Chieng/Sonny Lim

## The Blessedness of Enduring Trials

\*Hymn **HOP 223** Fade, Fade, Each Earthly Joy

\*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

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## A Fulltime Call

Dear BPCWAIans, Over the past few weeks, we have been looking at the importance of discipling. The church as a whole is called to go out and make disciples of Christ. The Parable of the Wedding Feast speaks of the king's servants going out to the highways to go out and call people to the feast. Here, it refers to a general call to people to be saved. For the elect, this general call narrows to a specific internal call that leads to salvation (Rom 1:6). Further, for some that God chooses, after being saved, there is also a specific call (*kaleo*) to a specific full time service in God's vineyard, such as Christ's calling of the Apostles in the gospel (Mk 1:20). It is this last call that we want to understand further about today.

**It is a call to serve fulltime.** This is the first step toward serving God in the ministry of the Word. The call of the Apostles set the tone. The Apostles "left their nets" and "left the ship" (Matt 4:20, 22) and "left (the receipt of custom)" (Lk 5:28). That is why a specific call to do God's work has always been called "going fulltime". However, today, there is a growing trend even in Christendom that one can be "called" into Christian ministerial work but yet continue working in the world. These claim that the Apostle Paul was a tentmaker (Acts 18:3) and by working, they do not "burden" the church with supporting them financially. Yes, Paul did tent make for a period. However, this was to the shame of the church who did not support him (2 Cor 11:9),

although “the Lord (has) ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.” (1Cor 9:14) An example is the Preacher Martyn Lloyd Jones. After a 2 year struggle, Martyn Lloyd Jones eventually left his secular physician vocation to preach. He later writes about such a call in his book “This call to preach is so put upon him, and such pressure comes to bear upon him that he says, “I can do nothing else, I must preach.”” C.H. Spurgeon echoes such an irresistible call when he says “If any student in this room could be content to be a newspaper editor or a grocer or a farmer or a doctor or a lawyer or a senator or a king, in the name of heaven and earth, let him go his way; he is not the man in whom dwells the Spirit of God in its fullness, for a man so filled with God would utterly weary of any pursuit but that for which his inmost soul pants.” This was the same message that echoed in my memory on my first day at the Far Eastern Bible College of what the Principal said to the new students. Much as the harvest is plenteous, though the needs of the church are many, the full time ministry of the Word is not for volunteers. It is for those whom God calls. It is not because they’re “special” or that they’re so “self-sacrificial”. The “high flyer” Apostle Paul attests to this “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!” (1Co 9:16). This is simply God’s ordained model - we cannot and should not accept otherwise. This is no “Nazarite vow” kind of commitment for a limited period of time. It is a lifetime calling that one who is called cannot turn his back on. One who is truly called enters into the ministry for the rest of his life. Preaching is not something he hops into and out of, just like any other job. He leaves his secular job for good.

**It is a high but humbling call.** This may seem like an unlikely contrast. But Heb 3:1-6 gives us a picture of the work. The work that the Prophet in the Old Testament and the Preacher in today's age does is only but a servant in the greater picture. The call is to serve in the household of God, to build up the local church that it may grow unto "the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." (Eph 4:13) While the church is called to esteem very highly those that admonish you in the Lord (1 Thess 5:12, 13), the glory doesn't go to the servant, but to "Christ as a son over his own house" (Heb 3:6) The duty and responsibility of every faithful preacher is not to point men to himself, how great is his work, but to the very greatness of God and to His work. If it were not such an irresistible call, the man himself would shirk away from this heavy duty and responsibility. Isaiah said "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." (Is 6:5) Jeremiah cried "Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child." (Jer 1:6) "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn 3:30) is a motto for the Preacher for the rest of his ministry.

**It is a call to obedience.** I will touch on one more aspect of the fulltime ministry, and it is that of obedience. Before Moses could start his ministry, God had to ensure that Moses was obedient to God's covenant to circumcise his son (Ex 4:24-26). Moses had to set his own family life in order. While Aaron pleased the people by making the golden calf (Ex 32:1-2), Moses stood on the Lord's side against sin (Ex 32:26). Despite that, Moses' later disobedience did not go unpunished

when he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land (Num 20:12). Our God is a Holy God, and He is no respecter of persons. The one who is the mouthpiece and proclaims “thus saith the Lord” must live a life befitting the message of the Holy King whom we serve. This is something that brings much fear to my heart. God uses sanctified vessels that will honour Him (2 Tim 2:21). BPCWAian, please pray for God’s ministers, “Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.” (Heb 13:18)

Yours in our Lord’s service

Pastor

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION**

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1. **Chinese Basic Bible Knowledge Class (Today, 12:45 pm):** A new series conducted in Mandarin by Yew Jinn will begin this afternoon in the room adjacent to the upper level sanctuary. Full attendance at the BBK classes are required for worshippers who are considering baptism, affirmation or transfer of membership. All who would like to know more about the Faith are also welcome to attend.
2. **Fellowship Lunch (Next Sunday, 27 May, 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. **City Evangelism (Next Sunday, 27 May, 2:00 pm):** Next week is our opportunity to join the city evangelism outreach in the Perth City. If you are interested, please add your name to the registration form in the foyer. If you attended the March outreach, you have been registered for this outreach. Outreach begins at 2:00 pm concluding in church for testimonies 5:00-5:30 pm.

4. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for the open doors to continue to minister to believers and unbelievers at the various Nursing Homes.
- Thank God for giving us the privilege to worship Him freely in Perth and in a sound church.
- Pray for BPCWA to be used send out the gospel light as we go for City Evangelism next week. May Christians be drawn to BPCWA to grow in the knowledge of God, and unbelievers come to believe in Christ.
- Pray for the Sunday School ministry to be used to build up the faith of the children so that they will trust in and live for Him.
- Pray for students to stay close to the Lord as they approach the end of their semesters and prepare for their exams. Pray for those finishing their University studies to follow God's will for their next steps.
- Pray for those seeking employment to be directed to jobs according to His will and to have their faith strengthened during their wait.

SERVICE DUTY		20/5 COMBINED	27/5 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch
Speaker/Interpreter		Yew Jinn Chieng/Sonny Lim	Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng
Worship Leader/Interpreter		Deacon Eugene Leong/Kong Vui Yip	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Sonny Lim
Preparatory Hymn		Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Eugene Leong
Musician(s)		Winnie Lim	Sharon Poon
Welcomers		Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Ellainne Liew	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho
Offering Stewards		Kenny Chia, Claude Yiu, Edward Ee Yi Choong Liew, Pei Shion Chai, Michael Lee	Jason Tey, Benjamin Kan, Colin Chng Alex Luu, Kenny Tan, Wei Yan
Ushers		Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan, Jay-Son Lim	Benjamin Kan, Cheryl Kan, Mable Soon
Audio Visual		Soo Jin Kang	Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties		Yung Tsing Mew, Andy Ho, Lee Fung Fong Ming Ming Th'ng, May Chee Tey	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		Yew Jinn Chieng (Hannah Th'ng)	Edward Ee (Benjamin Kan)
South Perth		A: Caleb Cheng      B: Yi Choong Liew	A: Kenny Tan      B: Yew Jinn Chieng
Berrington		Yew Jinn Chieng (Hannah Th'ng)	Edward Ee (Benjamin Kan)
Bull Creek		Mark Heath	Yew Jinn Chieng
APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK			
Tuesday	22/5	10:00 am	Chinese Bible Study
		7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Yew Jinn Chieng/Deacon Joel Wong, Deacon Eugene Leong, Ellainne Liew
Friday	25/5	7:30 pm	Fellowships Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CAF/CSF
Sunday	27/5	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
		12:45 pm	Teens Q and A
			Chinese Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		2:00 pm	City Evangelism
			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: 181 (Combined: 152; CSS: 29); Prayer Meeting: 66  
 Tithes and Offerings - Sunday Worship: \$5,236.82 (#4437: \$44.90)

## Notes

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