



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

Vol. 32 No. 28
July 26th, 2015

SUNDAY COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

1 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.

Preparatory Hymn

Allan Ang

Prelude

Ruth Wong

Call to Worship

Robert Wong/Dn Joel Wong

*Hymn

HOP 46 Our Great Saviour

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalms 78:17-32

Hymn

HOP 304 Am I a Soldier of the Cross?

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Numbers 31:1-11

Hymn

HOP 137 Holy Bible, Book Divine

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

God Will Avenge

*Hymn

HOP 309 Yield Not to Temptation

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 3

*Congregation Standing



Theme for 2015: "WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD UNTO ALL PLEASING" (Colossians 1:10)

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WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDING PASTOR

My dear readers,

1. Who rules your spirit?

We are all endowed with natural “temper” from the hand of the Creator. We must not either ignore it or destroy it, but it is both possible and, indeed, necessary to govern it. The question is: How?

Selfish Tantrums: We are living in a society where children control the parents. Corporal punishment is legislated to oblivion, and children rule the roost at home and school. When a child throws a tantrum to have his own way, it is an ultimatum: his way or no way! Everyone must give in to his wishes. Or must they? A child that grows up unchecked will be a menace to everyone; he will not be controlled. Either he gets what he wants or he takes it, but yet he is defenceless, for he has given himself to the devil (Eph 4:27)!

Sinful Tempers: In wartime we vividly recall seeing many of our cities reduced to rubble by enemy bombs. Recalling what they had been, we were shocked at the devastation. Our text gives us a picture of a once fortified city now lying in ruins, without walls, desolate, and defenceless. This is what happens to a man who lacks self-control, who allows his bad temper free reign. He is like a city sacked and plundered! This picture is all too often repeated today. Sinful temper continues to wreck multitudes of lives and homes. Truly, broken-down souls are even more appalling than plundered cities. Man can rebuild a city; only God can remake a broken man.

Salted Tongues: Psychologists may talk of self-control as if this power was in man’s own hands. Unregenerate man impatiently dismisses the call for restraint as an unwarranted restriction of his rights. “But he who has been ‘born of the Spirit,’ and taught ‘to know the plague of his own heart,’ is made to feel that effective self-control is by divine grace, not his own native power” (Bridges). Jesus said, “... *Have salt in yourselves...*” (Mark 9:50). Salt purges out corrupt dispositions. It leads to seasoned speech and holiness of heart and life. Thus are we able to walk “...*in wisdom toward them that are without...*” (Col 4:5), and to rule our spirits by the grace of God for the good of all.

2. Watch your image!

How very cryptic is the Hebrew of this proverb! It says: *“As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.”* (Prov 27:19) The rendering of AV gives a good and pregnant meaning (Perowne). It is about self-knowledge.

Reflections: Water was used in the past as a mirror. Looking into that clear, still water, you can see the reflection of your own face, not exact, but near enough to be recognized. As a mirror reflects what you look like physically before the world, so your heart is a reflection of your true character, your thoughts, and your habits, before your fellow men. The heart of one man corresponds with that of another man. It is thus that we are able to judge other men’s hearts by our own. David Thomas calls this the uniformity of soul. It reflects the weighty agreement between the heart of one man and that of another, regardless of race or time. It is like the reflection in the water where face answers to face. We find broad similarities in all human hearts, and this has given the Gospel its universal appeal. Because the heart of man answers to man, the soul of humanity answers to the cry: *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”* (Rom 7:24).

Revelations: There may be another truth in this proverb. *“As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.”* The heart, like water, becomes the medium through which we see one another. What we reveal of ourselves is what our hearts have made us, or rather, what we have made our hearts, that and nothing more. An evil heart can only reveal images that are broken and distorted, where there is nothing generous or genuine. A pure heart must give a true response to both God and man. Our proverb can mean simply: to see yourself truly, look within, not in the mirror. *“He that looks into his friend’s heart sees there his own”* (Bishop Hall). How deceitful is the heart of man! When the martyr Bradford heard of anyone doing a horrible act, he used to strike his hand upon his breast, and say, *“Here is the seed of all that wickedness.”* Let us ask ourselves who our intimate friends and associates are in this life, for they will most likely be our associates in the next!

3. Jesus never fails!

The chief delight of the devil and his agents in the world is to cause the righteous to go astray. How happy he is when one of Christ's standard bearers stumbles or falls! This not only proves sin's hatred of truth, but also sustains the evil plotter in his sin. Yet, they will not succeed (Ps 37:15)!

What Foulness! To do evil is bad enough, but to set out deliberately to lead others into sin is the most villainous thing of all. Sin, especially when it challenges biblical morality, is openly condoned, if not advocated, today. These seducers hate the high standards of believers (Amos 2:12), and take pride in their own liberated opinions (Col 2:18). Not satisfied with sinning themselves, they must incite others, and even use them as the means to their own ends (2 Pet 2:15-19). Thus they have hijacked the education system from kindergarten up (2 Tim 3:1-7). Jesus uttered some of His strongest censures against those who *"shall offend one of these little ones"* (Matt 5:19; 18:6).

What Foolishness! We call this an infernal attempt, for it comes from the pit of hell and ends in that pit. Their very success proves to be their folly! The trap they set for others recoils on their own heads! They dig that pit, sin by sin, link by link, yard by yard, and all the while they are sinking deeper and deeper into it. We have met with the retributive justice of God before (Prov 26:27). The snare which Balaam and Haman set for others, God turned against them. Wherever the malice of Satan rears its head, there the faithfulness of our Almighty Keeper is at work (Ps 23:5) on the behalf of His own.

What Faithfulness! Yes, these evil doers may succeed for a time, for are not God's redeemed morally responsible? Does not the battle with sin and temptation continue as long as we are in this body of sin? Otherwise there would be no virtue in obedience and no guilt for transgression. God is faithful and His upright ones shall have their good things in possession. God will bring the fallen one back to the joy of the Father's house, and to the assurance of heaven yet to be possessed (1 Cor 2:9; 1 Pet 1:4).

You cannot repent too soon, for soon it may be too late.

God bless all readers.

Yours faithfully in the Saviour's Service,

Dr SH Tow

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Lunch Fellowship:** Every one is welcome to stay behind and join us for lunch fellowship after the Worship Service today.
- 2. City Evangelism:** Today we'll be going to Perth city for street outreach whilst the prayer team will pray in Church. If you have not been witnessing for Christ, this is an opportunity for you to learn how to evangelise. To register please see sister Julia Sun and come to Church at 1:45pm. Outreach will conclude with testimonies at 5pm in Church. *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38*
- 3. Holy Communion:** Will be conducted next Sunday, please prepare your heart.
- 4. FEBC Online Courses Night Class:** The Semester has now started and we are screening Life of Christ 2 on Wednesday night in the Church at 7:30pm. Everyone in the Church is welcome to come.
- 5. Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting:** Will be held next Sunday evening the 2nd of August at the home of Mr Ben and Mrs Shelly Soon. Address: 20 Christchurch Bvd., Canning Vale. Dinner is at 6pm with the meeting starting at 7pm. Please bring a dish to share. Elder James will be sharing. Families with young children are encouraged to bring them along as we will have a children program.
- 6. August Program:** Please mark in your calendar and prayerfully participate in the following program planned for August:

DATE	PROGRAM
Sunday 2 nd Aug, 6:00pm	Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting Address: 20 Christchurch Bvd., Canning Vale
Friday 7:30 pm 14 th , 21 st Aug, 4 th Sept	Combined Fellowship Series
Sunday 16 th Aug, 6:00pm	Men's Fellowship & Ladies' Fellowship

7. Murdoch Orientation Day Outreach: Will be held this Thursday from 10am-2pm at Murdoch University near the Student Centre. If you are able to, please come and share the gospel with new students and help invite them to our church.

8. Annual Congregational Meeting Reports: The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be held this year on the 4th October 2015. For those that have received an email requesting reports please send your ACM report to Deacon Adrian Cheng in two weeks time (9th August).

9. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for the program planned for August. Pray that God will use all these activities to help each one of us to learn His Word and to learn to love and care for one another in the Lord.
- Thank God for Sister Lisa Ho's surgery to her knee last Thursday. May God grant her a speedy recovery.
- Pray for those who are participating in the city evangelism outreach this afternoon.
- Continue to uphold Brother Patrick Liow in prayer, that God's grace is sufficient for him each day.
- Re-building of Nehemiah Place and for the building committee to have wisdom to proceed with the project.
- God's leading and timing in re-starting the Mandarin Worship Service once a month.
- God's providence to those who are job searching, working away from home, and travelling.
- God's Holy Word will bring much comfort to those who are physically sick and spiritually down.
- Safety and security in and around the church and homes of all worshippers.

SERVICE DUTY	26/7 COMBINED - Lunch Fellowship	2/8 COMBINED - Holy Communion
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim	Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Robert Wong/Dn Joel Wong	Elder James Wong/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymns	Allan Ang	Claude Yiu
Musician(s)	Ruth Wong	Sharon Poon
Welcomers	Terry Chong, Lydia Chong, Julia Sun	Jonathan Woo, Bonnie Woo, Bernie Clarke
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Terry Chong, *Caleb Cheng, Yi Choong Liew, Steven Sun, Adrian Ng, Allan Ang	*Claude Yiu, *Kenny Chia, Jonathan Woo, Kenny Tan, Edward Ee Eugene Leong
Ushers	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng Shie Tian Wong	Kenny Chia, Ruth Wong, Yi San Chieng
P.A. System	Kenny Chia	Adrian Ng
Kitchen Duties	Lilian Yong, Victoria Lew, Yung Tsing Mew Julia Sun, Ilhoa Ramachandran	Yi Min Chieng, Yi San Chieng, Lily Liow Shuin Ning Jong
JSS Singspiration	Valerie Wan/Yi Mey Tan	Holy Communion
Toddler Class Assistant	Lee Lee/Ka Yii	Lilian/Victoria
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Rev Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)	Edward Ee (Karen Ee)
South Perth	Hall A: Kenny Tan Hall B: Caleb Cheng	Hall A: Rev Joseph Poon Hall B: Allan Ang
Bayswater	Elder James Wong	Allan Ang

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	28/7	10:00am	Mandarin Bible Study
		7:30pm	Prayer Meeting: Rev Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong, Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan
Wednesday	29/7	7:30pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Life of Christ II
Friday	31/7	7:30pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	2/8	8:30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/English & Mandarin Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00am	Sunday Combined Worship Service: Holy Communion
		12:15pm	Church Van Depart
		2:00pm	Nursing Home: Concorde – 25 Anstey Street, South Perth Onslow Gardens – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco
		3:30pm	Nursing Home: Ben Ritcher Lodge – 480 Guildford Road, Bayswater
		6:00pm	Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting. Address: 20 Christchurch Blvd., Canning Vale

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (19/7)

Attendance: 195 (Combined-163; JSS-32); Prayer Meeting: 70

Offerings in Total: \$8665.25

General Fund: \$8665.25 (#3919-\$108; #3920-Mission-\$300; #3921-FEBC-\$1810)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What is forbidden in the tenth commandment? The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate (1 Cor 10:10; James 3:14-16), envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his (Gal 5:26; Col 3:5).