

8 January
2017

LAP BULLETIN

Church of Christ 20 Lim Ah Pin Road Singapore 547839 Tel 6286 5605
www.lapcoc.org email@lapcoc.org www.facebook.com/lapchurchofchrist

Worship Schedule

SUNDAY

9.30 am
Worship
(English)

11.15am
Bible Class
(English)

3.45pm
Bible Class
(Mandarin)

5.00pm
Worship
(Mandarin)

7.00pm
Worship
(English)

THURSDAY

7.45pm
Bible Class
(English/Mandarin)

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Elders

Bro Jimmy Lau
Bro Lee Tian Seng

Deacons

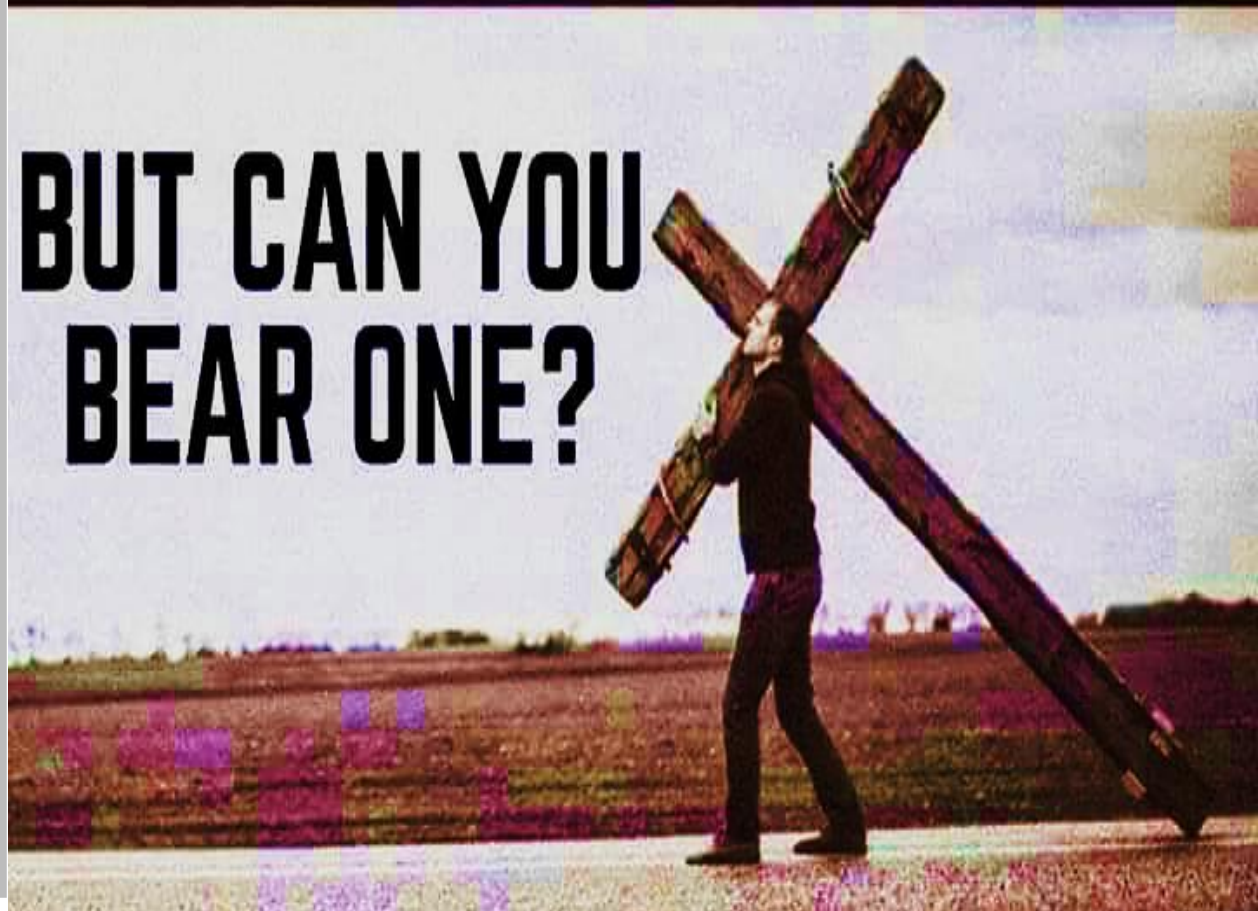
Bro Henry Leow
Bro Jerry Cheong

Preachers

Bro Alvin Lin
Bro Ernest Lau

Administrator

Sis Goh Ser Ern





ELDER'S EXHORTATION

BY BRO JIMMY LAU

*Proverbs 27:17 **Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.***

Iron sharpeneth iron - We see this in the market: a butcher sharpening his knife with another iron rod. Iron tools are made sharp and fit for use, by rubbing them against the file, or some other iron. Why do we need to sharpen a knife? It is because it is blunt and, therefore, not very effective. To work more effectively with the knife, we sharpen it.

So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. Solomon says here that a man's countenance can be sharpened in the same way that iron, or a knife, is sharpened. This proverb deals with the influence which men have upon one another. A countenance, also, can be *blunt*, otherwise why would the Bible speak here of a "sharpening" of it?

A knife can't sharpen itself! Like tools made of iron, we cannot sharpen ourselves. The notion that one can live in the wilderness alone for forty years to find enlightenment is absurd; he probably goes crazy first before he finds any enlightenment. God had said that it was not good that man should be alone (Gen 2: 18). God knows that we need one another. Therefore, God, in His infinite wisdom and mercy, sends others into our path. People who care enough to come alongside us, pick us up, brush us off, give us a helping hand, sharpen us when need be, and bring us back to the point that we are, once again, useful and productive for the Kingdom of God. At times the sharpening process can be painful, but praise God for those who care enough, and aren't afraid, to do it!

I mentioned earlier that a countenance can be "blunt". But what is a "blunt" countenance? It is that look of dismay and defeat which a face wears as a result of a

troubled heart. It is the countenance of discouragement, troubled, sorrow and hopelessness. Everyone of us has experienced it at one time or another in our lives.

But a sharpened countenance is the countenance of joy and gladness. It is the look of victorious cheerfulness. It is the radiance of hope on the face. Such countenance brings comfort, encouragement, life, jubilation and hope to one who has a “blunt” countenance. It is so sharp that when a problem comes against it, it cuts right through it.

Two sad persons coming together will grow in sadness. Two negative persons coming together will generate more negativism. But it takes only one optimistic person to change the situation. He can turn a sad countenance to joy and a negative outlook to a positive one. What has he done? He has just sharpened a sad countenance.

A sharpened countenance is like a knife that was blunt but has been sharpened. Someone has sharpened that “blunt” countenance.

“Yet it is not every man that can sharpen every other man, just as every material cannot sharpen knife. You have to be first a friend, before you can sharpen a “blunt” person. If you come as a fault-finder, or as a domineering critic, or as an offended ‘god,’ or as an angry judge ready to pass judgment, you will worsen situations. Be a friend first, an understanding companion, then you can sharpen the bluntness of the friend’s countenance.” (Quotation).



A sharpened countenance could be a very effective tool. Make sure ours is always sharpened, and then, we can sharpen that of others. God tells us that we can be used to sharpen others. If a brother or a sister seems to walk alone, sharpen his or her “iron” by godly communication.

Job had three friends who came all the way to sharpen his sad countenance: **for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him** (Job 2:11). Paul had

Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and many others to refresh him.

Do you come to the services here to be sharpened? Sharpening the countenance of friends is a result of friendship. Do you have friends in the church?

We are to use our influence to sharpen our friends, our brethren, and especially the weak brethren. Just like tools, we need to be sharpened continually if we are to be useful in God's hands. And we need to be sharpened in order to be able to sharpen another. Are we sharpening another's "blunt" countenance?



Consider God's Creation—Think About God's Greatness

by Eric Lyons

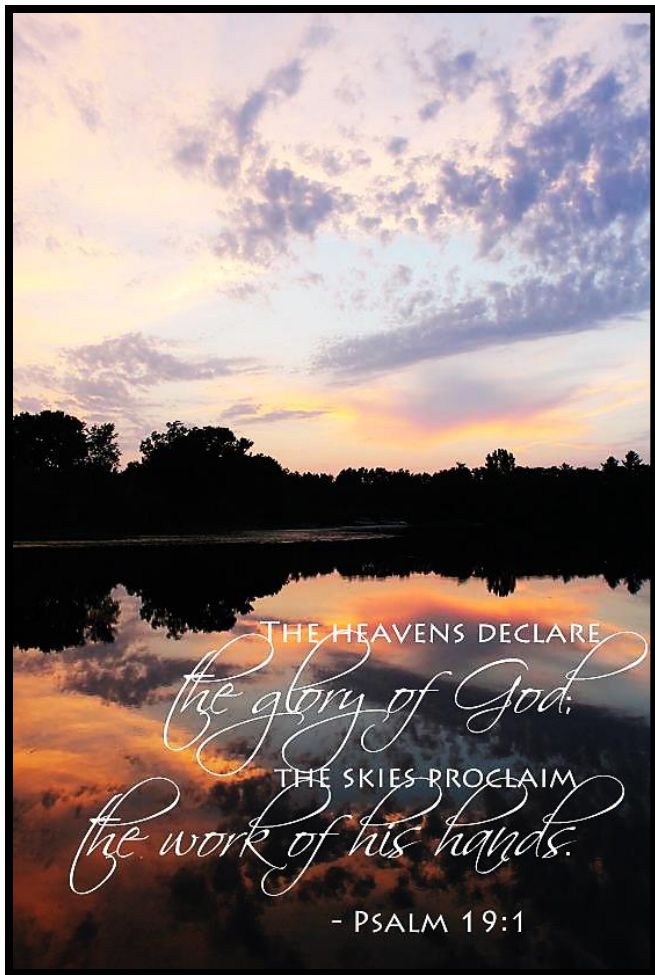
(taken from <http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=12&article=1591>)

Christians in the 21st century think too little about God's creation; consequently, we think too little about God. We are so enamored with ourselves—our schedules, our work, our technology, our extracurricular activities, etc., that we often fail to see the stars and smell the roses. Today, perhaps more than any time in history, man misses the apparently simple things in life that should cause us to meditate continually upon the greatness of the Creator. Of course, nothing is more important for Christians to meditate on than God's Word (Psalm 1:2; see Lyons, 2011), but in conjunction with God's special revelation (His Word), we ought to ponder about how God's amazing natural revelation testifies to His infinite power,



intelligence, and care.

Time and again, Holy Writ points to God's creation as proof of His greatness. Since the time of Job, Noah, and going as far back as Adam, man has learned some wonderful things about God by considering His amazing creation. Paul wrote: "Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead" (Romans 1:20, emp. added).



Perhaps no other book of the Bible leads man to deeper meditation on God's greatness than the book of Psalms. Yet, interestingly, oftentimes this same inspired book turns man's attention to God's creation. In Psalm 8, for example, the psalmist praised the excellent name of the Lord Who set His "glory above the heavens," Who made the Moon, stars, man, and even "the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas." What did the psalmist conclude? "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:9). In Psalm 19:1, we are reminded that "[t]he heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." In Psalm 33, we learn of one of the reasons that humanity is to fear and

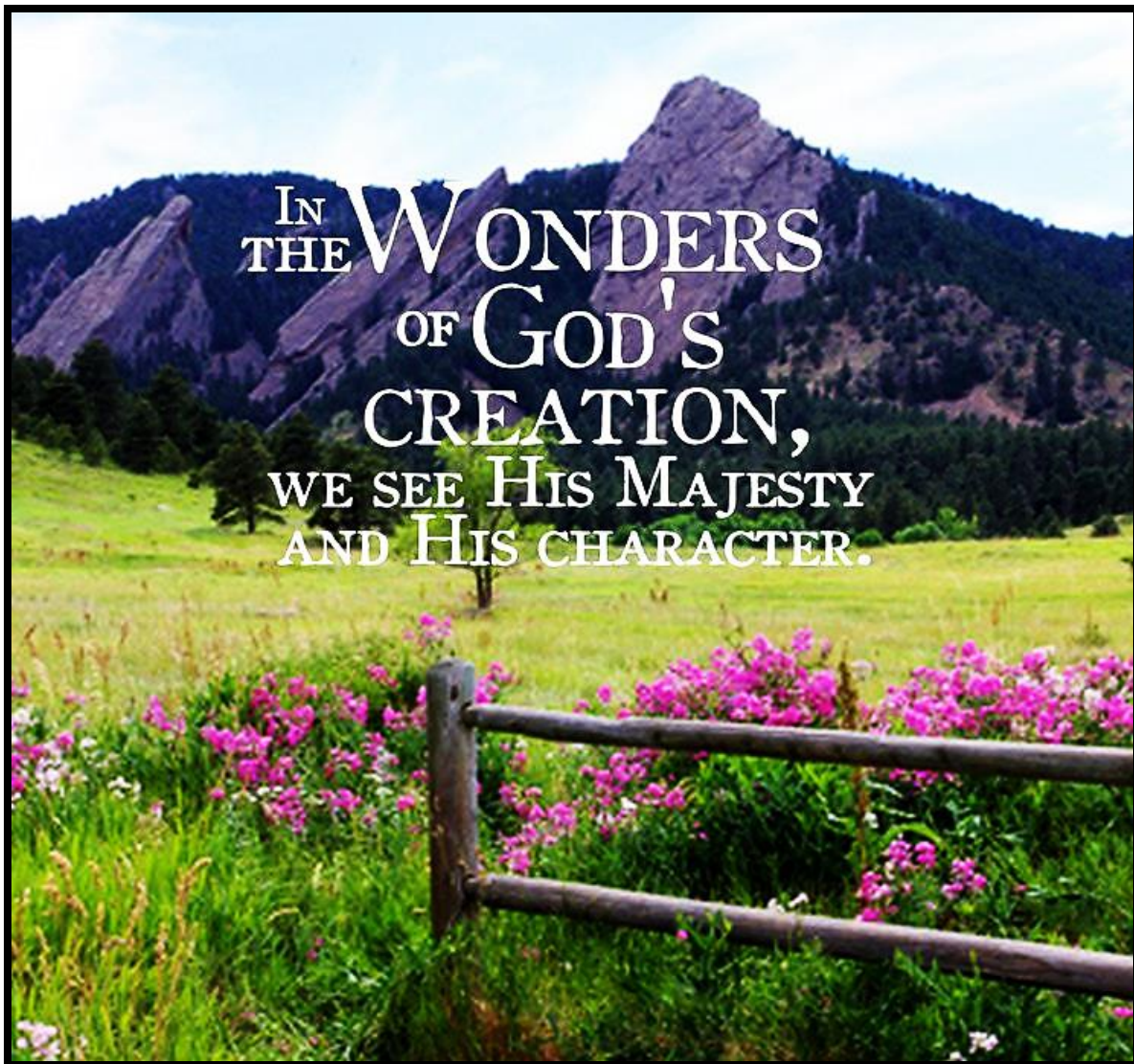
stand in awe of the Lord (33:8)—because "by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.... For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (33:6,9).

Consider the climax of the book of Job, when God spoke to the patriarch out of a whirlwind. Instead of informing Job of the exact reasons for his serious suffering, God spoke to him about His creation. Beginning in Job 38:39 and going through chapters 39, 40, and 41, God spoke to Job about several different animals, including the lion, the hawk, Behemoth, and Leviathan. Of all of the things God could have said

to Job, He spent some 77 verses talking about some of His animal creation. He chose to teach Job about His all-powerful, all-knowing, supreme nature by describing some of His magnificent animal creation.

The prophet Isaiah once wrote about being allowed to see a vision of the throne of God. In the Lord's presence were angelic beings crying out one to another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts" (Isaiah 6:3). What is the basis of this praise? What is one reason we should be driven to worship God? Isaiah revealed one of the pillars of God's praise in the very next line: "The whole earth is full of His glory" (6:3).

Indeed, the beauty, splendor, and design of God's creation should drive us closer to the Creator. His "fingerprints" should make us stand in awe of Him. They should drive us to our knees in worship of Him. And they should compel us to tell others about Him. As the psalmist sang, we should "declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised" (96:3-4).



Weekly News

Guests Last Week

1. Sis Christine Lee
(Johor Bahru COC, M'sia)
2. Chua Shuan Kei
(Eastside COC, Melbourne)
3. Patricia Chin
(sis Christine Chan's mother)
4. Bernie Chia
(sis Rhui Yin's husband)
5. Bai Guang Rong
(sis Yanling's husband)
6. Diana Phoo
(sis Seow Hui's friend)
7. Capi
(bro Benedict's friend)
8. Lee Kok Wei & Iris Lee
(bro Henry & sis Lois' friends)
9. Rukmini
(Kim Choo's helper)

Collection for the bonus of our Mission Workers

We appreciate our mission workers – *bro Kwan (China)*, *bro Bob Xiang (China)*, *bro George Zhang (China)*, *bro John Yo (Taiwan)*, *bro Wang (Taiwan)*, *bro Glen Tattersall (Australia)* & *bro Hai (Vietnam)*. Boxes will be made available for you at the pulpit area on **8 Jan and 15 Jan** to give angbaos to show your appreciation to them during this festive season.

Congratulations!

We rejoice with **bro Joel Lee** and **sis Grace** over their wedding on 2 Jan! Please pray for these newlyweds as they begin a new life together as husband and wife. The family would like for everyone to celebrate this happy occasion with them with a buffet lunch **TODAY** after the bible class.

Travelling (Pray for travelling mercies)

Bro Tian Seng, bro Roberto, bro Jong Wah, sis Nancy & sis Fong Yoke will be travelling to Philippines from 11 – 18 Jan to visit & encourage the brethren in Ilagan COC & Villa Celia COC, Bacolod.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

8 January 2017, Sunday (TODAY)

Youth Fellowship

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Church Building

Let's kickstart 2017 by renewing our ties of friendship! Join us for an afternoon of team building games. Open to all, as long as you're young at heart.

14 January 2017, Saturday

Senior Fellowship

Time: 10am – 12nn

Venue: Church Building

Highlights: Learn how to make pineapple tarts (by sis Rachel Quek), DIY CNY décor – Mandarin oranges
Please inform bro Alvin or sis Ser Ern if you are interested to attend.

12 February 2017, Sunday

Singing Fellowship

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Church Building

Come join us as we spend an afternoon praising God in song! Open to all members, young and old. Please check with Ben Kwan if you have any questions.

NEWS



Thursday Bible Class

How To Build A Friendship?

By bro Ernest Lau

Birthday of the week

10 Jan (Tue) – Andy

12 Jan (Thu) – Cornelius



Please send any news &
prayer requests to

Bro Alvin Lin

linminhan@hotmail.com

or

Bro Ernest Lau

ernestz15@hotmail.com

or

Sis Ser Ern

gserern@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Overseas:

- **Bro Mitchell** in Perth, Australia for studies
- **Sis Rachel Ting** in UK for studies
- **Our supported missionaries:**
Bro Kwan, bro Bob & bro George (*China*), bro Glen (*Australia*),
bro John Yo (*Taiwan*), bro Hai (*Vietnam*)

Health

- **Sis Baby's & Auntie Yeoh's** health
- **Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Sara Ong's, sis Linda's & Kwan Mama's** health
- **Sis Susan Goh's mother's & sis Doreen's mother** health
- **Sis Kim Tian's** recovery from her skin problem
- **Sis Jasmine Lim's** recovery from her eye problem
- **Sis Sharon (Jurong COC)'s** recovery from her surgery
- **Sis Annie Cheong's husband's, bro Jose Cardoza's father's** health and salvation

Expectant Mothers

- Cynthia Lee (Mar'17), Daryl Cheong (May'17)

NSF

- Bro Gideon, bro Joel Lee, bro Kevin

Serving in Worship

Date		8 Jan 2017	15 Jan 2017	22 Jan 2017
Song Leader		Justin Kwan	Jonathan Yang	Benjamin Kwan
Opening Prayer Leader		Chua Kian Hong	Kenneth Quek	John Goh
Psalms Text		Psa 18:1-12	Psa 18:13-24	Psa 18:25-36
Preacher		Benjamin Tan	Alvin Lin	Peter Chin
Lord's Supper Text		1 Cor 11:23-29	Matt 26:26-29	Matt 27:35-50
Lord's Supper Servers	Scripture Reader	Dexter Lau	Henry Chee	Jeshua Lin
	Prayer: Bread	Nigel Poo	Wong Sek Hoong	Danny Poo
	Prayer: Fruit of Vine	Ling Leong Dak	Lau Jeng Sang	Ng Chee Beng
	Prayer: Offering	Alan Poon	Kenneth Liong	Amos Yang
Assistant		Roberto Pascual	Yew Tian Geng	Shawn Wong
Announcer		Lee Tian Seng	Amos Yang	Jimmy Lau
Greeters		Ludina Carrido Susan Cheong	Grace Ler Lois Chee	Constance Lau Wu Wenyu
Midweek Service: 12 Jan 2017		Song Leader	Timothy Ng	
		Opening Prayer Leader	Lee Tian Seng	
		Closing Prayer Leader	John Goh	