



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

August 21st, 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

Kenny Tan

Prelude

Ruth Wong

Call to Worship

Elder James Wong/Kong Vui Yip

*Hymn

HOP 2 To God Be the Glory

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalm 109:1-20

Hymn

HOP 384 Love Lifted Me

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 10:15-22

Hymn

HOP 280 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

2 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.

3 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.

Don't Provoke The Lord!

*Hymn

HOP 253 I Am Thine, O Lord

*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,

The blessing of suffering in a believer's life

(Dr SH Tow, Reformation Banner March-April 1979)

JOB? A name for my son? No sir! Thank you very much. No one in his right mind would call his son by a name which is synonymous with extreme suffering and misfortune. For, in life, no man willingly chooses misery and affliction in preference to happiness and prosperity. Hence we witness the profusion of good wishes exchanged at festive seasons of New Year, Christmas, birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

However, no amount of well-wishing can wish away the everyday experiences of sadness, setbacks and misfortune — happenings common to all men. Some Christians, especially those recently converted, seem to think that, having accepted the Saviour, life should henceforth be smooth-sailing. Sooner or later, trials come their way, and they become discouraged and depressed. This is something the believer must guard against and the only way to do this is to be firmly grounded in God's Word. *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*(2 Tim 3:16) Only God's Word can instruct us in the true meaning of life with its ups and downs, its joys and sorrows, and most important of all — how we ought to live.

God's Word is clear and emphatic: the Christian's life is not a bed of roses, but after salvation there must be suffering before the final glory. *"These things I have spoken unto you," said our Lord, "that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* (Jn 16:33)

Paul, of all the Apostles, underwent the greatest amount of hard-ship in his Christian life. His recital of sufferings in 2 Corinthians chapter 11 bears thoughtful reading by any Christian who thinks his burden of affliction unbearable. Go with him through the depths of sorrows in labours, stripes,

imprisonments, beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, perils from every quarter, weariness, painfulness, watchings, hunger, thirst, fastings, cold, nakedness. Then soar with him to heavenly heights with his assurance of immortal glory through suffering:

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh ... For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Cor 4:7-11, 16-18)

This earthly scene is dominated by the “prince of this world,” the devil, and while we are within his sphere of influence, we cannot altogether escape his evil designs. Nevertheless, our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ is supreme, and He assures us, “I have overcome the world.” He has won the victory at Calvary over the devil, and all his wiles. Therefore, in Him we can have peace; through Him we have the victory, even though now we may go through light afflictions “*which is but for a moment.*” (2 Cor 4:17)

How, then, should we respond to suffering? As believers, let us not blame our “fate” or “bad luck” as we do those without understanding. If you are a child of God, know of a certainty that nothing happens to you without our Heavenly Father’s knowledge and consent. God has a personal interest in the believer’s life, to see that each child grows spiritually and is equipped for future service. Suffering is part of God’s discipline for us. Nothing happens by coincidence, accident or chance, but behind every event, in our lives, it is the unseen hand of God directing, ordering and guiding.

Every child of God needs to go through the school of suffering. Paul wrote to the Christians in the church at Philippi while he was in prison *“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.”* (Philippians 1:29-30) Paul also says, *“... we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:”* (Rom 5:3-4) Tribulation deepens our faith and increases our love for the Saviour.

Our Lord has set us the example which we must follow. He took upon Himself the supreme sacrifice. *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities ...”* (Isa 53:4-5).

But, *“if we suffer, we shall also reign with Him.”* (2 Tim 2:12a) This is the glorious promise. Let us, then, not regard suffering as something to be avoided at all costs, or something to be frowned upon. Remember, our Heavenly Father has a purpose and a plan for each one of us. When sufferings come our way, let us be in much prayer and soul searching, for every suffering is sent to try us, to refine and purify us, and to fit us for higher service.

Finally, let us recall the words of the Apostle, *“My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”* (Heb 12:5b-6, 11)

There is great blessing in suffering.

*Yours faithfully in the Saviour’s Service,
Dr SH Tow*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting:** will be held tonight 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 us. As Sister Camilia's home is in a new suburb, and may not have directions through GPS, please see Elder James or Sister Camilia for directions.
- 2. Friday Church Combined Fellowship (7:30pm):** In our 1st lesson, we learned about the Fundamentalist/ Modernist controversy in the Presbyterian Church in USA, which led to the founding of the Bible Presbyterian denomination in America. How and why did BP begin in this part of the world? What does the BP denomination believe in? What is the founding ethos of the BP movement? We encourage everyone in the church to come and understand this important topic together as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary this year. There will be Chinese translation and notes available for all these sessions. The notes and recording of the 1st session are available on our church website.
- 3. September 30in30:** Every year, our church encourages worshippers to reach 30 souls with 30 gospel tracts throughout September. Each tract is recorded and encouraging stories are shared with participants as we co-labour 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
- 4. ACM reports:** For those who have been requested to write an ACM report, please submit them to Dn Adrian as they are due.
- 5. Lunch Fellowship:** will be held next Sunday after the worship service. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome to join.

6. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for the new friends who have attended last Friday's combined fellowship meeting. Pray that they will understand what has been preached and will be willing to continue coming.
- Thank God for keeping everyone safe during the cold, windy and rainy days.
- Continue to uphold the Church Session and church ministries in prayer.
- Pray for the Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting tonight and the second series of the Combined Fellowship Meetings on Friday.
- Please pray for the preparation of the Mandarin Gospel Rally planned for September, the speaker Elder James, and the unbelievers that will be invited to attend.
- Pray for Uncle Bernie who has been sick for a few weeks, and Sister Lisa Ho who has been suffering from pain and has difficulty sleeping. Continue to pray for those who are sick and who may be discouraged and struggling spiritually.
- 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 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	21/8 COMBINED	28/8 COMBINED - Lunch Fellowship
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim	Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Elder James Wong/Kong Vui Yip	Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymns	Kenny Tan	Jason Tey
Musician(s)	Ruth Wong	Winnie Lim
Welcomers (Foyer)	Dn Michael Lee, Irene Lee, Lily Liow	Terry Chong, Lydia Chong, Julia Chia
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Alex Luu, *Kenny Tan, Eugene Leong Edward Ee, Mark Heath Dn Michael Lee	*Terry Chong, *Caleb Cheng, Jason Tey Yi Choong Liew, Pei Shion Chai Dn Stephen Chia
Ushers	Edward Ee, Yi Jye Chieng, Yi Mey Tan	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng, Shie Tian Wong
P.A. System	Albert Ho	Kenny Chia
Kitchen Duties	Lilian Yong, Victoria Lew Mew Yung Tsing Julia Sun, Ilhoa Ramachandran	Yi San Chieng, Margaret Ng Christine Chia, Ming Ming Th'ng Mable Soon
Toddler Class Assistant	Lee Chin/Lee Lee	Victoria/Ka Yii
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Mark Heath (Ruth Wong)	Edward Ee (Ruth Wong)
South Perth	Hall A: Caleb Cheng Hall B: Kenny Tan	Hall A: Rev Joseph Poon Hall B: Allan Ang
Berrington	Mark Heath	Edward Ee

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday	22/8	2:30 pm	Mandarin Basic Bible Knowledge Class
Tuesday	23/8	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Dn Adrian Cheng, Ellainne Cheng
Wednesday	24/8	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Daniel
Friday	26/8	7:30 pm	Combined Fellowship Meeting
Sunday	28/8	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/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
		3:00 pm	Mandarin Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		3:30 pm	Nursing Home: Berrington, Subiaco – 45 Bishop St, Jolimont

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (14/8)

Attendance: 202 (Combined-166; JSS-36); Prayer Meeting: 60; Combined Fellowship Meeting: 97
Offerings in Total: \$6048.55; General Fund: \$6048.55 (#4089-\$93.20; #4090-\$1000.00)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life? They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them. (Rom 8:30; 1 Cor 1:30; 1 Cor 6:11; Eph 1:5)