

15 December
2019

LAP BULLETIN

Church of Christ 20 Lim Ah Pin Road Singapore 547839 Tel 6286 5605
www.lapcoc.org limahpincoc@gmail.com 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 Michael Yeo

Deacons

Bro Benjamin Tan
Bro Jerry Cheong

Preacher

Bro Ernest Lau

Administrator

Sis Goh Ser Ern



START YEAR 2020 WITH
THANKSGIVINGS

JAN
1
2020

10AM | WEDNESDAY
LIM AH PIN CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUBMIT YOUR THANKSGIVINGS
VIA WHATSAPP/HARDCOPY TO
SER ERN BY 29 DEC



Elder's exhortation

by bro Jimmy Lau

1Co 8:2 *And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.*

"Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know" (1 Cor 8:2, NIV). It is one thing to know truth, and another to know it as we ought. "The first step to knowledge is to know our own ignorance. Without love there is only the appearance of knowledge" (JFB Comm).

Paul wrote: *"Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth"* (1 Cor 8:1). Humility is the test of true knowledge. Some have a bit of knowledge and become conceited and puffed up. Paul said they know nothing at all.

Matthew Henry's comment on this verse: *"He that knows most best understands his own ignorance, and the imperfection of human knowledge. Those who think they know anything, and grow fain hereupon, are of all men most likely to make no good use of their knowledge; neither themselves nor others are likely to be benefited by it."* (Matthew Henry Comm).

Speak to some men about certain doctrines and they talk as if they are experts and know everything about the subject. How foolish is such an attitude! It is no wonder that they never grow beyond what they already knew.

"All self-conceit hinders us from growing intellectually or morally, and intellectual conceit is the worst kind of it." (McLaren Comm).

The wise man knows how to handle his knowledge wisely. His knowledge does not make him conceited and puffed up. He is humble and he does not look down on others. Paul says we must add love to our knowledge. In the context, he is referring to a brother who has some knowledge about eating things that had been offered to idols. This brother knows an idol is nothing but an image made by men. But, there is another brother who does not have this knowledge and he thinks an idol is a god and to eat the

food that has been offered to it is to have fellowship with a heathen god. But, the brother who knows better does not care for the weaker brother's feeling and he eats the food that has been offered in the other person's presence. Paul says he is causing the weaker brother to stumble. He is not showing love to his brother. He says that is true ignorance.

Who would you respect: A professor who bends over and picks up an item his servant had dropped or a graduating student who drops his things and expects his servant to pick them up?

Knowledge only fills the brain; but love fills the heart. Knowledge may enable you to make a living; but love makes a life. Love describes what you are; knowledge describes what you know. Love keeps you humble; knowledge makes you proud. Love reveals your character; knowledge reveals only your education.

I go to work by public transport. The train line that I use passes through a few polytechnics and universities. Every day, I see those tertiary students in the same train. Oftentimes, an old lady or a pregnant woman will enter the carriage. Rarely do I see a tertiary student giving up his/her seat to such persons. Young couples are glued to their seat and oblivious to their surroundings. Young and strong muscular men pretend to sleep.

I ask myself: Where is the love? What has society done to raise up a generation that has all brains but no heart of love? *"Knowledge puffeth up, but love edifieth"* (1 Cor 8:1).

How about us? What good works are we doing as Christians? God wants us to *"abound in love one toward another, and toward all men"* (1 Thess 3:12). James wrote: *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"* (Jas 4:17).

We have the word of God. We have some divine knowledge. Let us add love to the little knowledge that we have. It will make a big difference in us. It will make a huge difference to others around us. Have love in your life.



Preacher's exhortation

Parable of the Labourers

by bro Ernest Lau

Singapore is a largely meritocratic society. Basically, everyone has a chance to succeed if they can produce the desired results. Therefore, Singaporeans are motivated to work hard, whether in school or at work, so that they can succeed and progress. However, when incentives are taken away, we often notice that motivation to work drops to zero. Therefore, we see in school that points are given for everything: we get points for projects, co-curricular activities, community involvement projects etc. Otherwise, there would not be any motivation to do those things!

Does Christianity work the same way? Do Christians get rewarded based on merit? Should we be rewarded based on merit? In Matthew 20:1-16, we get some insights into that matter from Jesus' parable concerning the labourers. In the parable, we see some labourers were hired to work in a vineyard in the morning. They agreed to be paid one penny. Later in the day, the owner continues to hire more labourers, even up to the last hour. When it was time for everyone to receive their pay, we see that everyone receives one penny. What do you think was the reaction of the first labourers?

1. Resent

The early labourers complained that they received the same amount of pay as the late labourers, given that they had worked longer hours (v.11-12). These early labourers could represent the Jews. The Jews were the first to be part of God's family, and they had been God's exclusive people for almost 2,000 years prior to Jesus' time. God promised them blessings and salvation. Suddenly, God welcomes the Gentiles also. The Jews had difficulty accepting them. Sometimes we also expect that we should receive credit based on the amount of effort we had put in. If we had put in more effort to help organize an event, we may expect that more recognition be given. If we had been a Christian for a longer time, we expect to be given more respect and credit. Such thinking will only cause much

jealousy and conflict within the church, as we see in the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 3:3).

The owner of the vineyard reminds the labourers that he had done nothing wrong. After all, they had agreed to be paid one penny! Furthermore, the money belonged to the owner, so he had the right to do whatever he wanted with it (v.13-15). God has the sovereign right to grant salvation to whomsoever He wills! Really, none of us even deserved it to begin with, because of our sin (Romans 6:23). However, by God's grace, we can obtain salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). Instead of being resentful towards others, we should be happy that others can receive God's gift also. In fact, we want to help as many people as possible to receive God's grace also! Therefore, this spurs us to preach the gospel to all men (Matthew 28:19-20). Furthermore, we rejoice when we see our brethren succeed; we do not want to see any of our brethren stumble and fall from God's grace (1 Corinthians 12:26).

2. Resign

Jesus ends the parable by saying: *"so the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen"* (v.16). Although the Jews were the first to be God's people, unfortunately many fell because they did not believe in Jesus. Such a pity because they should have been the first ones to believe! (Galatians 3:24). Even Christians today who had believed and obeyed Jesus can give up and fall away also. Some have lost interest; some were discouraged; some were distracted (2 Timothy 4:10).

Being first is not the most important thing. It does not matter how long we had been a Christian. What matters more is how strong we finish! The moment we give up, that is when we lose everything! To give up halfway is to be like a pig that had just been washed clean, but it jumps back into the mud... what a waste of washing! (2 Peter 2:20-22). Therefore, we must endure and run this Christian race with patience (Hebrews 12:1-2). We must endure to the end, because only when we are faithful unto death that we can receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

3. Recline

If the early labourers had known that they would receive the same pay as the late labourers, what do you think they would have done? I can imagine they would just sit down and relax; let the late labourers do the work now! Sometimes Christians are tempted to recline and slow down. Why work so hard... anyway we're all going to the same place in the end right? We'll still get to Heaven. Let's just do the bare minimum to get by.

However, God warns Christians not to grow lukewarm. Jesus rebuked the church at Laodicea: *"because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth... be zealous therefore, and repent"* (Revelation 3:16, 19). The Christians at Laodicea were called to snap out of their mediocre service and be zealous! Christians

ought not to be contented with mediocre service; God expects us to give of our best (Matthew 22:37). For the Christian, there is no such thing as rest and retirement, because as long as we still have breath, our labour for the Lord does not stop until we enter our final rest (Hebrews 4:11). When we have endured in our labour for the Lord, then on that final day, we can be like the apostle Paul, who confidently said:

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8)



Business Meeting

Date & Time: 15 Dec, Sun (**TODAY**) @ 12.15pm

All bible class teachers, please end your classes at 12.10pm.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!



We rejoice over the **baptism of sis Sok Ting** (bro Reuben's friend) on 8 Dec! Let us give her a warm welcome into the family of God! Her particulars are as follows:

Name: Gan Sok Ting

Birth date: 17 Sep 1992

Email: gansokting@gmail.com

Baby Joy!

Our heartiest congratulations to **bro Farand & sis Cynthia** over her 2nd pregnancy! Please keep sis Cynthia in prayers for her smooth pregnancy and safe delivery.

Travelling (Pray for safety)

1. **Bro Benjamin Tan & family** in Okinawa till 17 Dec
2. **Sis Susan Ng & family** in Australia till 18 Dec
3. **Sis Joy** in Philippines till 26 Dec
4. **Bro Peter & sis Pooi Fun** in Malaysia till 28 Dec
5. **Sis Emily** in Philippines till 12 Jan
6. **Bro Gideon** in Finland for exchange program till 15 May 2020.

Guests last week

1. Sis Yeoh Swee Teen (*Canada*)
2. Bro Menard & Jane Dator (LCOC)
3. Sis Jenny (LCOC)
4. Sis Mabel
5. Stephanie Gostelow (*bro Martyn's wife*)
6. Glaiza Tolentino (*sis Stephanie's cousin*)
7. Joycelin Tok (*bro Gideon's friend*)
8. Shang Loh (*sis Farah's friend*)
9. Lay Lay (*sis Lydia's helper*)
10. Sulis (*sis Baby's helper*)
11. Isaiah (*Cheshire Home*)
12. Tan Kwang Han

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

Countdown

Date & Time:

31 Dec, Tue @ 8.30pm

Venue: LAP Church Building

Theme: CSI: Train to New Year

More details are on the sign up sheets at the back of the hall.



Thanksgiving Day

Date & Time:

1 Jan'20, Wed @ 10am

Venue: LAP Church Building

Please indicate in attendance slip if you are attending (for catering purposes).

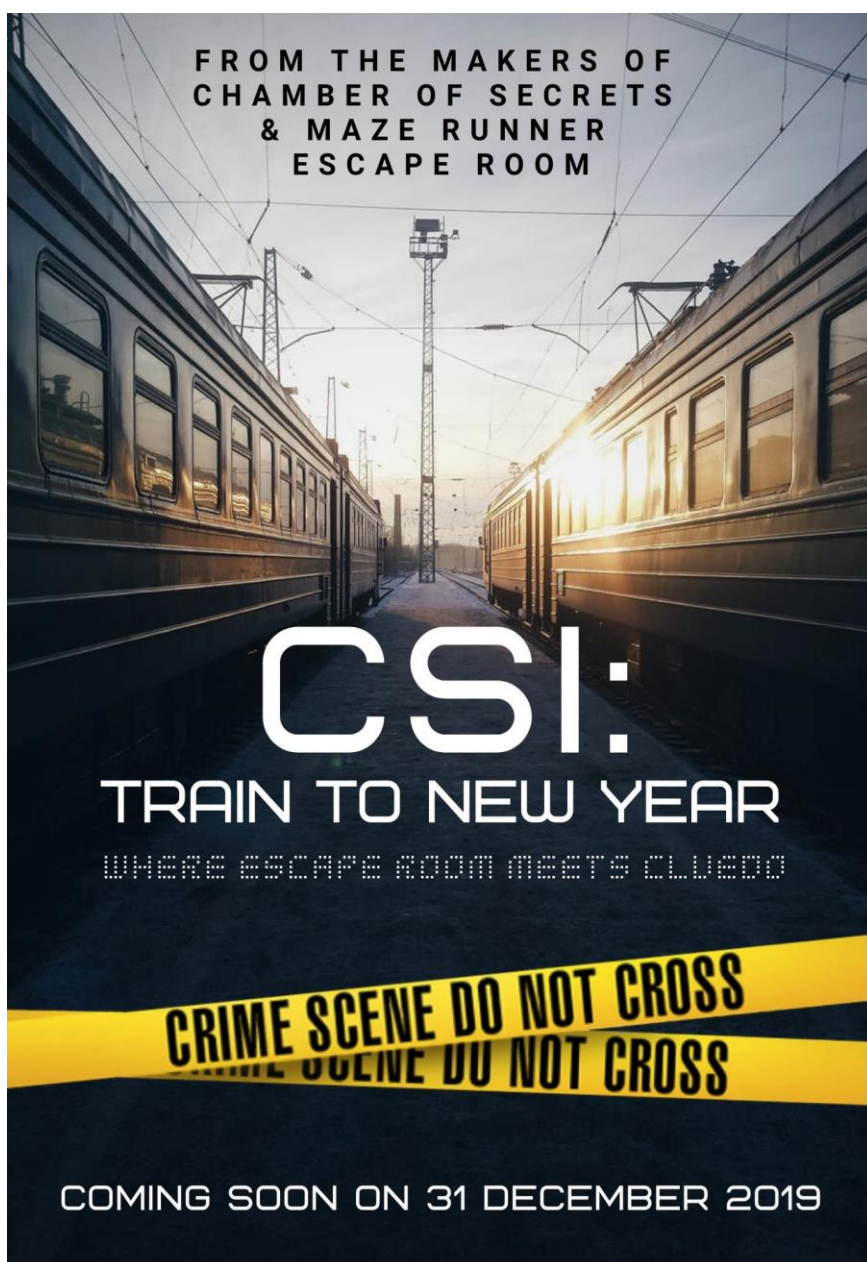
Singing Fellowship

Date & Time:

12 Jan'20, Sun @ 1.30pm – 3pm

Venue: LAP Church Building

All are welcome!



★★★★★★★★★★

Thursday Bible Class

"The Witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection"

(John 20:11-21:14)

by bro Timothy Ng

Next Sunday's Sermon

Bridging the Gaps in the Church: Between Different Personalities

by bro Ernest Lau

Birthdays this week

18 Dec (Wed) – Emily

20 Dec (Fri) – John

★★★★★★★★★★

Please send any news & prayer requests to
limahpincoc@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Overseas

- **Bro Kenneth Liong & sis Iris** in San Francisco
- **Bro Jonathan & sis Joan, bro Siang Yee, bro Jeshua & sis Farah** in UK
- **Sis Shuan Kwee** in Hong Kong
- **Bro Gideon** in Finland

Health

- **Sis Baby's** health
- **Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Linda's & sis Poh Im's** health
- **Bro David Sum's father's** recovery from spine surgery
- **Sis Jasmine Lim's mother's** recovery from fractured ankle
- **Bro Roberto's son's** recovery from kidney stones
- **Bro Kenneth Quek's** recovery from his knee surgery
- **Bro Soo Ping's** recovery from his spine surgery

Pregnancy

- Sis Olivia (Dec/Jan), sis Jasmine Chan (Mar), sis Wenyu (Apr), sis Cynthia Lim (Jun)

NSF

- Bro Titus, bro Shawn, bro Zachary, bro Wei Xiang

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		15-Dec-19	22-Dec-19	29-Dec-19
Song Leader		Benjamin Kwan	Isaac Chua	Jeremy Kwan
Opening Prayer Leader		Timothy Ng	Victor Lee	Low Chong Ping
Preacher		Ernest Lau	Ernest Lau	Benjamin Kwan
Lord's Supper Text		Php 2:5-11	1 Cor 11:23-29	Mar 14:22-25
Lord's Supper Servers	Scripture Reader	Titus Goh	Zachary Ling	Roberto Pascual
	Prayer: Bread	Chua Kian Hong	Andy Lin	Wong Sek Hoong
	Prayer: Fruit of Vine	Gordon Loo	Ling Leong Dak	John Goh
	Prayer: Offering	Lim Chin Siang	Ong Jun Wei	Henry Chee
Server		Alvin Foo	David Sum	Leonard Chia
Announcer		Charlie Teo	Jimmy Lau	Michael Yeo
Greeters		Constance Lau Ellen Hernandez	Naomi Leow Christine Phang	Jonalyn Balagot Ludina Carrido
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
Song Leader & O.P.		Ernest Lau	Jimmy Lau	Ernest Lau
Speaker		Michael Yeo	Ernest Lau	Ong Jun Wei
Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P.		Kenneth Quek	Farand Lim	Ling Leong Dak
Thursday Service @ 7.45pm				
Song Leader			Jimmy Lau	Benjamin Kwan
Opening Prayer Leader			Benjamin Tan	Kenneth Quek
Teacher			Timothy Ng	Timothy Ng
Closing Prayer Leader			Ong Jun Wei	Chua Kian Hong