

# GETHSEMANE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## A WORD ON WORSHIP

We worship on the first day of the week after the tradition of early Christians (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). The first day of the week was also known as "the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10). "The Lord's day" means the day pertaining to the Lord. It was the day of Christ's resurrection (Matthew 28:1-6; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1), and it was also the day the risen Christ appeared to His disciples as they gathered together (John 20:19). Obviously, those reasons have led Christians to meet for worship on the first day of the week. The writings of the early church fathers also bear witness to those facts. So, let us also according to this biblical tradition, rejoice and worship the Lord.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORISATION

*Desire*

**1 Peter 2:2**

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Call to Worship

*Dn Low Boon Siang*

\*Hymn 23: O Splendour of God's Glory Bright

### \*Invocation & Gloria Patri

### \*Responsive Scripture Reading

*1 Thess. 5:11-28*

Hymn 117: In Tenderness He Sought Me

### Collection of Offerings

### \*Doxology & Prayer

Hymn 372: More Holiness Give Me

### Scripture Memorisation

### \*Pastoral Prayer

### Sermon

*Pastor Prabhudas Koshy*

"The King's Woe on False Leaders"

*Matthew 23:13-33*

\*Hymn 412: Fight the Good Fight

### \*Benediction & Threefold Amen

*\* Congregation Standing*



TODAY, 21 OCTOBER 2018

NEXT LORD'S DAY, 28 OCTOBER 2018

8.00 – 9.00am		CHURCH CHOIR	CHURCH CHOIR
9.00am		CHINESE SERVICE	CHINESE SERVICE
		ADULTS' BIBLE STUDY (GBI-REVELATION)	ADULTS' BIBLE STUDY (GBI-REVELATION)
		CHILDREN'S CHOIR & CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY	CHILDREN'S CHOIR & CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY
11.00am	ENGLISH SERVICE	<p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Dn Low Boon Siang  <b>Preacher:</b> Pastor Prabhudas Koshy  <b>Musicians:</b> Eunice Choy, Sarah Teo  <b>Ushers:</b> Bernard Lim (i/c)                      Amoz Choy, Theodore Wang                      Jason Low, Stephen Yap                      Timotheus Liu, Linus Kok</p> <p><b>Greeter:</b> Aileen Yan  <b>AV Ministry:</b> John Ku, Andy Lee                      Aidan Kang, Matthew Peh</p> <p><b>Flowers:</b> Carolyn Koshy  <b>Refreshments:</b> Violet Quek, Edeliza Ballega                      Rachel Teo, Corliss Ooi</p> <p><b>Junior Worship:</b> Lee Kim Lei, (Eunice Choy)                      Pr Kelvin Lim, (Jean Tindaan)                      Annie Ho</p>	<p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Elder Ng Poh Kok  <b>Preacher:</b> Pr Jeremiah Sim  <b>Musicians:</b> Ellyzabeth, Jeremy Teo  <b>Ushers:</b> David Tan (i/c)                      Cornelius Koshy, Danial Wong                      Jonathon Lim, Cayson Chok                      Marcus Lim, John Peh</p> <p><b>Greeter:</b> Lee Kim Lei  <b>AV Ministry:</b> John Zhang, David Kablingue                      Khoo Xin Hao, Zacharias Tan</p> <p><b>Flowers:</b> Diana Koh  <b>Refreshments:</b> Lena Chan, Khoo May Ping                      Cecilia Siah, Mary Chan</p> <p><b>Junior Worship:</b> Diana Chan, (Jenice Choy)                      Gina Sim, (Sarah Lee)                      Carolyn Koshy</p>
2.00pm	OTHER MINISTRIES	FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP	FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP
		MALAYALAM FELLOWSHIP	MALAYALAM FELLOWSHIP
		CATECHISM CLASS	CATECHISM CLASS
		YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE	YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE <i>(Cancelled in view of Evangelism)</i>
3.30pm	LIONS HOME	<p><b>Venue:</b> 487 Bedok South Ave 2  <b>English Speaker:</b> Pr Jeremiah Sim  <b>Dialect Speaker:</b> Pr Kelvin Lim</p>	<p><b>Venue:</b> 9 Bishan Street 13  <b>English Speaker:</b> Bro Edwin Quek  <b>Dialect Speaker:</b> Elder Alan Choy</p>

21 October 2018

# Worthy Defenders of God's Word - I

*(Starting today, in commemoration of the Reformation of the 16th century, we will be publishing portions of Pastor Koshy's message, "Defence of the Word by the Church", preached in the 4th Missionary Conference of Gethsemane B-P Church [June 23-27, 2014]. The message was based on Jeremiah 23:16 -22. May the Lord keep our church faithful in the proclamation of His Word.)*

The record of Jeremiah 23 demonstrates to us how those who profess to be God's people can become miserable custodians of God's truth and glory. From this account of Israel's wretched failure to be keepers of God's Word, we can draw some precious lessons on how we ought to conduct ourselves as "the pillar and ground of the truth".

## **BE FAITHFUL BELIEVERS**

Notice how vexed the LORD was when he spoke the words in Jeremiah 23, because the house of Israel and its prophets have failed to remain faithful to God's word. His prophet

Jeremiah said, "Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness. For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right. For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD" (vv. 9-11).

Surely, the disobedient and unfaithful men in the church cannot be defenders of God's Word.

When we do not give ourselves to knowing and obeying His Word, we dishonour the majesty of His Word. Indifferent and disobedient churchgoers are actually troublemakers in God's house. They become agents of the enemy of God in His house. By their disobedient conduct, they promote disorderliness, unholiness and defiance in the church.

My dear friends, I will not neglect to put you in remembrance of the church's duty to hold up God's Word by her faith and obedience; that is how the church ought to defend it. We do not have to do anything extraordinary to defend His Word. Just believe all that His Word says and do all that it commands. When the LORD in His Word says to the preacher to rebuke the people's sins, he should do just that. When the LORD says, "Lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us", you should just obey His Word to you! When His Word commands you to stop loving the world, or beware of loving your parents, spouse, children or siblings more than the LORD, you should

readily obey it. If, through His Word, the LORD calls you to give up your life's career to be a preacher, pastor, missionary or a full-time church worker, you must yield immediately to it. If you have done as the Word of God commands you to, then you have defended God's Word by your life.

When you hear the LORD's voice and respond to it as the majestic Word of God, you have allowed His glory to shine through you. Thus, you become a faithful servant of God who gives of himself to do what He requires. On the other hand, if you do not align yourself with God's Word, you are not a defender. You may teach apologetics or theology, and you may even be a theologian or a polemical writer of Christian articles yourself, but if you are disobedient to His Word, you will never be its defender.

### **BE FAITHFUL PREACHERS OF HIS WORD**

Further note some mind-boggling indictments that the LORD has uttered through Jeremiah. "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Harken not

unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you” (Jeremiah 27:16a). Why would God tell the people not to listen to their prophets? Because “they prophesy a lie unto you” (Jeremiah 27:16b). Moreover, according to verse 16, “they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.” Everyone who speaks out of his own heart and disregards the truth God has revealed, is a “corruptor” of God’s Word. He is a deceiver of God’s people, certainly not a defender of God’s truth, for he gives credence to his own thoughts over God’s thoughts.

The pulpit is not a place for anyone to show off how clever he is, how smart he is, or how witty he is. This is God’s platform; this is a sanctified place! Too many preachers often desecrate this hallowed place by their self-asserting, self-promoting words, which detract from the truths of God’s Word. They are engrossed in showing off their own intellect and self-righteousness, and in asserting their personal authority. They use the LORD’s name, His church and even His

Word for their despicable self-aggrandizement. Such men are abusers of holy things, even His Word and the church. They are not defenders, but defilers of God’s Word.

I readily confess my fear that we who are preachers, if not watchful, tend to serve our minds rather than the will of God. When our preaching becomes a showmanship of our intellectual abilities and oratorical skills, we pervert God’s glorious truth. God forbid that we preach to promote ourselves! Our hearts must love God’s truth. We must give all glory, honour and praise to Him. Let every preacher pray that he will not stand in the pride of his intelligence, but utter the words of God accurately in humble obedience, without distorting them. That is the way we defend God’s Word. We must cease from prideful human intelligence if ever we were to be defenders of God’s Word. So let every preacher pray, “O LORD, teach me and make me to know what Thou hast spoken in Thy Word, and let me only declare that which Thou hast revealed in Thy Word.”

## **BE REBUKERS OF UNGODLINESS**

In verse 17, we notice that the LORD was angry with the prophets of Judah because they didn't defend the righteousness and judgment of God's Word by preaching against the evildoers: "They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you." They would say to those who were walking wickedly, "God's peace be with you"! Instead of rebuking them and proclaiming God's judgment against their sins, they cheered them on by assuring them that no evil would befall them. God detested those pastors of Israel who spoke words of peace to evildoers.

Because of the prophets' and priests' tolerance of wickedness among the people, the LORD had earlier severely censured them: "For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD... I have seen also in the prophets

of Jerusalem an horrible thing; they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also

the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah" (vv. 11, 14). Those religious leaders were men-pleasers rather than God-pleasers. They craved the support of worldly men over God and His righteousness. They permitted and promoted carnal pleasures among men in place of God's truth, righteousness and judgment. In direct defiance against the Lord's clear message, they would rather not upset the hearts of the wicked ones among the Israelites!

Jeremiah's time reminds us of our woeful situation today. Preachers and pastors are increasingly hesitant to rebuke the worldliness and ungodliness in the church. Though many preachers deliver excellent expository sermons with eloquence, scarcely any applies the truth of God's Word to the lives of the people in order to confront and convict them of their sins.

Preachers' hesitation to rebuke sin has sadly resulted in the worsening moral condition of the churches of our time. As few men on the pulpit today rebuke sin and exhort people to a modest, chaste and holy life, should we be surprised that evil men and seducers wax worse and worse, even in churches? Increasingly, we see churches turning into entertainment centres or academic forums, rather than places of transformation of sinful men unto the LORD's glory.

It is utterly important that in our churches, we are committed to urge one another unto purity of life through the obedience of God's Word. If we develop an accepting attitude towards those living wickedly among us, by rationalising thus: "O let us not make a fuss about it. After all, you know, people are prone to err", we despise and defy the glory of His Word that demands repentance from evil ways and consecration towards godly living. Do not forget, God hated the prophets for despising His truth when they refused to reprimand the wickedness of Israel.

By not insisting on Scripture's demand for personal holiness, they poured contempt on its holy commands. They thus failed to defend the demands of Scripture. The preacher's hesitation and refusal to denounce sin is a direct challenge to the authority and wisdom of God's Word.

If we are ever going to be defenders of God's Word, let every man, who is the head of the family, nurture his family according to God's Word. Let him also pray, "O LORD, sanctify us by Thy Word. Sanctify me, sanctify my wife, sanctify my daughter and my son." Let every man, every family and every church wield God's sword to fight off every sin. Let every preacher, every elder, every man and woman, every youth and every child in the church resolve to fight off sin according to His Word. Nothing glorifies God and His Word more than our willingness to battle against sin and falsehood.



# Babies' Cry for the Milk

*"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."*

1 Peter 2:2

Babies cry when they are hungry, no matter where they are or what time it is. Newborn children's intense desire and cry for milk is never thought to be an unwholesome thing. Even though the babies' cry for milk might be very loud and persistent, we know that it is a sign of their good health and growth. Their intense craving for milk is the desperation they feel for the nourishment that they need to live and develop.

Likewise, every genuine, growing Christian must be characterised by a strong craving for the Word of God. This strong craving for the Word must not be confused with the passion of those who consume and propagate false doctrines. Our desire ought to be for "the sincere milk" of the Word. The word "sincere" means "without mixture". In other words, the doctrines of the Bible must not be mixed with the false opinions and ideas of men.

Without feeding on the sound doctrines of the Bible, we cannot grow spiritually. So dear children, as you grow in the church, be excited to learn all the good doctrines of the Bible.

*Prabhudas Koshy*



## COLLECTIONS

LORD'S DAY on 14th October 2018

**Tithes:** 5,873.00

**Offerings:** 9,472.00

**Building Fund (Project):** 50.00

**Designated Gifts:** TGCM 500.00; Kerala Relief Fund 100.00; GBPC (Ethiopia) 50.00; Pr Engida 50.00; Dn Imane 50.00; GBI Ethiopian Student Meals 100.00; Pr Samson Hutagalung 50.00; Pr Jeremiah Sim 50.00; Sis Annie Ho 200.00

### NON-SUNDAY GIFTS

**Building Fund (Project):** 100.00

**Designated Gifts:** General Fund 400.00; Bible Witness 200.00

### BUILDING FUND UPDATE

*(Cash at bank as of 19th October 2018)*

\$5,171,323.32

*(Inclusive of: (i) weekly collections, (ii) entire proceeds from the sale of the CRC, (iii) interest from fixed deposits and (iv) remaining funds from previous Building Fund collection)*

## GETHSEMANE YOUNG MOTHERS' FELLOWSHIP

**Speaker:** Pr Kelvin Lim

**Chairperson:** Sis Merisa Teong

**Date & Time:** Fri, 26 Oct 2018, 4-6pm

**Venue:** Home of Sis Sophia Zhang  
Blk 79E, Toa Payoh Central, #09-75  
Singapore 315079

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

## GETHSEMANE ADULTS' FELLOWSHIP

**Speaker:** Pr Dennis Kabingue

**Chairman:** Bro Benny Skariah

**Date:** Sat, 27 Oct 2018

**Time:** 4.00pm to 6.00pm

**Venue:** Home of Mr & Mrs Benny Skariah  
Blk 690D, Woodlands Drive 75, #04-190  
Singapore 734690

*A concurrent separate programme will be catered for children aged 4-12.*

Transport will be provided from Admiralty MRT Station Exit C at 3.40pm.

## GETHSEMANE YOUNG ADULTS' FELLOWSHIP

**Combined Meeting with True Life YAF**

**Speaker:** Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

**Date & Time:** Sat, 3 Nov 2018, 3-6pm

**Venue:** City Beach Resort  
(Small Function Room)

8 Port Road, Singapore 117540

*Kindly indicate your attendance at the reception table to facilitate planning.*

## SUNDAY EVANGELISM

There will be an evangelism session after the worship service next week. Please meet at the foyer at 1.45pm. We will be headed to *Block 9, Bedok South Avenue 2, Singapore 460009.*

## FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP 17TH ANNIVERSARY

**(Combined with English Service)**

**Speaker:** Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

**Date & Time:** Sun, 11 Nov 2018, 11.00am

**Venue:** SingPost Level 5 Auditorium

This is held in thanksgiving to our God for 17 years of Gethsemane Filipino Fellowship.

*Lunch will be catered at \$5.50 per person. Please make your payment to Sis Aileen Yan.*

## SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Those who would like packet lunch after worship service for the month of November, kindly place your order with Sis Aileen Yan and make your payment by next week.

### GETHSEMANE DEFENDERS' MINISTRY (GDM) SEMINAR

**Topic:** "New Calvinism"

**Speaker:** Pr Ko Linggang

**Date:** 6th November 2018 (Tuesday)

**Time:** 9.15am - 12.30pm

**Venue:** SingPost Auditorium Level 5

Please sign up at the reception table.

*There will be a concurrent programme  
for children aged 4-12.*

We will have a lunch break after the seminar, following which, we will have our prayer meeting at 2pm.

### TURKEY-ISRAEL BIBLE STUDY TOUR (Organised by Bible Witness Media Ministry)

**Date:** 26th Nov - 7th Dec 2018

Visiting the Seven Churches of Revelation and other historical sites in the Asia Minor region.

*\*Only five seats left!*

**For an excellent learning opportunity and  
an enriching experience, sign up quickly!**

*For more information, please  
approach Dn Lok Kwok Wah.*

### POST-WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

*Please stay back after worship to join us for:*

#### Refreshment & Fellowship

1.00pm – 2.00pm

#### Catechism Class, Malayalam Fellowship,

#### Filipino Fellowship, Youth Choir

2.00pm onwards

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### Tuesday Night Bible Study & Prayer

8.00pm @ L5 Auditorium, SingPost Centre

#### Wednesday Lunch Hour Bible Study

1.00pm @ Bible Witness Bookroom

#### Thursday Seniors' Ministry

11.00am (Please contact Pr Jeremiah Sim)

#### Campus Bible Study

Mondays, 11.00am @ NAFA

Break @ SUTD

#### 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

11.00am

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

#### (Temporary Mailing Address)

Singapore Post Centre

P.O. Box 1124

Singapore 914038

Tel: 6741 1910

#### Our Websites

[gethsemanebpc.com](http://gethsemanebpc.com)

[biblewitness.com](http://biblewitness.com)

[gbi-online.com](http://gbi-online.com)

#### Our Pastor

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Mobile: 9001 1119

Email: [pastor.gbpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.gbpc@gmail.com)

#### Our Session

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Elder Mah Chin Kwang

Elder Alan Choy

Elder Ng Poh Kok

Elder Francis Lee

Deacon Daniel Lim

Deacon Lok Kwok Wah

Deacon Kelvin Lim

Deacon Low Boon Siang