

12 February
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

1Ki 1:5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

Adonijah was the fourth son of David (2 Sam 3:2-4). But with the death of Amnon and Absalom, and it was probable that the second son of David was also dead, he became the eldest of the surviving sons. His father, David, was old and feeble while Solomon was young. Adonijah seized the opportunity and usurped the throne at this time.

What lessons can we draw about Adonijah?

1. HE WAS A SPOILT CHILD — The scripture records: "**His father had not displeased him at any time**" (1Kgs 1:6). His father always let him have his ways and never chastised him when he did something wrong. Solomon wrote: "**The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother**" (Pro 29:15). David was probably so engrossed with public cares and duties that he failed to chastise his children.

A child becomes spoilt because of the parents. Today's parents are overly protective of their children that many neglect to discipline them. It is the parents' duty to discipline their children. Today, we see parents harassing school teachers and principals when they discipline their children. It is no wonder their children are misbehaving; they learn it from their parents.

"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell" (Pro 23:13-14)

2. HE HAD AMBITIONS – He said "I will be king" (1 Kgs 1:5). It is not wrong to have ambition. The athlete who has ambition to be the best in the Olympics is admirable and good. That is if he competes fairly and honestly. He does not cheat or sabotage his opponents.

But certain ambitions are sinful. They are ruled by pride and selfish gain. It was this sin of which Adonijah was guilty of when he "exalted himself, saying, I will be king!" The kingship did not belong to him; it belonged to his brother Solomon. If he could but have been content to fill the second place and made himself useful in the kingdom, he might be honoured and lived well to a ripe old age. But ambition soured and it cut short his life; what a pity!

Solomon could have made reference to this period in history when he wrote: "**Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall**" (Pro 16:18). Let us keep our ambition in check before it overwhelms us and causes us to sin.

3. HE DIDN'T LEARN FROM HISTORY – He didn't learn from his brother Absalom's experience but repeated his brother's offence. Absalom was handsome; so was Adonijah (1 Kings 1:6). Absalom usurped the throne of his father David; so did Adonijah. He should have looked further and see the end result of Absalom. Unfortunately he did not and met with the same consequence; he had his life cut short like Absalom.

Paul wrote: "**Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come**" (1 Cor 10:11).

History is not a subject only for examination; it contains lessons for future posterity. But sad to say, history always repeats itself. Men of evil ambitions will never learn.

4. HE WAS REBELLIOUS – The choice was publicly known; Solomon would be the next king (1 Kgs 1:13). Adonijah was well aware of the election of his brother but yet he said "I will be king". He deliberately set up his will against his father's.

Is it man's nature to rebel against authority? The answer is NO. There are many who are very submissive. Samuel said to Saul: "**For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry**" (1 Sam 15:23). God did not create man and give him the nature of rebellion. Man learns it from the devil.

The commandments of God are to be obeyed. Eve rebelled against God's commandment when she took of the forbidden fruit (Gen 3:6). God gave us commandments and they MUST be followed. **"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son"** (2 John 1:9). The man who is in fellowship with God is the man who continues to abide in the doctrine (teachings) of Christ.

All those things happened to Adonijah because he was a spoilt child. His character was formed when he was growing up. The word of God is always right: **"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"** (Pro 22:6). Parents, train up your children when they are still young.



Can We Understand the Bible Alike?

Adapted from Wayne Jackson

Recently a preacher raised the question: "Can we all understand the Bible alike?" He declared that we cannot, and asserted that those who believe that we can are simply entertaining an ignorant viewpoint.

Your Understanding. My Understanding

The claim is frequently made: "You understand the Bible one way, and I understand it another. Neither of us should condemn the other." Another variation of the same tune: "Well, that is your interpretation of the Scriptures. I have mine as well. Perhaps both of us are right."

These statements contain a logical contradiction. There is no such thing as "understanding the Bible differently." If two people differ on the meaning of a biblical text, one of them is wrong about the matter—possibly both. We might misunderstand something differently, but we do not understand something differently.

Moreover, a passage does not yield two different interpretations; somewhere, there is misinterpretation.

Can God Make Himself Understood?

We operate daily upon the presumption that we, frail mortals though we are, can make ourselves understood to our peers. A department store places an advertisement in the newspaper about an upcoming sale. Hundreds of people flock to the same establishment on the correct day at the right time expecting specific items at a certain price to be available for purchase. How is it that they understand the ad alike?

A recipe is printed on a cereal box for oat bran muffins. Hundreds of ladies across the country follow it and bake delicious muffins for their families. Do they understand the instructions alike?

A physician prescribes a medication. Do we believe that the pharmacist will understand what the doctor has prescribed, and are we confident that we can understand the instructions for taking the medicine?

If we can sensibly operate our lives on a routine basis, recognizing that we are able to communicate with one another in an intelligible fashion, why can't we acknowledge that God, who is infinitely wiser and abler than man, can clearly make his will known to humanity?

If one suggests that Jehovah could not clearly make himself known to man, he reflects upon the power of the Lord. If one argues that God purposely did not reveal himself to mankind in a lucid fashion, he reflects upon the benevolence of his maker. If one contends that man has no responsibility to understand and obey the precepts of the Scriptures, it is he who evidences great ignorance of his obligation to Heaven.

What Saith the Scripture?

The Bible is replete with passages which have as their underlying basis the assumption that we can uniformly understand our divine responsibility as made known in the sacred writings. Consider the following:

1. Christ declared that man shall not live by bread alone, but "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). If spiritual life is only to be found in the words from God, does it not stand to reason that humanity is capable of understanding that message?

2. When Jesus rebuked the Sadducees for their error concerning the resurrection of the human body, he charged that a part of their problem was that they were ignorant of the Scriptures (Matthew 22:29). Does this not presuppose that had they been good students of the Old Testament they could have uniformly known that there was to be a resurrection of the body?
3. Though none of us was alive to witness the first-century miracles performed by the Lord Jesus, the history of those events was written down in order that we might believe those signs which documented the Master's claim of deity (see John 20:30-31). Can we believe the biblical narratives regarding Christ's deeds and confidently have a united understanding that he is the Son of God? If not, of what value is the New Testament?
4. Of the early church it is said: "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul" (Acts 4:32). How could such a statement possibly be made unless those early saints were capable of agreeing upon the apostolic instruction?
5. The citizens of the city of Berea were considered to be nobler than those of Thessalonica, because they received the word of God with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily to determine the accuracy of what they were being taught (see Acts 17:11). Does this affirmation not imply that these inquirers were able to draw harmonious conclusions about the word of God?
6. The Christians in Rome were commanded to be on the lookout for those who caused divisions and occasions of stumbling "contrary to the doctrine which ye learned" (Romans 16:17). If we cannot understand the Bible alike, how could anyone ever be disciplined for walking contrary to sound doctrine? That would make no sense whatsoever.
7. In the New Testament epistles, the churches are constantly admonished to "speak the same thing," to be free from divisions, and to "be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10; cf. Philippians 2:2). How can we possibly take this instruction seriously if we are incapable of understanding the Bible alike?
8. The apostle Paul plainly declared that by reading the message which he wrote, we would be able to perceive his understanding of the gospel of

Christ (see Ephesians 3:1-7). He thus subsequently charges: “Wherefore be ye not foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17).

9. The inspired Scriptures are said to be profitable “for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). If we do not have the ability to understand the Scriptures, how can the holy writings profit us in the aforementioned categories?

Can we understand the Bible? Of course we can. Can we understand it alike? Why not?

If we can understand that $2 + 2 = 4$, if we can understand that fifty-five miles per hour means just that, then we can understand, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). We can understand that there is “one body” (Ephesians 4:4), and that that body is the church (Colossians 1:18). We can further know that salvation is in that body (Ephesians 5:23), and outside of that body no redemption is to be found (2 Timothy 2:10).

The problem with those who contend that men cannot agree upon the Scripture’s teaching is simply this: they are seeking a way to justify error!

Weekly News

Health

Sis Doris has undergone a successful knee surgery on 8. Please pray for her speedy recovery.

Away

1. **Sis Annie Lim & family** in Taiwan till 13 Feb.
2. **Bro Kenneth Liong & sis Iris** in Korea till 19 Feb.

Guests Last Week

1. Bro Sim Boon Quang & sis Mui Hoong
(*Lavender COC, Singapore*)
2. Bro Alex Hung & sis Rui Shan
(*Columbia Heights COC, San Francisco*)
3. Chia Yock Ee (*bro Daniel’s wife*)
4. Bai Guang Rong (*sis Yan Ling’s husband*)
5. Arielle Pascual (*bro Roberto’s daughter*)
6. Gifford Chuang (*sis Ser Ern’s cousin*)
7. Kenny Kee (*sis Debbie’s friend*)
8. Jack Chan (*sis Eunice’s friend*)
9. Capi (*bro Benedict’s friend*)
10. Rukmini (*sis Kim Choo’s helper*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

12 February 2017, Sunday

(TODAY)

Singing Fellowship

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Venue: Church Building

***Come join us as we spend an afternoon praising God in song!
Open to all members, young and old.***

25 February 2017, Saturday

Ladies Fellowship

Time: 2:30 – 4.30pm

Venue: Church Building

Highlight: Games & sharing sessions by sis Peck Lian, sis Daryl & sis Cynthia Lee

Join us to learn and share some insights and advices about bringing up kids in the way of the Lord. Please sign up on the Events noticeboard by 19 Feb if you are interested.

25 February 2017, Saturday

Men's Fellowship

Time: 2:30 - 4:30 pm

Venue: Church Building

Highlight: Army chit-chat + fruits/snacks + movie time!

Come join the MEN to discuss about our army experiences and the challenges that Christians face while serving in the NS. A good learning experience for both the experienced and the uninitiated!

26 March 2017, Sunday

Evangelism Sunday

Time: 9.30am

Venue: Church Building

***Topic: The Goodness & Severity of God
Speaker: Bro Alvin Lin***

Invite your family & friends to hear the good news!

14 April 2017, Friday (Public Holiday)

Dementia Health Forum

Time:10am-12pm

Venue: Church Building

***Topics: Dementia and related conditions
Please inform bro Alvin or sis Ser Ern or sign up thru goo.gl/44eafr if you are interested.***

8 April 2017, Saturday

Blood Donation Drive

Time: 11am – 5pm

Venue: Church Building

Please inform sis Rachel Poo if you are interested to donate.

Blood Drive MRT Tracting

Dates:

25 March, Sat – 11.30am-2.30pm

26 March, Sun – 1.30pm – 3pm

1 April, Sat – 11.30am – 2.30pm

2 April, Sun – 1.30pm – 3pm

Please inform bro Andy or sis Rachel Poo if you are interested to help.

11-14 June 2017, Sunday- Wednesday

Combined June Camp

Venue: Lotus Desaru Beach Resort

Theme: ONE BIG FAMILY

Cost: \$230/adult, \$90/child

Book your leave now & sign up at the Events noticeboard!

NEWS

★★★★★★★★

Thursday Bible Class

Things for Which to
Pray

By bro Ong Jun Wei

Birthday of the week

15 Feb (Wed) – Kia Sang

18 Feb (Sat) - Jeshua

★★★★★★★★

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:

- **Sis Joann** in Perth, Australia for studies
- **Sis Rachel Ting** in UK for studies
- **Bro Jong Wah & sis Nancy** in Perth, Australia
- **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 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 Susan Goh's** recovery from her fractured ribcage
- **Bro Joel Lee's** recovery from his knee surgery
- **Sis Sarah Ho's cousin's boyfriend's** recovery from his brain surgery

Expectant Mothers

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

NSF

- Bro Gideon, bro Joel Lee, bro Kevin

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		12 Feb 2017	19 Feb 2017	26 Feb 2017
Song Leader		Kevin Lee	Alvin Lin	Ernest Lau
Opening Prayer Leader		Benjamin Tan	Low Chong Ping	Paul Lim
Psalms Text		Psa 20:1-9	Psa 21:1-13	Psa 22:1-11
Preacher		Danny Poo	Alvin Lin	Jerry Cheong
Lord's Supper Text		Mark 14:22-25	Isa 53:4-9	Matt 27:35-50
Lord's Supper Servers	Scripture Reader	David Chua	John Goh	Gideon Quek
	Prayer: Bread	Benjamin Kwan	Justin Kwan	Lim Poh Teng
	Prayer: Fruit of Vine	Kenneth Quek	Benjamin Tan	Lau Jeng Sang
	Prayer: Offering	Andy Lin	Isaac Chua	Reuben Lim
	Assistant	Gideon Quek	Axel Chee	Ng Wei Xiang
Foundation Class		Ernest Lau	Ng Chee Beng	Benjamin Tan
Announcer		Jimmy Lau	Amos Yang	Lee Tian Seng
Greeters		Wang Teng Pei Eunice Chua	Jeshua Lin Nicodemus Oey	Cynthia Tan Mary Ann
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
Song Leader & O.P.		Ernest Lau	Alvin Lin	Jimmy Lau
Speaker		Alvin Lin	Ernest Lau	Henry Leow
Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P.		Lee Tian Seng	Henry Leow	Jerry Cheong
Thursday Midweek Service		16 Feb 2017	23 Feb 2017	2 Mar 2017
Song Leader		Timothy Ng	Benjamin Kwan	Jeshua Lin
Opening Prayer Leader		Jeshua Lin	Kenneth Quek	Henry Leow
Closing Prayer Leader		John Goh	Andy Lin	Reuben Lim