

# GETHSEMANE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

---

⌘

## A WORD ON WORSHIP

---

⌘

Christian worship is Theocentric and Christocentric. Only through the Lord Jesus Christ can one ever acceptably come before God (John 14:6; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 John 9). Furthermore, if God the Father hath not granted a man to come to His Son, the Lord Jesus, no one can come to Christ (cf. John 6:45, 65). So, both the Father and the Son are engaged in mutual glorification in the hearts of the people of God (cf. John 13:31-32). In fact, the Holy Spirit is also at work in our hearts to glorify Christ (cf. John 16:13-14).

---

⌘

## SCRIPTURE MEMORISATION

---

⌘

*Doorkeeper*

### **Psalm 84:10**

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.  
I had rather be a doorkeeper  
in the house of my God,  
than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

---

⌘

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

---

⌘

### **Call to Worship**

*Elder Alan Choy*

Hymn 32: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise\*

### **Invocation & Gloria Patri\***

### **Responsive Scripture Reading\***

*Psalm 97*

Hymn 262: I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!

### **Collection of Offerings**

### **Doxology & Prayer\***

Hymn 399: I Am Thine, O Lord

### **Scripture Memorisation**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Sermon**

*Pastor Prabhudas Koshy*

*"Parable of the Leaven"*

*Matthew 13:33*

Hymn: The Kingdom of God

### **Benediction & Threefold Amen\***

*\* Congregation Standing*



**TODAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2017**

**NEXT LORD'S DAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2017**

9.00 – 10.00am		CHURCH CHOIR & CHILDREN'S CHOIR	CHURCH CHOIR & CHILDREN'S CHOIR
		MALAYALAM FELLOWSHIP	MALAYALAM FELLOWSHIP
10.30am	CHINESE SERVICE	<b>Worship Leader:</b> Gan Chin Hwi <b>Preacher:</b> Pr Daniel Lim <b>Musician:</b> Dyllis Teo <b>Flowers:</b> Winnie Yap <b>Refreshments:</b> Maggie Ho <b>Ushers:</b> John Peh & Lawrence Ng	<b>Worship Leader:</b> Elder Alan Choy <b>Preacher:</b> Pr Daniel Lim <b>Musician:</b> Eunice Choy <b>Flowers:</b> Lee Kim Lei <b>Refreshments:</b> Jennifer Goh <b>Ushers:</b> Chan Tuck Whye & Francis Tan
	ENGLISH SERVICE	<b>Worship Leader:</b> Elder Alan Choy <b>Preacher:</b> Pastor Prabhudas Koshy <b>Musicians:</b> Eunice Choy, Sarah Lee Ng Kwan Teng, Theodore Wang Lijoy George, Cayson Chok Timotheus Liu, Chan Tuck Whye Sally Lum <b>Greeter:</b> <b>AV Ministry:</b> Crew No. 3 <b>Flowers:</b> Jessie Ng <b>Refreshments:</b> Yeo Geok Hien, Rachel Teo Lok Qian Hui, Mary Ong <b>Junior Worship:</b> Pr Kelvin Lim, (Lok Qian Hui) Melissa Mah, (Cecilia Siah) Stephanie Lee	<b>Worship Leader:</b> Elder Ng Poh Kok <b>Preacher:</b> Pastor Prabhudas Koshy <b>Musicians:</b> Dorcas Koshy, Ellyzabeth Andy Lee, James Chen Marcus Peh, Ricky Yang David Ng, Stephen Yap Violet Quek <b>Greeter:</b> <b>AV Ministry:</b> Crew No. 4 <b>Flowers:</b> Diana Chan <b>Refreshments:</b> Stella Tan, Karen Quek Corliss Ooi, Valerie Leow Lee Kim Lei, (Eunice Choy) Carolyn Koshy, (Cornelius Koshy) Pr Ho Kee How
1.30pm	FILIPINO SERVICE	<b>Worship Leader:</b> Norefel Resuma <b>Preacher:</b> Pr Dennis Kabingue <b>Musician:</b> Duaine Kabingue <b>Usher:</b> Jomart Tindaan <b>Refreshments:</b> Joy Del Rosario	<b>Worship Leader:</b> Eric Delina <b>Preacher:</b> Pr Dennis Kabingue <b>Musician:</b> Dorcas Koshy <b>Usher:</b> Randy Laurencio <b>Refreshments:</b> Edeliza Ballaga
3.30pm	LIONS HOME	<b>Venue:</b> 9 Bishan Street 13 <b>English Speaker:</b> Elder Mah Chin Kwang <b>Dialect Speaker:</b> Pr Kelvin Lim	<b>Venue:</b> 487 Bedok South Ave 2 <b>English Speaker:</b> Arvind Pawa <b>Dialect Speaker:</b> Kenneth Wong

12 February 2017

# Preparing to Seek God

*Andrew Koh*

## **Examples and Consequences of Unpreparedness**

If one has a petition to make before a king, one will be mindful to prepare oneself before an audience with the king. One would think through very carefully what to say, what clothes to adorn for the occasion, and the proper conduct to behave before royalties. It would be audacious to rush into the king's palace without proper preparation. Similarly, it is inappropriate for Christians to demand God's attention without proper preparation.

The Most High God has graciously provided ways to interact with Him. He has not saved us to leave us alone, but wants us to involve Him in all aspects of our life. We can sing praises to Him in hymns, psalms and spiritual songs, pray to Him and intercede on others' behalf, and go before Him in worship and devotion. Preparing to seek God prepares us for the intimate interaction between God and us. Scripture is full of instances of godly saints who sought God not at the spur of the moment, but by making due preparations.

However, there are exceptional cases when it will be almost impossible to prepare due to our critical, urgent circumstances. When Peter was drowning in the boisterous sea, he was utterly helpless and could

only cry out, "Lord, save me" (Matthew 14:30). If we are suddenly caught in a similar manner, the Lord will be very gracious to receive us just as how Jesus reached out to Peter as He "stretched forth his hand, and caught him" (v. 31) out of the boisterous sea. Nonetheless, under normal circumstances, the failure to prepare oneself to seek God will lead to dire consequences and may lead one to do evil.

For instance, it was recorded that King Rehoboam of the Old Testament did evil because he did not prepare himself to seek God. "And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord" (2 Chronicles 12:14). God attributes Rehoboam's evil doing to his lack of preparation to seek Him. Rather than being drawn to God, a Christian who is not prepared to be drawn close to God will be drawn to evil. The inclination to do evil starts with an ill-prepared heart to seek God. Also, during King Jehoshaphat's reign, the people of Judah were unrepentant of their sins and remained in their evil ways because they had not prepared their hearts unto God. Regardless of King Jehoshaphat being a godly king (2 Chronicles 20:32), the heart condition of the people was not set aright. "Howbeit the high places were

not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers” (2 Chronicles 20:33). The Israelites did not remove the idolatrous places of worship because they did not prepare their hearts unto God, showing an unrepentant heart that is not willing to let go of harboured sins. In God’s sight, Christians who do not prepare and set the hearts aright are deemed as being “stubborn and rebellious” (Psalm 78:8). Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to make preparation to seek God. How can we do that?

### **Meaning of the Word “Prepare”**

How to prepare one’s heart can be gleaned from the meaning of the Hebrew word often translated as “prepare”. It gives the idea of setting up something so as to make it firm and established. It means to make something unmoveable like the foundation of a house. It speaks of a resolve and determination to do something. Seeking God begins with an unmoveable and undeterred resolve to go before Him. No circumstances and feelings will stop a Christian who is resolved to seek God. The affairs of life must not be excuses for one not to go before God. Psalm 57:7 reflects David’s determination to seek God. The verse says, “My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.” David did not let any difficult circumstances stop him from singing unto and praising God. Even when David’s enemies “have prepared a net” for his steps and “have digged a pit before” him (Psalm 57:6),

David was resolved even in life-threatening situations to give glory unto God by singing and praising Him. In all circumstances, we must be determined to praise God rather than let situations dictate how we act.

To further reinforce the idea of preparedness, we shall look at the various examples in the Bible of people who prepared before they sought God.

### **Biblical Examples of Preparation**

#### ***Priests washed their hands and feet in the laver of brass***

The priests of the Old Testament were commanded by God to wash their hands and feet in a laver of brass filled with water before they went into the Tabernacle of the congregation or before they approached the altar of sacrifice (Exodus 30:17-21). It was mandatory for priests to have their hands and feet washed before they went into the Tabernacle, which symbolised the very presence of God. They must also wash their hands and feet before they offered animal sacrifices on the altar.

Therefore, Christians must be prepared to be cleansed of their sins when they approach God in prayer or do any of God’s work. No one should come before God or be engaged in any service unto God with any idea of keeping some secret sins. God will only accept one who has “clean hands, and a pure heart” (Psalm 24:4) to “ascend into the hill of the Lord” (Psalm 24:3).

God has an extremely high view of the manner His people approach Him or do His work. Any priest during

Moses' days who failed to wash his hands or feet before they went into the Tabernacle or burnt offerings would die (Exodus 30:20). It is thus of utmost importance that Christians come before God in full consecration unto holiness.

***Sacrifice of Isaac***

God commanded the patriarch Abraham to offer Isaac, his son, as a sacrifice to Him on Mount Moriah. It was a test designed by God for Abraham to see if he would obey God or not. It was the way that God dictated Abraham to approach Him. Despite the extreme difficulty in performing this sacrifice, Abraham made ample preparation to the best of his ability to fulfil what God required. "And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him (Genesis 22:3)." Abraham woke up early to make the three-day journey from Beersheba to Mount Moriah. Abraham was undeterred from making the long journey to where God wanted him to perform the sacrifice. He also prepared two young men to carry the wood for the sacrifice. Abraham wanted to make sure that the sacrifice would be carried out without any hindrances.

It is quite unlikely that any of us is required by God to go through the exact same test that Abraham

went through. But we can learn from the way in which he overcame all obstacles in order to approach God. Similarly, Christians are to expect obstacles when we seek God. In spite of hindrances, let us all duly overcome them so that we may approach God.

***Jesus rose up early in the morning***

Jesus gave us a perfect example in the way He prepared Himself to pray. He woke up very early in the morning and retreated to places where He could pray. Luke 1:35 says, "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Waking up early and withdrawing ourselves are ways in which we can prepare ourselves to seek God. In a typical day, a person will be busy and occupied with his daily tasks. He has to handle many different issues that come his way. Rising up early sets a time apart that will free up a person to seek God. Likewise, Job had this godly resolve to rise up early and offer burnt offerings for his children (Job 1:5). Rising up early and setting oneself apart is a godly habit to adopt.

**Conclusion**

In the issues of life, we would often make preparations for what is to come. We will plan meticulously and prepare in anticipation of the future. We try to be as diligent as we can to prepare ourselves for what might come our way. All the more in your spiritual life, will you ready yourself to seek God?

# LESSONS FROM THE FOWLS OF THE AIR

*Matthew 6:26*

*Jesus said, "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"*

**J**esus asked us to consider the birds of the sky that we may learn to live everyday without worries and fears. Though the birds do not have the ability to sow and reap, Jesus says that God, our Father, feeds all the birds.

Now the Lord turns to us and asks, "Are ye not much better than they?" In other words, we are more precious to God than the birds. He is committed to taking care of His children more than all other creatures on earth. So, we should not worry about anything about our life on earth. If the Lord cares for the birds, then we can be absolutely confident that He will care much more for us.

In these days, children suffer from many kinds of phobias or fears. Some are afraid that they will be rejected by schoolmates or other children in the church.

Some are worried about their appearance. Some are concerned that they are too big. Some others are concerned that they are too short. Some are worried about exams in school. There are also those who are so concerned about what clothes they ought to wear.

Children, the Lord wants us not to worry at all. He wants us to believe that He will look after all our needs and help us with our problems. We should not allow our minds to be troubled, and worry about our appearance, abilities or achievements. God loves all His children very dearly, no matter what their situation is. He cares for them all.

Remember, He loved us so much that He died to save us. So we can be very assured that He will look after us all the days of our lives. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

Jesus says, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:31-33).

*Prabhudas Koshy*



*Duck  
taken from*

*Artist: Igor Lukyanov*

## COLLECTIONS

LORD'S DAY on 5 February 2017

**Tithes:** 4,510.00

**Offerings:** 11,033.95

**Bldg Fund (Project):** 5,000.00; 1,900.00;  
1,020.00; 150.00; 100.00; 50.00; 30.00

**Missionary Conf Fund 2017:** 5,000.00;  
400.00; 378.00; 122.00

**Designated Gifts:** GBPC (Ethiopia) 200.00;  
100.00; Kenneth & Angeline 100.00; Sujith  
Samuel 50.00; 50.00; Ajay Daram 50.00;  
Aron Paiva 50.00

### NON-SUNDAY GIFT

**Missionary Conf Fund 2017:**

6,000.00; 2,000.00

**Bldg Fund (Project):** 1,300.00; 100.00

**Bible Witness:** 200.00

**General Fund:** 300.00

### SPECIAL FUND UPDATE

*(as of 5 February 2017)*

**Building Fund (Project):** \$2,123,290.70

**Missionary Conf Fund 2017:** \$22,495.00

## BIBLE WITNESS MAGAZINE

The latest issue on:  
“Pertinent Counsels for Christian Youths”  
is available at the reception table.

*(Feel free to take as many copies as  
you need to give to others for their  
spiritual admonition and edification.)*

## GETHSEMANE YOUNG ADULTS' FELLOWSHIP

**2017 Bible Study Topic:** Ecclesiastes

**Date:** Fri, 17 Feb 2017

**Time:** 7.30pm (Dinner provided)

**Speaker:** Pastor Koshy

**Chairman:** Bro Aron Ong

**Activity:** Bible Study

**Venue:** Home of Mr & Mrs Elvin Siew  
Block 372 Hougang Street 31, #15-43  
Singapore 530372

## GETHSEMANE LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

**Women & Gospel Missions**

**Speaker:** Pastor Koshy

**Chairperson:** Sis Angeline Wong

**Date & Time:** Sat, 18 Feb 2017, 3-5pm

**Venue:** Home of Sis Mah Lean Choo  
45A Jalan Senang  
Singapore 418335

*Transport from Kembangan MRT station  
at 2.40pm.*

Children aged 4-12 will have concurrent  
GCM Programme.

## PASTORAL VISITATION BEDOK SOUTH/MARINE PARADE REGION

**Date & Time:** 24 Feb 2017, 8.00pm

**Venue:** Home of Mr & Mrs Chong Khai  
Siang  
709 Tampines St 71, #16-112  
Singapore 520709

## GETHSEMANE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

**Topic:** Book Study of 1 Timothy

**Speaker:** Bro Andrew Koh

**Chairman:** Bro Cornelius Koshy

**Date & Time:** Sat, 18 Feb 2017

Choir Practice: 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Bible Study: 3.45pm - 5.00pm

**Venue:** Home of Sis Katherin Wu  
Blk 27 Balam Road, #07-31  
Singapore 370027

## GETHSEMANE YOUNG MOTHERS' FELLOWSHIP

**Topic:** Trials in Faithful Motherhood (I)

**Speaker:** Pastor Koshy

**Chairperson:** Sis Lynn Koh

**Date & Time:** Fri, 24 Feb, 4-6pm

**Venue:** Home of Sis Simmi Lijoy

Blk 35 Hougang Ave 5, #04-04  
Evergreen Park, Singapore 538802

*Please email any questions related to the above  
topic to [gethsemaneyoungmothers@gmail.com](mailto:gethsemaneyoungmothers@gmail.com)  
before the meeting.*

## TEACHER TRAINING SESSION

*conducted by GCM*

This training is for church members who would  
like to serve as teachers or assistant teachers of  
our various programmes for children.

**Date & Time:** 26th Feb, 1.30-3.00pm

**Venue:** Powder Room, Level 6  
SingPost Centre

Today is the last day to sign up.

## GETHSEMANE CHINESE GOSPEL RALLY

**Speaker:** Pr Daniel Lim

**Date & Time:** Sat, 1 April 2017, 2.00-4.00pm

**Venue:** City Beach Resort  
8 Port Rd, Singapore 117540

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your loved ones, relatives and friends to hear the Gospel message.

Please register at the reception table.

## 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

**Camp Fees\* (excluding airfare):**

Single \$500/camper	Child (4-11) \$135 (with bed)
Twin-sharing \$360/camper	Child (4-11) \$75 (without bed)
Triple-sharing \$360/camper	Child (below 4) Free (without bed)

\*An additional night in Hilton  
Kuching is at S\$80 per room.

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.

If you have any questions, please approach Dn Low Boon Siang.

## CHANGE OF STAFF (TGCM PRINTING)

Bro John Peh has taken the place of Roy Lee, who has resigned from TGCM, in matters pertaining to printing. We advise all to call Bro John (9118 8492) for placing orders or information on printing matters. Bro Linus Kok will continue to co-labour with Bro John.

## 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  
Singapore 389466  
Tel: 6741 1910  
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