

GETHSEMANE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Not my will, but Thine, be done" – Luke 22:42

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A WORD ON WORSHIP

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Doxology – the ascribing of glory to God – is essential to worship. Praise, honour and homage belong to the Lord God Almighty. He alone is worthy of worship. He is our Creator, our Redeemer, our Provider, and our Joy. So, let us bow before Him and worship – “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11).

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SCRIPTURE MEMORISATION

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Door

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

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Call to Worship

Dn Kelvin Lim

Hymn 5: Command Thy Blessing From Above*

Invocation & Gloria Patri*

Responsive Scripture Reading* *Matthew 13:2-9, 18-23*

Hymn 184: Rock of Ages

Collection of Offerings

Doxology & Prayer*

Hymn 246: Open My Eyes, That I May See

Scripture Memorisation

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

“The Parable of the Soils”

Matthew 13:2-9, 18-23

Hymn 258: Lord, Thy Word Abideth*

Benediction & Threefold Amen*

** Congregation Standing*



TODAY, 15 JANUARY 2017

NEXT LORD'S DAY, 22 JANUARY 2017

9.00 – 10.00am		CHURCH CHOIR & CHILDREN'S CHOIR		CHURCH CHOIR & CHILDREN'S CHOIR	
		MALAYALAM FELLOWSHIP		MALAYALAM FELLOWSHIP	
10.30am	CHINESE SERVICE	Worship Leader: Gan Chin Hwi Preacher: Pr Daniel Lim Musician: Angeline Wong Flowers: Lee Kim Lei Refreshments: Magdalene Lim Ushers: John Peh & Lawrence Ng	Worship Leader: Gan Chin Hwi Preacher: Pr Daniel Lim Musician: Eunice Choy Flowers: Tay Soo Thian Refreshments: Gan Sheu Hoong Ushers: Chan Tuck Whye & Francis Tan		
	ENGLISH SERVICE	Worship Leader: Dn Kelvin Lim Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Musicians: Jasmine Low, Eunice Choy Ushers: Andy Lee, James Chen Marcus Peh, Ricky Yang David Ng, Julius Del Rosario Greeter: Lee Kim Lei AV Ministry: Crew No. 3 Flowers: Tomei Tan Refreshments: Stella Tan, Karen Quek Corliss Ooi, Valerie Leow Junior Worship: Choy Luan Kheng, (Jenice Choy) Sujith Samuel, (Jasmine Tan) Low Siew Lian	Worship Leader: Dn Francis Lee Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Musicians: Chloe Pawa, Ellyzabeth Samuel Yong, Andrew Teong Gerry Lee, Randy Laurencio Arvind Pawa, George Chee Mong Jee Pawa AV Ministry: Crew No. 4 Flowers: Carolyn Koshy Refreshments: Catherine Choy, Esther Quek Edeliza Ballega, Cecilia Siah Junior Worship: Edwin Quek, (Stella Tan) Pr Jeremiah Sim, (Jasmine Low) Adrian Lim		
1.30pm	FILIPINO SERVICE	Worship Leader: Eric Delina Preacher: Pr Dennis Kabingue Musician: Chloe Pawa Usher: Randy Laurencio Refreshments: Roscelle Lim	Worship Leader: Norefel Resuma Preacher: Pr Dennis Kabingue Musician: Ayn Tindaan Usher: Jordan Ballega Refreshments: Jean Tindaan		
3.30pm	LIONS HOME	Venue: 487 Bedok South Ave 2 English Speaker: Edwin Quek Dialect Speaker: Elder Alan Choy	Venue: 9 Bishan Street 13 English Speaker: Pr Jeremiah Sim Dialect Speaker: Kenneth Wong		

15 January 2017

What Sort of Church Should We Be?

Prabhudas Koshy

There are all sorts of opinions about what should characterise a church. Many ideas are being offered to church leaders by the so-called church growth experts and business strategists who claim to have developed powerful ideas, having studied many opinion surveys of the people. Their ideas and activities are enthusiastically considered as vital to becoming an effective church.

It appears that churches which implemented the opinions of the 'experts' have grown in huge numbers. They recommend more entertainment in the church services – entertaining music, dance and light-hearted preaching, etc.

We should not be consulting the modern church growth experts for any counsel with regard to what sort of church we should be. Scripture provides us with very clear advice about the kind of church we ought to be. In 1 Timothy 3:15, it is said of the church that it is “the house of God, which is the church of the

living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” Here we are given some very essential truths about what a proper church ought to be.

WE MUST ALWAYS BE THE HOUSE OF GOD

Just as it is said in 1 Timothy 3:15, seven more times it is mentioned in the New Testament that the church is “the church of God”. The emphasis in this description of the church is that God is its originator and owner. The church is God’s design, and it is meant always to remain as God’s belonging.

And in contrast to the temples of dead pagan idols, Paul says that the church is of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15). Our God is actively moulding and guiding the church to be what He wants it to be. His church is being built by Him. Jesus said, “I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18).

Every biblical church must therefore be God-centred rather than people-centred. A total dedication

to God's glory must be seen in all its ministries. Every church "ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more" (1 Thessalonians 4:1; cf. Galatians 1:10). Unfortunately, many churches today have a "consumer-focused" attitude in their ministries, thus working to please men rather than God.

A biblical church's great concern is not to please the crowd but God. The main focus of its worship and ministry must be for the glory of God rather than making people feel good. In other words, a biblical church will not be preoccupied with people's preferences but God's will. When a church is man-oriented rather than God-oriented, it ceases to function as a biblical church.

Psalm 2:11 says, "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling." In other words, when we worship and serve the Lord, we must come with joy and thanksgiving that is tempered with a respectful fear of God. A solemn recognition of God's greatness and holiness must prevail in the worship of God. So the apostle Peter wrote: "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear" (1 Peter 1:17). We can come to God without terror, but that does not mean we can conduct

ourselves without fear of His holiness and judgment. Concerning the early Jerusalem church, it is written: "And fear came upon every soul" (Acts 2:43a).

A good church, therefore, will be conscious that its pre-eminent duty is not entertaining man but glorifying God. Certainly, a church should serve its people but only when that service brings glory to the Lord.

WE MUST BE LOYAL TO GOD'S WORD

The second characteristic of the early church was an unswerving commitment of its leaders and members to God's Word. The church being "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15), we must have high regard for the perfection and authority of God's Word.

While the apostles preached and defended the truth of God's Word, the members learned and obeyed the truth. Allegiance to God's Word is a foundational trait of every good church. Acts 2:42 testifies to the continual devotion of the early church to the apostles' teaching - "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine..." This tells us that the early believers were earnestly and perpetually dedicated to the apostles' teaching; it also speaks of

enthusiasm and excitement towards it. The Greek word translated “teaching” (*didache*) encompasses both the content and the manner of the apostles' teaching. Understanding both of these fully will help us to biblically evaluate any church today.

Concerning the content of the apostles' teaching, we have the testimony of Paul in Acts 20:20-21 – “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Later, he wrote: “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

The manner of the apostle's teaching was effective and pleasing to God. The following are some vital observations concerning the manner in which the preaching of God's Word was done in the early church:

- They preached God's Word authoritatively and without apology. Paul wrote to Titus, a young pastor, saying, “These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee” (Titus 2:15).
- They preached God's Word in a relevant manner. In their sermons, they answered people's

questions and doubts; they rebuked sins and erroneous teachings; they ministered peace and joy through the exposition of God's promises; and gave guidance to those who were confused and unsure of important choices in life. Their sermons were like divine counsels for people's needs and problems (Titus 2:1-6).

- Their messages were both evangelistic and instructional (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
- They lived a life that was consistent with their preaching. Their lives were living sermons (2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; 1 Timothy 4:11-12).

It is most appropriate at this time to consider Calvin's words concerning the kind of church that we should choose. While commenting on Acts 2:42, he said, “Do we seek the true Church of Christ? The picture of it is here painted to the life. He begins with doctrine, which is the soul of the Church. He does not name doctrine of any kind but that of the apostles which the Son of God had delivered by their hands. Therefore, wherever the pure voice of the Gospel sounds forth, where men continue in the profession thereof, where they apply themselves to the regular hearing of it that they may profit thereby, there beyond all doubt is the Church.” ■

RAINBOW - II

We learned last week that the rainbow first appeared, according to Genesis 9:12-16, as a sign of God's covenantal promise to Noah that He will never again destroy the whole world by flood. Since that day, people have been able to see it in every part of the world.

Its colours are brilliant and glorious! It is one of the most spectacular light shows observed on earth! People, both children and adults alike, feel excited about this amazing phenomenon. One English poet, Wordsworth, captures our feelings when he wrote:

“My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow hanging in the skies.”

Do you know how many colours are there in a rainbow? The scientist Sir Isaac Newton, in his early physics experiments, decided that the colours of the rainbow were Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet. Many of us remember them as ROY G BIV. Nonetheless, many modern scientific articles say that the rainbow colours merge gradually into one another. Our eyes automatically sort them into groupings. It is said that the number of colours in a rainbow can range

anywhere from three to as many as several thousand! It depends on who is counting and what one believes to be there!



In Ezekiel 1:28, the Bible describes the majestic glory of the Lord and compares it with the rainbow. “As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.”

The rainbow not only reminds us of God's graciousness and faithfulness, but also His grandeur and splendour. So, next time when you see a rainbow, remember this: Soon, when Jesus takes us to God's presence in heaven, in the midst of the glory of the Lord in heaven, we shall see dazzling bright colours surrounding God's throne! O Lord, come soon and bring us to that land of glory, which You are preparing for everyone who repents of his sin and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Prabhudas Koshy

COLLECTIONS

LORD'S DAY on 08 January 2017

Tithes: 4,428.00

Offerings: 6,822.95

Bldg Fund (Project): 200.00; 100.00; 75.00;
[(\$200.00 Chinese Service)]

Designated Gifts: TGCM (local) 950.00;
460.00; Missionary Conference (2017)
100.00; Bible Witness 200.00; GBPC
(Ethiopia) 100.00; Pastor Koshy 200.00;
Seniors' Ministry 100.00; Eric Delina
100.00; Jenny Lok 50.00; Annie Ho 50.00;
Jasmine Lim 50.00; Angeline Wong 50.00;
Gina Sim 50.00; Sharon dela Cruz 50.00

NON-SUNDAY GIFT

GYF Camp: 1,000.00

SPECIAL FUND UPDATE

(as of 08 January 2017)

Building Fund (Project): \$2,106,074.70
Missionary Conf Fund 2017: \$1,195.00

**Give generously
towards our
Church Building Fund.**

"And now, behold,

*I have brought the firstfruits of the land,
which thou, O LORD, hast given me.*

*And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God,
and worship before the LORD thy God"*

Deuteronomy 26:10

GETHSEMANE YOUNG ADULTS' FELLOWSHIP

2017 Bible Study Topic: Ecclesiastes

Date: Fri, 20 Jan 2017

Time: 7:30pm

Speaker: Pastor Koshy

Chairman: Bro Ng Kwan Teng

Activity: Bible Study &
GYAF Anniversary

Venue: Home of Pastor and Mrs Koshy
Blk 826 Tampines St 81, #02-92

Singapore 520826

(Dinner provided)

AUSTRALIAN B-P CHURCHES

Anyone considering studying or working in Australia can meet with representatives of the Bible-Presbyterian Church of Western Australia (Perth) today (4.30pm-5.30pm) in Calvary Pandan B-P Church, Room #02-12. They will do their best to answer your questions or put you in contact with the relevant B-P churches in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

CATECHISM CLASS

Catechism Class commences on 22 Jan 2017 at 9.30am.

Those seeking Baptism, Affirmation of Faith or Transfer of Membership, please register with Sis Diana Koh by today.

GETHSEMANE LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

Women & Gospel Missions

Speaker: Pastor Koshy

Chairperson: Sis Mah Lean Choo

Date & Time: Sat, 21 Jan 2017, 3-5pm

Venue: Home of Sis Gina Sim
Blk 725 Tampines Street 71, #06-167
Singapore 520725

*Transport from Tampines MRT station at
2.40pm.*

Children aged 4-12 will have concurrent
GCM Programme.

GETHSEMANE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Book Study: 1 Timothy

Speaker: Bro Andrew Koh

Chairman: Bro Zacharias Tan

Date & Time: Sat, 21 Jan 2017

Bible Study: 4.00pm - 6.00pm

Venue: Home of Bro Andrew Koh
Block 472B Fernvale Street, #19-47
Singapore 792472

FAST & PRAY

We call on all members and regular worshippers to join the Tuesday Night Prayer Meeting as the Church will be meeting for the 3rd fast-and-pray session of this month.

Venue: SingPost Level 5 Auditorium
Time: 8.00pm-9.30pm

MISSIONARY CONFERENCE 2017

Theme: "That the Truth of the Gospel Might Continue with us"
(Galatians 2:5)

Date: 5-9 June 2017 (Monday-Friday)

Venue: Hilton Kuching

Please collect the registration form from the reception table and submit the completed form to Bro Ernest Lim / Bro Matthew Mah by 30 April 2017. Payment can be made from 19 March 2017. Participants are advised to book plane tickets on their own as soon as possible. Arrival at the hotel must be by 5pm on Monday, 5th June 2017. The conference will end at 12 noon on Friday, 9th June 2017.

MISSION BOGO/SAN ANTONIO 2017

April 27 - 30, 2017

Brethren interested in joining the Mission Trip to Bogo/San Antonio, the Philippines, are asked to register early on the sign-up list available at the reception table. Team members are also welcomed to attend the Combined Church Camp, to be held near Bogo (May 1-4, 2017), where Pastor will be the camp speaker. Places are limited; please see Eld Mah if more information is needed.

"365 DAILY EXHORTATIONS FROM GOD'S WORD"

For a limited period, you may acquire the devotional book at \$18.00 per copy (a discount of 10%). Actual price is \$20.00.

The audio version is available at <http://gethsemanebpc.com/resources/365-exhortation.html>

POST-WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

Please stay back after worship to join us for:

Refreshments & Fellowship

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Bible Study (Adults, Youths & Children)

1.30pm – 3.00pm

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Night Bible Study & Prayer

8.00pm @ L5 Auditorium, SingPost Centre

Wednesday Lunch Hour Bible Study

1.00pm @ Bible Witness Bookroom

Wednesday Night GBI-Online

7.45pm-9.15pm @ TGCM

Thursday Seniors' Ministry

11.00am (Please contact Pr Jeremiah Sim)

Friday Morning Prayer

7.45am – 8.30am @ Church Resource Centre

Friday Campus Bible Study

4.30pm-5.30pm @ NAFA

SUTD Semestral Break

Sunday Lions Home Ministry

For enquiry, contact Pr Jeremiah Sim

*For more information, please call
the church office at 6741 1910.*



Bible Witness
Magazine



Bible Witness
Web Radio



Church
Weekly

Time & Place of Worship

10.30am

Level 5 Auditorium

Singapore Post Centre

10 Eunos Road 8

Singapore 408600

(next to Paya Lebar MRT station)

Prayer Hotline

8138 8139

SMS or WhatsApp

your prayer item

Our Office

510 Geylang Road, #02-06

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Fax: 6741 1016

Our Websites

gethsemanebpc.com

biblewitness.com

Our Pastor

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Mobile: 9001 1119

Email: pastor.gbpc@gmail.com

Our Session

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Elder Mah Chin Kwang

Elder Alan Choy

Elder Ng Poh Kok

Deacon Daniel Lim

Deacon Lok Kwok Wah

Deacon Kelvin Lim

Deacon Francis Lee

Deacon Low Boon Siang