

# GETHSEMANE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## 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

*Early*

**Psalm 63:1**

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee:  
my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for  
thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Call to Worship

\*Hymn 93: To God Be the Glory

### \*Invocation & Gloria Patri

### \*Scripture Reading in Unison

*Romans 13:11-14*

Hymn 91: The Lily of the Valley

### Scripture Memorisation

Hymn 333: Yesterday, Today, Forever

### \*Pastoral Prayer

### Sermon

*Pastor Prabhudas Koshy*

*"Understanding the Times—III"*

*Romans 13:11-14*

\*Hymn 348: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

### \*Benediction & Threefold Amen

*\*Congregation Standing*



26 July 2020

# Don't Draw Away, but Draw Nigh to God

*Prabhudas Koshy*

We are instructed to “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded” (James 4:8).

The great duty required of us here primarily entails our returning to God from our wandering away from Him. In Zechariah 1:3, the Lord declared unto Israel, “Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.” Again, the Lord said in Malachi 3:7, “Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.”

He calls us to draw near to Him. Though He knows that we have turned away from Him, how lovingly and tenderly He calls us to stay near Him! Oh, the graciousness of this invitation! He is calling us to return to Him from our backsliding, cold indifference and meaningless formalism. He counsels us to live in His presence with ardent prayers and cheerful devotedness to Him, for “glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place” (1 Chronicles 16:27).

We must draw nigh to God with a firm resolution to seek Him. We must draw nigh unto Him with sincerity of heart to serve Him. We must desire close communion with our God that we may grow in our faith and knowledge of His goodness and His perfect will. We must stand by Him in obedience to do all His good pleasure.

If there is no close communion between God and you, it is your fault and not His. He is calling you to draw nigh unto Him. “Come,” He says. So, as Hebrews 10:22 says, “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

God gives you great encouragement to draw near unto Him, by assuring you that “he will draw nigh to you”. You are not asked to draw near to a God who is disinterested in you. He is most willing to have you and hold you close to Him. He will make you know His presence, His grace and His greatness. Turn to Him; He will meet you there. Call on Him in repentance and faith; He will answer you. He promises you that He will draw nigh unto you. If you seek

Him, He will be found of you. As Hosea 6:1-2 says, “Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.” So, arise and return to the loving presence of your God. Say now, like the prodigal son, “I will arise and go to my father” (Luke 15:18).

It was also advised, “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” Have you noticed that here James calls his readers “sinners” and “double minded”? Who are they?

Among those who are gathered in the churches of Jesus Christ, there are those who continue to entangle themselves with sin. Sinners are those who transgress the righteous laws of God, and conduct themselves in a manner that is displeasing to God. The word “double minded” refers to those who are fickle-minded and unstable in their faith and devotion to God. The double-minded are those who vacillate between God and the world. Here James calls them all to repentance.

He tells them to “cleanse your hands” and “purify your hearts”. Both “cleanse ”and “purify” are verbs that refer to ceremonial cleansing, a figure that spoke eloquently to Jewish as well as Gentile converts. Those words remind them of the need to put away their sins before they

approach God, who is pure and holy. The words “hands” and “hearts” point them to their actions and affections. It is an indispensable requisite that we cease from our sinful actions and passions when we draw nigh unto God.

So David said, “I will wash mine hands in innocency; so will I compass thine altar, O LORD” (Psalm 26:6). The apostle Paul directs us in 1 Timothy 2:8, “I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” We must cease from everything unjust or cruel, and be free from the defilement of sin. He who serves the Lord cannot be a servant of sin. The worshippers of God must be pure-hearted, i.e. sincere and single-minded to please God. They must cease from everything worldly, carnal and displeasing to God.

It is hypocrisy to come to God with hands and hearts that are impure. Jesus cited Isaiah in Matthew 15:8-9, “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me”. In Matthew 23, Jesus repeatedly condemned the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders. He did not mince His words: “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” He then rebuked them sharply, “Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also” (Matthew 23:26). Let us serve Him in sincerity and holiness.

## Junior Worshipper's Page

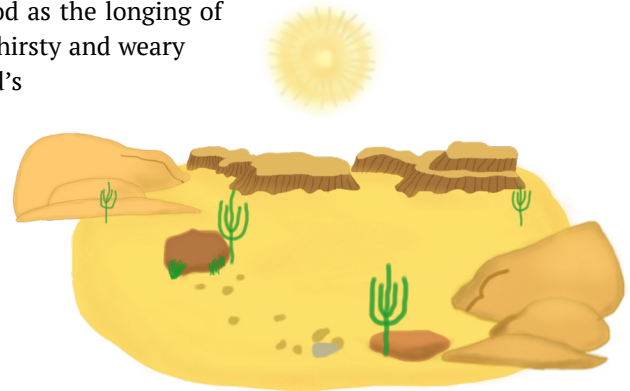
# Early Will I Seek Thee

*“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.”  
(Psalm 63:1)*

Here, King David first expresses how much he adores and loves God – “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee”. Then he reveals his passion for God. The word “early” conveys more than the sense of “early in the morning” – it also depicts promptness and eagerness to seek God. There is no time that he would be far from God.

Then, David articulates his passion for God – “my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee”. The passion for God is a very intense spiritual emotion that involves the whole being of a man, involving both his “soul” and “flesh”! The words “thirsteth” and “longeth” denote the intense desire for God that His servant would experience within him.

To put it graphically, David further describes his desire for God as the longing of one who is “in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is”. Like a thirsty and weary person who is in a dry, desert place, he desperately thirsts for God’s presence. Times of weariness in a believer’s life will make God’s presence even more pleasant and desirable to him. Absence of material and human help in a believer’s life would drive and teach him to trust in God more and more. May we always look to our God for help and joy. May we never stop seeking our Lord, but increase still in our passion for Him.



Prabhudas Koshy

## 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](mailto:lbs83@yahoo.com) by 26th July 2020.

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### 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.

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## OUR ONLINE RESOURCES

In this period where our regular church meetings are curtailed, we hope that our online resources will continue to be a source of encouragement and edification for you.

- For Christian literature, please visit [biblewitness.com/magazine](http://biblewitness.com/magazine) to find past issues of our BW Magazine.
- For 24/7 fundamental Christian music, please visit our Bible Witness Web Radio at [biblewitness.com/webradio/radio-player/](http://biblewitness.com/webradio/radio-player/)
- For our sermons, you may visit our church's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/user/gethsemaneipc/](http://youtube.com/user/gethsemaneipc/) or [gbi-online.com](http://gbi-online.com)
- Finally, you may also follow our church's Facebook page at [facebook.com/Gethsemane.BP.Church/](https://facebook.com/Gethsemane.BP.Church/) to stay updated with any urgent announcements from our church leaders.

Please pray for our BWMM staff as they labour to maintain all these services and resources.

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## UPCOMING ZOOM FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

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

### YOUNG ADULTS' FELLOWSHIP

**Topic:** The Growth of the Christian—  
By Abounding in Spiritual Fruitfulness

**Speaker:** Pr Samson Hutagalung

**Chairperson:** Bro. Ng Kwan Teng

**Date & Time:** Sat, 1st Aug 2020, 4.00pm

### YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

**Topic:** Book Study on Proverbs

**Speaker:** Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

**Chairperson:** Bro. Wei Heng

**Date & Time:** Sat, 1st Aug 2020, 4.00pm

## COLLECTIONS

LORD'S DAY on 19th July 2020

**Tithes:** 12,045.00

**Offerings:** 8,027.00

**Designated Gifts:** Rev. Ephrem 200.00; Gladys Ratnam 100.00; Cebu Building Fund 970.00; GBPC-Pangasinan 100.00; Charity Fund 150.00; Jemima Khoo 200.00; Matthew & Joey 100.00

Non-Sunday Collections

(13th–18th July 2020)

**Offerings:** 4,630.00

**Tithes:** 2,615.00

**Designated Gifts:** Cebu Building Fund 21,600.00; Missionary Conference Fund 500.00; TGCM 30.00; Matthew Peh 30.00; Ethiopia Missions 300.00; Raja 200.00; Cornelius Koshy 132.00; General Fund 700.00

Total Funds Collection

(as of 24th July 2020)

**Cebu Building Fund:** 176,422.50

## 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.



## HOLY COMMUNION FOR AUGUST

Holy Communion for the month of August will be held next Lord's Day, 2nd August 2020. Please refer to the Prayer Hotline broadcast for more information.

## YOUNG MOTHERS' FELLOWSHIP SEMINAR

**Topic:** Family Devotion

**Speaker:** Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

**Chairperson:** Dn Low Boon Siang

**Date & Time:** Sat, 29th Aug 2020, 2.00pm to 6.00pm

**Prayer Hotline:**  
8138 8139  
*SMS or WhatsApp  
your prayer item*

**Our Office:**  
33 Ubi Crescent  
Singapore 408584

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gethsemanebpc.com  
biblewitness.com  
gbi-online.com

**Our Pastor:**  
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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