

GETHSEMANE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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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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Ear

Proverbs 20:12

The hearing ear, and the seeing eye,
the LORD hath made even both of them.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

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Call to Worship

*Hymn 2: O Worship the King

***Invocation & Psalm 90:1-2**

***Scripture Reading in Unison**

Matthew 6:5-13

Hymn 278: Look to the Lamb of God

Scripture Memorisation

Hymn 358: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

***Pastoral Prayer**

Sermon

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

“Jesus Calls Us To Enter The Closet of Prayer”

Matthew 6:6

*Hymn 365: Teach Me to Pray

***Benediction & Threefold Amen**

** Congregation Standing*



5 July 2020

Ye Are Not Your Own

Prabhudas Koshy

What does Paul mean by the statement in 1 Corinthians 6:19 - “ye are not your own”?

It is instructive to note that even those who claim that “I am my own” are bound by circumstances, relationships, etc. No one is entirely free. Hence, none is fully independent in his decisions, speech and actions. One may differ from certain people, but others will influence or affect him.

The principle that the apostle Paul emphasises here is that every Christian belongs entirely to God. His soul and body are not his own, but God’s. This is one of the most elementary principles of Christian thought and life. The essence of Christianity is a voluntary surrender of will and life to Christ. No Christian should claim that he is the master of his own life, even though everyone naturally wants to think that he is his own master.

Christians are not their own. Christians are the Lord’s purchased possession. “For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which

are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:20). The divine possession of every Christian is a real, permanent, and blessed truth. If we could only realise it more!

To be mindful that we are not ours, but the Lord’s is not some dangerous fanaticism. It is a calm and dignified assurance within our souls that strengthens us to live consciously with holy and glorious aspirations. What strength and beauty it would give to our life!

When Christians appreciates this truth, they yield their hearts to Christ! Then their thoughts are not their own, but are subject to the Lord who redeemed them for Himself. Their abilities, time and resources are not theirs, but are to be consecrated to Him who is their Saviour and Lord.

Christianity is violated and demeaned when those who claim to be Christians refuse to yield their souls and bodies entirely to their Saviour and Lord. The Apostle asked, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and

ye are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19). As Christians, our bodies are not our own to use in any way that would defy or displease the Lord who owns them entirely.

Paul emphasises that Christians are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who has made their body His residence. So Paul called them to abstain from sexual sins, that their body be kept sanctified as the temple of the Holy Spirit who indwells them. Committing fornication is as disgusting as committing sexual sins in a worship sanctuary. Whenever sexual immorality is committed by believers, abomination is committed within God’s sanctuary. Every sin committed in a Christian’s body is a defiling act within the temple of God. Christians’ bodies are God’s temple, reserved for

His praise and purposes. Our bodies, therefore, have one supreme purpose: to glorify God. “Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body” (1 Corinthians 6:13b).

The sense of Divine ownership, rather than self-ownership, is the inspiration of all Christian virtues, aspirations, motivations, dignity and strength. Imagine the sanctity of the temple of old, about which it is said that “the glory of the Lord had filled the house” (1 Kings 8:11). Are we not also blessed with such a higher sanctity in our bodies because of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit? Shall not “Holiness unto the Lord” also be our motto because we are His?

Online Pastors’ Conference

An email from Pr Sujith Samuel

Dear Pastor,

I thank God for His special help and strength upon you in preaching five sermons on the theme, “Shepherding in the Spirit”, during the Online Pastors’ Conference (June 25-26, 2020). I also praise God for bringing many participants from India, China and Southeast Asian countries (Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, etc.), including the preachers of our church from Singapore and the missionaries from the Philippines.

Most of the pastors who attended the last Pastors’ meeting (in June 2019) here in Vizag, India, were not able to make it for this meeting. They live and serve beyond the bounds of the city. The network coverage is not good in those areas. So, they could not get into the online meeting.

However, there were many new participants from other areas of India in last week's Online Pastors' Conference. From their feedback that I've received, I would like you to know that they were much blessed from the five teaching sessions that you have conducted. The "Question & Answer" session was beneficial to them to clarify their doubts on the topic of the Holy Spirit's ministry in and through His servants. Some participants have requested for the recordings of all those sessions. I would like to thank you for your plans to make them available; for those recordings will undoubtedly benefit them, especially those who could not hear them.

I thank God for the help offered by Bro. Lijoy George, Bro. Cornelius Koshy, Bro. Mathew Peh, Bro. Norefel Resuma, etc. for all the efforts they have put in to ensure that the online meetings were smoothly conducted. May the Lord bless all those who helped in organising this conference.

Please continue to pray for the work here in Vizag and its surroundings. Students are preparing to come back and resume their studies in GBI. We are still not sure whether students from far will be able to return to GBI for the new semester. Meanwhile, some renovation works are being done in our rented premises to enlarge the meeting area to receive more students and also to ensure social distancing. If the Lord permits, the renovation will be completed soon, and the premises will be ready for worship service, classes, etc.

I am delighted to know that the church in Singapore had been given permission to conduct Holy Communion service in Gethsemane Media Centre. May the Lord, in His good time, open the doors of His house for regular worship, prayer, fellowship meetings, etc.

Remembering all of you in my prayers,
Sujith

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (ACM) REPORT

Leaders of respective ministries and fellowship groups are to submit a short write-up for collation as part of the Annual Report for the upcoming ACM. Please send it to Dn Low Boon Siang at lbs83@yahoo.com by 26th July 2020.

DO STAY UPDATED!

Members & regular visitors are urged to keep abreast of church matters through our church's virtual meetings, holy communion services & updates via the Prayer Hotline.

To be kept informed of the above, do sign up by sending a WhatsApp message to the Hotline, indicating your name. Remember to save the Prayer Hotline number (8138 8139) on your phone to receive the broadcast messages.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion for the month of July will be held next Lord's Day, 12th July 2020. Please refer to the Prayer Hotline broadcast for more information.

Junior Worshipper's Page

Ears and Eyes: Faculties to Learn about God

*“The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.”
(Proverbs 20:12)*

God wonderfully made our bodies. The faculties of our body are graciously given by our God, the Creator. We must be indebted to God for the well-functioning bodies that He has given us.

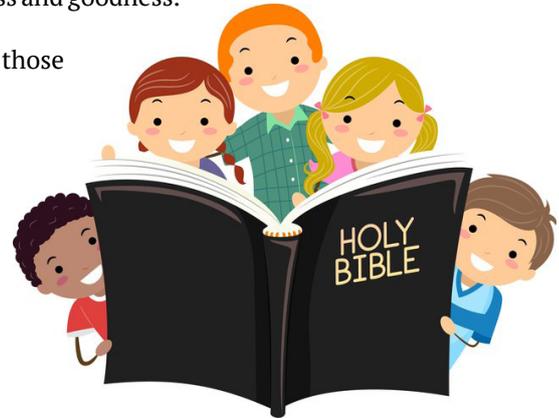
God gave us ears, that we may hear His glorious truths. He gave us eyes, that we may see His great works. The ears and eyes are given to us, that we may know the Lord and appreciate His greatness and goodness.

Our souls learn of God through our ears and eyes. Let us therefore use those faculties to learn about God.

Listen to God's Word, eagerly and attentively.

Read God's Word, diligently and regularly.

Use your God-given faculties joyfully and faithfully.



Prabhudas Koshy

COLLECTIONS

LORD'S DAY on 28th June 2020

Tithes: 4,190.00

Offerings: 8,560.00

Designated Gifts: Cebu Building Fund 2,780.00; Pr Engida 100.00; Dn Imane 100.00; TGCM 200.00; GMC-GBWL 200.00; GBWL 2,645.00

Non-Sunday Collections (15th–20th June 2020)

GBWL: 1,000.00

Designated Gifts: Pr Edsel 200.00; Pr Sujith 300.00; Cebu Building Fund 4,170.00; Vizag Vehicle Fund 14,130.00

Non-Sunday Collections (22nd–27th June 2020)

Offerings: 1,820.00

Designated Gifts: Matthew Peh 25.00; Pr Edsel 250.00; Indian Missions 50.00; GBPC-Pangasinan 50.00; Cebu Building Fund 14,500.00; Vizag Vehicle Fund 10,100.00; San Antonio Building Fund 15,000.00; GBI-India 5,000.00; GBWL 73.00

Total Funds Collection (as of 3rd July 2020)

Vizag Vehicle Fund: 33,627.50

San Antonio Building Fund: 30,225.00

Cebu Building Fund: 41,252.50

(Note: The Vizag Vehicle and San Antonio funds have been sufficiently raised. They are now discontinued.)

FOR TITHES & OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Send in your gifts to 'Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church' via bank transfer (DBS Current Account 025-011173-7), or you may scan the QR code to transfer via Paylah! or PayNow.



FOR LOVE GIFTS TO GBWL

Send in your gifts to 'Gethsemane Bible Witness Limited' via bank transfer (DBS Current Account 025-904568-2), or you may scan the QR code to transfer via Paylah! or PayNow.



UPCOMING ZOOM FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Links to the meetings will be provided in the respective Whatsapp Groups.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Topic: The Book of Judges

Speaker: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Chairperson: Bro. Benny Skariah

Date & Time: Sat, 11th July 2020, 4.00pm

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

Topic: Finding Joy in God When Trouble Comes

Speaker: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Chairperson: Sis. Mah Lean Choo

Date & Time: Sat, 18th July 2020, 4.00pm

Prayer Hotline:

8138 8139

*SMS or WhatsApp
your prayer item*

Our Office:

33 Ubi Crescent
Singapore 408584

Our Websites:

gethsemanebpc.com
biblewitness.com
gbi-online.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
Elder Francis Lee
Deacon Daniel Lim
Deacon Lok Kwok Wah
Deacon Kelvin Lim
Deacon Low Boon Siang