



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

August 14th, 2016

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

Lydia Pui

Call to Worship

Dn Joel Wong/Sonny Lim

*Hymn

HOP 2 To God Be the Glory

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalm 108:1-13

Hymn

HOP 232 Wonderful Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 10:14

Hymn

HOP 245 More About Jesus

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip

Flee Idolatry

*Hymn

HOP 241 Nothing Between

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 3

*Congregation Standing



Theme for 2016: "SANCTIFIED, AND MEET FOR THE MASTER'S USE" (2 Timothy 2:21)

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WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDING PASTOR

My dear readers,

On the need to be BORN AGAIN Time Up!

(Dr SH Tow, Reformation Banner September/October 1982)

ONE witty person made this observation: In this world of uncertainty, two things are sure: death and the tax man. Neither of these can be avoided, however you try! The Apostle James says, *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”* (Jas 4:14)

Death may be likened to a preacher, a preacher extraordinary. He fears no man, and favours none. He is not a popular preacher yet he is never without an audience. His Sermon is unmistakable, for he speaks in every language under the sun. He visits the homes of rich and poor alike. He calls on old and young, strong and weak. He is no respecter of persons. His sermon is always the same, one unchanging tune. It is not sweet but very short — just two words: **“Time up!”**

Only two, but very eloquent words, for he stirs feelings which no other preacher could, and brings tears to eyes that have been dry for years.

His message is neither refined nor polite, but it goes forth with stunning effect. He upsets schedules and plans. He intrudes into happy homes at the most inopportune times. He is never invited but none can refuse him entry.

One day, this preacher will call on your home, suddenly and unannounced. The reality of his presence strikes very hard when someone close to you is the object of his visit. You cannot even be sure that he will not be visiting you. Are you worried?

Only the believer in Jesus Christ can truly say that he is not worried. For him, death holds no fear, for death is but the last lap of his sojourn on earth. He can face this final journey with confidence. *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”* (Psa 23:4) Do you know the Lord as your Shepherd? Can you say that He will be with you when you pass from this earthly scene.

Not only is there no fear, the believer also faces the prospect of death with thanksgiving to God. The Apostle Paul has this to say *“Giving thanks unto the*

Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Col. 1:12-14).

Are you a believer? Have you been delivered from the power of darkness? Have you put all your trust in Jesus Christ? If so, you have a part in the inheritance of the saints in God’s Kingdom of light. You have been delivered from the power of darkness and death. You have been translated or removed out of this perishing world into the Kingdom of God’s dear Son. For you, then, there is a glorious prospect ahead, a blessed assurance of a place in God’s eternal Kingdom.

God’s Kingdom is at hand! It is near, even at the doors! Christians through the centuries, in every land, have been praying *“Thy kingdom come.” That prayer will soon be answered, when our Lord Jesus “shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God ...” (1 Thess 4:16a).* Then for the unbelieving world, it will be *“TIME UP!”* The most attractive and ambitious of human schemes will come to nought, with shocking suddenness and awesome finality.

When God’s Kingdom comes, will you have a part in it? Our Lord came to proclaim it, and to open the way for men and women to enter in. One night, Nicodemus came to enquire of Jesus the way into that Kingdom. He had only a vague idea of the Kingdom, perhaps a socio-political regime to be brought about by some great leader. He was a ruler of the Jews, a Pharisee, well versed in theology. He belonged to the religious establishment, a devout and religious person. Those who knew Nicodemus would have classified him as a highly respectable, moral and model citizen, eminently qualified for membership in the coming Kingdom. Nicodemus himself probably entertained the same opinion and hope.

Imagine his surprise when our Lord plainly declared: *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (Jn 3:3)* You are still far from the Kingdom! Nicodemus was perplexed. Born again? Can a man possibly return to his mother’s womb and be born anew? What do you mean, Rabbi, honourable Teacher?

No, Nicodemus! You may be a religious and moral person, well-instructed in the Scriptures, a respectable member of a large church, regular in attendance at

worship services, active in charitable works and social service. But none of these can qualify you for entry into God's Kingdom. You need to rethink your theology!

Our Lord then reiterated His solemn message: *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."* (Jn 3:5-7)

My dear Reader, whoever you are, do you know what it is to be "born again"? Your first birth by earthly parents gave you your physical life which enables you to participate in the things of this physical world. It gives you a share of the cycle of life, "from the cradle to the grave," with its passing joys and fleeting pleasures. Your first birth equips you to enjoy all these — until it is "TIME UP!" This world offers you "gracious living" but not "gracious dying."

This life, and all its "many-splendoured things," may be likened to sand-castles which we all love to build at one time or another. When the tide comes in, in a moment everything is washed away. But life is more than a day at the beach. God has something better in store for those who love Him, **an inheritance eternal in the heavens that fadeth not away**, but "flesh and blood" cannot inherit it.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Your first birth is "flesh and blood." You must be born again, of the Spirit. Only God, the Holy Spirit can give you that new life, which enables you to enter His Kingdom.

You ask me, How can I be born again? How can I receive the new life? Look to Jesus in faith! Call on Him as a dying man calls for the doctor. Thousands of Israelites lay stricken, mortally bitten by fiery serpents in the wilderness, This was God's punishment for their sins. Those who die in their sins will find themselves in hell. But God gave them the remedy: Look at the brazen serpent uplifted on a pole! Those who believed and looked were healed. *"...and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived."* (Nu 21:9) Those who looked in faith, received a new lease of life. They were "born again."

Even so, we who have been bitten by Satan, may be healed by a look of faith at the Saviour. This was the conclusion of our Lord's interview with Nicodemus. *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."* (Jn 3:14,15)

In this passing uncertain world of ours, it is the counsel of wisdom that we should all be ready to face the eternal reality at all times. It may be “TIME UP” for you or me before this year of grace is up. It may be much sooner than that! One can never be sure. The Son of man has been lifted up. He is visible to all who care to look. If you will but look to Him in faith, and take Him as your Saviour, a new life comes immediately into you.

Look to Jesus and be born again!

Yours faithfully in the Saviour's Service,

Dr SH Tow

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Holy Matrimony:** Congratulations to Kenny and Julia Chia on their wedding yesterday. May the Lord bless their years ahead together as one.
- 2. September 30in30:** Every year, our church encourages worshipers to reach 30 souls with 30 gospel tracts throughout September. Each tract is recorded and encouraging stories are shared with participants as we colabour in obeying the Great Commission. If you have not signed up before, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Read more at www.sept30in30.com *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. - Isaiah 6:8*
- 3. ACM reports:** For those that have been requested to write an ACM report, please submit them to Dn Adrian as they are due today.
- 4. Combined Fellowship series:** As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, it is useful for us as a church to know more about why we are we called Bible Presbyterian. Why did it start? What are our beliefs? What is our founding ethos? What were the successes, struggles, and failures? Is it still relevant today? What can we learn to help us be faithful to the end? Come and learn together as a church over 3 Fridays, starting this Friday (19th Aug) at 7:30pm in church. There will be Chinese translation. All are welcome.

4. Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting: will be held next Sunday (21st August) at the home of Sister Camilia Sin. Address: 7 Mariala Way, Wandi. Elder James will continue to share on the series (part 5) taken from the Gospel of John, 'Jesus said, "I am..."' Dinner will start at 6 pm with the meeting starting at 7 pm. Please bring a dish to share. We warmly welcome brethren and friends who can understand Mandarin to join.

5. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Pray for Session Meeting next Saturday.
- Continue to pray for the students, friends and new families who have been worshipping with us in the last few months. Pray for their studies, their spiritual growth and salvation of those who are not believers.
- Continue to uphold the Church Session and church ministries in prayer.
- Continue to pray for the design, translation and compilation of the 30th year thanksgiving magazine.
- Pray for the maintenance projects around the church, including the extension of the rear car park towards Jeremiah House, replacement of collapsing fences with colour-bond fences and a retaining-wall at the south-side of Jeremiah House.
- Pray for God's will and leading in re-starting the Mandarin Sunday Worship Service once a month.
- Pray for those who are sick and who may be discouraged and struggling spiritually.
- Pray for those who are still searching for a job, for God's protection and grace to be with the brethren who are working away from home and to those who are travelling.
- Pray for physical and spiritual safety in and around the church and in the homes of worshippers.

SERVICE DUTY	14/8 COMBINED	21/8 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Dn Joel Wong/Sonny Lim	Elder James Wong/Kong Vui Yip
Prep Hymns	Allan Ang	Kenny Tan
Musician(s)	Lydia Pui	Ruth Wong
Welcomers	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho	Dn Michael Lee, Irene Lee, Lily Liow
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Eddie Foo, *Albert Ho, Claude Yiu Allan Ang, Dn Adrian Cheng Dn Stephen Chia	*Alex Luu, *Kenny Tan, Eugene Leong Edward Ee, Mark Heath, Dn Michael Lee
Ushers	Claude Yiu, Lilian Cheo, Ellainne Cheng	Edward Ee, Yi Jye Chieng, Yi Mey Tan
P.A. System	Caleb Cheng	Albert Ho
Kitchen Duties	Lilian Cheo, Irene Yap, Yi Jye Chieng Valerie Wan, Edward Ee	Lilian Yong, Victoria Lew, Mew Yung Tsing Julia Sun, Ilhoa Ramachandran
Toddler Class Assistant	Shirlyn Lee /Yi Mey Tan	Lee Chin/Lee Lee
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Allan Ang (Hannah Th'ng)	Mark Heath (Ruth Wong)
South Perth	Hall A: Mark Heath Hall B: Jason Tey	Hall A: Caleb Cheng Hall B: Kenny Tan
Berrington	Allan Ang	Mark Heath

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	16/8	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Allan Ang, Angeline Yong
Wednesday	17/8	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Daniel
Friday	19/8	10:00 am	Mother's Fellowship Group
		7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	21/8	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	English & Mandarin Sunday School (in Recess)/English Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Mandarin Choir
		12:15 pm	Church Van Depart
		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
7:00 pm	Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting. Address: 7 Mariala Way, Wandi		

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (7/8)

Attendance: 212 (Combined-168; JSS-36); Prayer Meeting: 62
 Offerings in Total: \$5175.75; General Fund: \$5175.75
 (#4085-\$197.10; #4086-\$42.00; #4087-\$22.20; #4088-\$92.50)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What is effectual calling? Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, (Acts 26:18; 1 Cor 2:10; 12; 2 Cor 4:6; Eph 1:17-18) and renewing our wills, (Deu 30:6; Eze 36:26-27; John 3:5; Titus 3:5) he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, (John 6:44-45; Acts 16:14) freely offered to us in the gospel. (Isaiah 45:22; Matt 11:28-30; Rev 22:17)