



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 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

Claude Yiu

Prelude

Sharon Poon

Call to Worship

Robert Wong/Dn Joel Wong

\*Hymn

**HOP 1** O Worship the King

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalms 119:41-48

Hymn

**HOP 391** The Love of God

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

\*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:7

Hymn

**HOP 261** I Want a Principle Within

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng

### 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.

## Loving Responses Part 2

\*Hymn

**HOP 247** Make Me a Channel of Blessing

\*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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# PASTORAL LETTER

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Dear BPCWAians, We thank God for seeing us through the BPCWA Young Adults Summer Camp. The theme was “Forsaken Living Waters”, taken from Jeremiah 2:12-13, “**Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, [and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.**” In this Pastoral letter, I will sum up the theme messages so that we can all have a summary of the lessons.

**Fountain of living waters.** God used the prophet Jeremiah to rebuke His people for forsaking Him and going after idolatry. God describes Himself as the fountain of living waters. This means that He is the source of life and always fresh. **Two shocking evils.** God highlighted that His people have committed 2 evils, namely, forsaking Him and turning to broken cisterns instead. They turned to idols and nations that could not help them. It was so shocking that they would turn to commit adultery with stones and wood (Jer 3:9). God said that even the heathen do not forsake their gods which are not gods! We may not worship statues, but do we have idols in our hearts that have turned us away from God?

**Consequences of forsaking.** We learned that sin has consequences (2:14-16). In order to draw us back to Himself and to stop us from destroying ourselves, God would need to chastise us. But when we continue to ignore the consequences, spiritual slavery can result. Cravings and lusts will increase, and we can become irrational in our choices. Worst of all, he is in a most frightening state because he does not know that he is in such a condition. He lives in denial and refuses to admit his sin. He may try to “make up” for his sin by

service so as to give the impression that there is no disobedience. Or he may also “cover up” his sin instead. If God deals with us as sons through chastening, we must return quickly!

**Signs of a person forsaking God.** He will hypocritically seek God. He seeks God only for blessing. He will ignore and even betray God when he is there is no benefit in obeying God. He will deny that he has sinned. And he is also directionless because he is motivated mainly by greed. He will react and respond by instinct - senselessly, like animals. And he will have idols in his heart and life.

**The evils of forsaking.** Forsaking God will breed more evil (2:29-37). The person becomes arrogant. He will hate faithful preaching because it exposes and points out his sins. Because they dislike God’s command, they take it out on the preacher instead. He will also forget that God is not to be blamed. Instead he will say in his chastisement “where is God when I need Him?” And he will cause others to fall into sin by their example. By doing this, he sheds innocent blood.

**The wrong response to God’s call.** God condescended to call His children to restore them although they have offended Him so grievously (3:1-11). In order to restore their backsliding, God will have to root out and tear down before rebuilding. He brought them low by chastising them. He called them to repentance. Sadly, they would not admit that they have sinned but instead thought that they had not done wrong. But God kept working on them. The greatness of our sin is no hindrance to God’s forgiveness. Yet, the Bible does not teach us to ignore the guilt of sin though God is forgiving. Moreover, the children of Israel responded with half-hearted false repentance also. Repentance is God’s provision

for reconciling us to Him. False repentance is when we seek God because we want the consequences of sin to be removed. Genuine repentance is turning away from sin to God for forgiveness simply because we view sin as sin and desire to restore our fellowship with God regardless of consequences. Repentance is not a sentimental or sensational emotion but one of the will acting wholeheartedly to turn from sin to God.

**The right response.** We saw genuine repentance in the people when they turned to God with sincere sorrow and total honesty in admission of their sins (3:1-5, 21-25; 4:1-4). They no longer made excuses. Genuine repentance is God centred. It is not a mere emotional return to the church, or simply feeling good that we feel bad. It is the forsaking of sin and a willingness to please God, not get pity or attention for how we respond. Turning back to God in repentance is not dependent upon our emotions. One does not need to wait till he felt and wept like Peter who denied Christ. Repentance is primarily a resolve of the mind which is fixed upon God and an act of the will in forsaking sin.

**The refreshing.** God promises refreshing when we return to Him (3:11-20). For the church, He will give pastors to feed them with knowledge and understanding. They will be led and united through the Word. Their souls will be fed and refreshed. Divisions and dryness of souls are usually because of the presence of sin and unrepentance. God shows that He is ready to bless, but only when we go the fountain of living waters. The true refreshing is not just during camp. It is found in returning whole heartedly to God in His Word. Such refreshing results in the glory of God.

The camp may be over, but the fountain of living waters is always still present for us. Continue to drink of it, not forsake it.

Yours in our Lord's service  
Pastor

# ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

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1. **City Evangelism** is on today. Please meet in Church at 2 pm for a briefing and prayer. The street outreach will end with testimonies in Church at 5 pm.
2. **Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting** will be held next Sunday (18<sup>th</sup> Dec) in church. Dinner will begin at 6 pm followed by message at 7 pm. Brother Yew Jinn will be speaking. Please bring a dish to share. Do join us for a time of fellowship and study of God's Word.
3. **Christmas Gospel Meeting & Carolling:** Invitations are available in the foyer for the Christmas Gospel meeting on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. This year, we will start at 7 pm with carolling outside the church. Pastor Joseph will be speaking on "The Promise at Christmas". Invitations also include details about our Christmas Day worship service, which will be followed by Christmas lunch with the Church family.
4. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**
  - Thank God for a blessed time of fellowship and learning God's Word together at the Men's Fellowship and Ladies' Fellowship last Sunday.
  - Thank God for seeing the students through their exams and another school term. Pray for those returning to their home country to continue to study God's Word and stay strong in the Lord.
  - Thank God for seeing Rev Koshy through his recent hospitalisation and gradual recovery.
  - Pray for many to go out during the City Evangelism to bring the gospel to people during the year end Christmas season.

- Pray for the Session meeting this Saturday. May God direct matters according to His will and plan for BPCWA.
- Pray for those who will be invited to our Christmas Gospel meeting and Christmas Worship Service. Pray that believers will be strengthened in the faith and unbelievers will be brought to the knowledge of God. Pray for the planning and preparation of the meetings, as well as the Christmas fellowship lunch to follow.
- Pray that God will direct the 2017 planning for all activities to build up saints in the church.
- Pray for the editorial and design team of BPCWA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving magazine as they compile it for publication.
- Pray for those seeking employment and the spiritually discouraged to find direction, grace and joy in our Lord and His Word.
- Pray for those returning to their home countries or travelling during the year end, that they will stay close to the Lord while they are away.

SERVICE DUTY	11/12 COMBINED	18/12 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Pstr Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng	Pstr Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Robert Wong/Dn Joel Wong	Dn Joel Wong/Sonny Lim
Prep Hymns	Claude Yiu	Kenny Tan
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Winnie Lim
Welcomers (Foyer)	Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Lee Lian Yong	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Mark Heath
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Alex Luu, *Dn Michael Lee Caleb Cheng, Claude Yiu Dn Adrian Cheng, Dn Stephen Chia	*Dn Adrian Cheng, *Yi Choong Liew Eugene Leong, Edward Ee, Mark Heath Dn Michael Lee
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Kenny Chia, Julia Chia, Shie Tian Wong	Yi Choong Liew, Ellainne Cheng, Lilian Cheo
P.A. System	Kenny Chia	Albert Ho
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
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

### Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)
South Perth	Hall A: Yew Jinn Chieng Hall B: Allan Ang	Hall A: Yew Jinn Chieng Hall B: Caleb Cheng
Berrington	Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)
Bull Creek	Yew Jinn Chieng	Kenny Tan

### APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	13/12	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pstr Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng, Dn Joel Wong, Angeline Yong
Friday	16/12	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	18/12	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/English & Mandarin Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		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 Bull Creek – RAAFA Memorial Estate, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149
		6:00 pm	Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (4/12)

Attendance: 216 (Combined-181; JSS-35); Prayer Meeting: 71

Offerings in Total: \$7563.40; General Fund: \$7563.40 (#4152-Youth Camp Fees-\$372.00; #4153-Library-\$40.00)

### SHORTER CATECHISM: What are we specially taught by these words “before me” in the first commandment?

These words before me in the first commandment teach us, that God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God. (Deuteronomy 30:17-18; Psalm 44:20-21; Ezekiel 8:12)