



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

Vol. 32 No. 34
September 6th, 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

Claude Yiu

Prelude

Ruth Wong

Call to Worship

Dn Michael Lee/Kong Vui Yip

*Hymn

HOP 2 To God Be the Glory

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalm 80:10-19

Holy Communion [James, Michael, Stephen, Adrian, Robert, Kong Vui]

Hymn

HOP 96 Lead Me to Calvary

HOP 91 Rock of Ages

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Numbers 34:1-5

Hymn

HOP 123 Hover o'er Me, Holy Spirit

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

Where My Lot Falls

*Hymn

HOP 335 It May Not Be on the Mountain's Height

*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. Gain through loss (Mark 8:31-38)

Dr John Sung was a brilliant man. After finishing high school in China, he went to the United States for his University education. He was such a bright and talented student that he soon graduated from Ohio State University with a doctorate. His father was a Methodist pastor who, in the 1909 revival in the Chinese town of Hinghwa, had dedicated his six-year-old son to the Lord for the ministry. In 1927, Dr Sung decided to return to China. His intention was to teach in the University. But on sailing home, God spoke to him, *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”* (Mark 8:36). Convicted, Dr Sung threw all his diplomas and honours out of the ship through the porthole. He donned the plain Chinese gown, looked like a Chinese coolie and began to preach. You can read about the life of this wonderful preacher and re-vivalist in *“John Sung my Teacher”* by Rev. Timothy Tow.

The Suffering Son

Jesus begins to instruct His disciples concerning His Passion: that the Son of man is to suffer and be killed, but would gloriously rise again in three days (Mark 8:31). He has to prepare them so that when they see Him die they may not fail Him nor falter in their faith. Impetuous Peter could not understand the significance of these words and thought to save Jesus the humiliation of death. One moment Peter has the truth, the next moment he succumbs to Satan’s sinister lie. Jesus’ death is a manifestation of man’s bitter hatred to God. It is also to be the supreme expression of God’s love to man (Ironsides).

The Christian’s Cross

If Jesus died for me, is any sacrifice too great for Him? Should I not joyfully deny myself to follow Him? The Holy Spirit spoke to Dr Sung. The same

Spirit can speak to us. The whole world in the sight of God is not to be compared with the soul. The choice must be made between temporal and eternal values. To deny self is not simply self-denial, but death to self that Christ may live in us. The Christian is crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20).

2. True greatness (Mark 9:30-37; 10:35-45)

Is it wrong for a Christian to be ambitious? Paul has a holy ambition. His greatest desire is that all Israel be saved. His greatest ambition is to offer himself to them. Paul very emotionally declares, *“For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh”* (Rom 9:3). In the Old Testament, the prophet Jeremiah sounds a warning against Baruch for his ungodly ambition, *“And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not...”* (Jer 45:5). Unconsciously, we too have a desire for accomplishment and acclaim.

The request by James and John is presumptuous, ignorant and selfish. They want to have honourable and prestigious appointments in God’s Kingdom (Mark 10:37). They misunderstand completely the character of God’s Kingdom. Notwithstanding their ignorance, Jesus speaks about the cup and the baptism in connection with His passion. Jesus speaks again of His death and resurrection (Mark 9:31), but the disciples could not understand the instructions. They have thoughts only for the coming glory. Jesus’ death seems incredible and they reject it. Besides these two, the other disciples also argue among themselves as to who should be the greatest (Mark 9:34).

The Lord’s reply and reasoning with His disciples is two fold. The first is to take the example of a small child. To be truly great, one must be like a child, humble and unpretentious. The greatness is not in self seeking but in self sacrifice. The second is a personal example. Jesus comes not to be served but to serve. The paradox of true greatness in the light of the teaching of the Holy Scripture is that anyone who desires to be first must be last of all, and servant of all (Mark 9:35). *“Whosoever will be great among you, shall*

be your minister" (Mark 10:43). Jesus would rightfully be given Lordship, but He attains it by the way of servanthood.

3. The cost of discipleship

Discipleship calls for sacrifice. Following Jesus must always cost something. *"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Mark 8:34). Let us be instructed in the steps towards discipleship and to count the cost from Mark 10:13-34.

Implicit Faith

The example of children is very instructional. The parents bring them to be blessed by Jesus, but the disciples forbid them. The Master is too busy, in any case how can they really benefit listening to adult sermons? Jesus is visibly displeased. No child is too young to be told of the Saviour's love and to trust Him. Children have implicit faith; and Jesus said, *"for of such is the kingdom of God"* (Mark 10:14). Disciples must not be childish but must be childlike. Childlike faith is the only way into the Kingdom of God.

Explicit Allegiance

The second example is the rich young ruler. He has more than enough of this world's goods, in fact he is morally upright as well. Jesus notes his sincerity and Mark describes the Master's feelings: *"Jesus beholding him loved him"* (Mark 10:21). He has come in pursuit of the greatest blessing: eternal life. It would appear he has come quite near to attaining his quest. He can answer in the affirmative that he has kept the commandments since his youth (Mark 10:20). The word *"lack"* in verse 21 is translated *"coming short of"* in Romans 3:23. In spite of all his good works, explicit allegiance to Jesus is the answer to eternal life. This is one thing he lacks and it matters most. Wealth stands between him and Jesus. He cannot be a disciple.

Complete Surrender

Peter takes this opportunity to remind the Master that he has left all to follow Him (Mark 10:28). The disciples have done what the rich ruler has

failed to do. Peter is looking for material rewards. This is the pre-Pentecostal Peter and many pastors today are like him. God is nobody's debtor. The disciples' sacrifices will be paid in full and overflowing.

Truly there is nothing is too much to surrender to the Lord.

Yours faithfully in the Saviour's Service,

Dr SH Tow

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Father's Day:** The church wishes all the fathers in our midst a blessed Father's Day. Please stay behind for tea fellowship and finger food after the worship service today.
- 2. Condolences:** Our deepest sympathies to sister Lily Liow and daughters, Eileen, Carine and Audrey. Our dear brother Patrick Liow has passed onto glory to be with the Lord last Wednesday night. May God's comfort be with the bereaved family during this difficult time.

Vigil Service: Monday 7th Sept. Viewing at the parlour from 7-9pm. Vigil Service will start at 7:30pm. Venue: Oakwood Funerals, 506 Marmion Street, Booragoon WA 6154. Visitors are requested to park at the carpark opposite the parlour, at Mount Pleasant Baptist College.

Funeral Service: Tuesday 8th Sept. The Service starts at 10:45am at Oakwood Funerals, 506 Marmion Street, Booragoon WA 6154. This will be followed by the burial at Fremantle Cemetery, which is located at corner of Leach Highway and Carrington Street. The cortege will enter the gates of Fremantle Cemetery promptly at 12:45pm for Lawn V, where the Grave-side Service will be conducted. Friends attending the burial can park at the public parking near the Cortege Entrance. A map of the cemetery is pinned on the notice board in the foyer of the church.

3. Seniors' Fellowship Outing: This Saturday (12th of September) 10:30am at Point Walter. Rev Joseph will be speaking. The meeting will be followed by lunch, so please bring along a dish to share. All are warmly welcome. Passenger pick-up from church to the picnic spot is available for the seniors. Please let brother Allan (0433032709) know. For those who are driving, maps are available at the foyer.

4. September 30in30: If you would like help and encouragement to make evangelism a part of your daily life, you can still sign up for September 30in30. Please leave your details and collect a pack in the fellowship hall. Read testimonies from participants at www.sept30in30.com

5. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for all the fathers in our midst. Pray that all the fathers will be grounded strongly in the Word of God and provide spiritual leadership in their own homes.
- Thank God for the completion of the three combined church fellowship series last Friday.
- Pray for the Liow family that the Lord would comfort and uphold them during this difficult time. Pray that members of the church would help and support the family.
- Pray for the evangelistic outreach program, September30in30. Continue to pray for the spiritual and physical protection of all participants. May God grant those who have received the gospel tracts a receptive heart to the gospel.
- For the translation and compilation of the ACM reports.
- Pray for the Session Members as they prepare for the ACM. May God's name be glorified and honoured at the ACM on the 4th of October.
- For God to guide the building committee and grant them wisdom with the rebuilding of Nehemiah Place.
- For God to show us His will and timing on the re-starting of the Mandarin Worship Service.
- For those who are seeking employment, working away from home, and travelling.
- Remember those brethren who are physical sick and those who are heavy through manifold trials and temptations.
- Safety in and around the church and homes of worshippers.

SERVICE DUTY	6/9 COMBINED - Holy Communion	13/9 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim	Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Dn Michael Lee/Kong Vui Yip	Elder James Wong/Sonny Lim
Prep Hymns	Claude Yiu	Allan Ang
Musician(s)	Ruth Wong	Lydia Pui
Welcomers	Jonathan Woo, Bonnie Woo, Bernie Clarke	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Jonathan Woo, *Claude Yiu, Kenny Chia Mark Heath, Yan Wei, Alex Luu	*Eddie Foo, *Albert Ho, Allan Ang Allen Liew, Dn Adrian Cheng Dn Stephen Chia
Ushers	Kenny Chia, Yi San Chieng, Lee Lee Yong	Ruth Wong, Lilian Cheo, Ellainne Cheng
P.A. System	Adrian Ng/Yi Choong Liew	Caleb Cheng/Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties	Yi San Chieng, Margaret Ng Christine Chia, Ming Ming Th'ng Mable Soon	Lilian Cheo, Irene Yap, Yi Jye Chieng Valerie Wan, Edward Ee
JSS Singpiration	Holy Communion	Esther Yiu/Allan Ang
Toddler Class Assistant	Yi Jye Chieng/Lilian Yong	Victoria Lew/Shirlyn Lee
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

Old Folks' Home Ministry

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

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	8/9	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting: Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan
Wednesday	9/9	7:30pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Life of Christ II
Friday	11/9	7:30pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Saturday	12/9	10:30am	Seniors' Fellowship Outing
Sunday	13/9	8:30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/English Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		12:00pm	Mandarin Choir
		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

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (30/8)

Attendance: 199 (Combined-165; JSS-34); Prayer Meeting: 57; Combined Church Fellowship: 81

Offerings in Total: \$4640.15

General Fund: \$4640.15 (#3937-\$305.50; #3938-\$135.60; #3939-Library-\$30)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What is repentance unto life? Repentance unto life is a saving grace (Acts 11:18; 2 Tim 2:25), whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ (Ps 51:1-4; Joel 2:13; Luke 15:7, 10; Acts 2:37), doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God (Jer 31:18-19; Luke 1:16-17; 1 Thess 1:9), with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience (2 Chr 7:14; Ps 119:57-64; Matt 3:8; 2 Cor 7:10).