

1 JULY
2018

LAP BULLETIN

Church of Christ 20 Lim Ah Pin Road Singapore 547839 Tel 6286 5605
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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)

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



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP 2018

NO-SEW CUSHION

7 JULY 2018, SATURDAY

10AM - 12NN

LAP CHURCH BUILDING

PLEASE INFORM BRO ALVIN OR SIS SER ERN
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TO ATTEND.



Elder's exhortation

by bro Jimmy Lau

Joh 12:43 *For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*

Do you love the praises of men? Well, who doesn't? Children love to hear from the adults that they are good and well behaved. Is there anything wrong with it? No, it's perfectly normal and right. How about adults? We too, love the praises from men. I love it when someone praises my cooking skill. Women love to hear praises that they are pretty. Men love to hear that they are handsome and smart. Employees covet the praises from their bosses that they are excellent workers. Is there anything wrong with those praises? Definitely not! In fact, it would be wrong not to praise someone for a good work done.

Therefore, in John 12:43, what was John referring to that is wrong?

John was referring to the chief rulers of the Jews, who, though they believed in Christ, were afraid to confess Him, lest they should be cast out from the synagogues (John 12:42). They wanted to be accepted in the Jewish community and so, they kept their faith secret. They chose to stand with the company that opposed Christ and went along with them in their decision to kill Jesus. It was in this context that John wrote: "*For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God*" (John 12:43).

To seek the praises of men is not wrong in itself, as mentioned in the cases cited at the beginning of this article. John is condemning a different kind of praises from men. John is condemning those praises that contradict the will of God. Indeed, some praises from men are sinful and which I will list a few in this article. It is wrong to prefer men's praises and not God's praises.

The censure passed by the apostle John on the chief priests is too often applicable to Christians in the present day. Our Lord said: "*But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven*" (Matt 10:33). The believing chief priests chose to deny Christ. Have we been guilty of doing the same thing? Some will deny they are Christians for fear of being laughed at. They love the praises of men more than the praises of God.

Do you love the praises of men MORE than the praises of God? I am going to assume that almost everyone answering that question will immediately say, NO! But, are you sure? When you are confronted with a situation where you had the opportunity to proclaim Jesus Christ as the only way, the only truth, the only life, did you do it? Or, did you chicken out?

You see, when you are given the opportunity to proclaim Jesus Christ and you fail to do so, you love the praises of men more than the praises of God. Like the believing Jews, you are afraid.

Examples Of Praises That Are Sinful.

1. **The praises of wicked men are sinful.** To seek the praise of wicked men is in itself as wrong as to love their company, or to admire them (Psalm 1:1). The praises of wicked men are corrupt for they rejoice in doing wickedness. But the Christian *“rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth”* (1 Cor 13:6).

2. **The praises received by attention seekers are sinful.** If we perform righteous deeds in order to receive human recognition, we are hypocrites. We may receive applause here on earth, but Jesus says we will not receive a reward in heaven (Matt 6:1-2).

3. **The praises of false teachers are sinful.** False teachers will praise error but condemn the truth. They hate those who speak the truth. Paul wrote: *“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”* (Gal 4:16).

We see that the praises of man are so temporary and can even be sinful. But the praise of God is everlasting and rewarding. In the parable of the talents, the two men who had worked with the talents that were given by their Master were praised by him: *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant”* (Matt 25:21, 23).

Let us always remember that our goal should not be to receive the praise of man, but the praise of God. In the day of Judgement, the only statement we want to hear is this praise from the Jesus: *“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matt 25:34).



IS CHRISTIANITY RELEVANT?

by bro Alvin Lin

In September 2013, the then CEO of Nokia, Stephen Elop, in announcing their acquisition by Microsoft, ended his speech tearfully with the parting words, “We didn’t do anything wrong, but somehow, we lost”. Nokia lost precisely because they didn’t do enough to maintain their relevance in a fast-changing world. Likewise, there are many critics of the

Bible who claim that Christianity has lost its relevance in the modern world, with campaigners for equal rights pushing for women to serve as pastors and preachers, and advocates of free love pushing for acceptance of homosexual marriages. These critics insist that the Bible must be reinterpreted in light of societal norms and human philosophies. However, the Bible assures us that God has given us “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2Pe 1:3), and that He will “supply all [our] need” (Php 4:19), so Christianity will never lose its relevance because the needs of man remain the same, albeit in different forms. In this article, we shall discuss the relevance of Christianity to the needs of man as illustrated in the famous Maslow’s hierarchy of needs.

Physiological needs

Physiological needs are needs like food, water, shelter, clothing, sleep etc. To fulfil these needs, some in the world resort to stealing and robbing to fill their stomachs. But Jesus assures us that “your heavenly Father knoweth that [we] have need of all these things” (Mat 6:31-32). Not only does God know our physiological needs, He also provides for us if we will only “seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (Mat 6:33). King David declared that throughout his life from a lowly shepherd boy to a powerful king, he has “not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread” (Psa 37:25). If we follow the principles of the Bible, surely we would not need to worry about not having a job, for which employer wouldn’t want a Christian employee who is loyal, honest, and hardworking? God also provides for us physically in giving us sunshine, rain, and air, which are needed for growing crops (Hos 2:21-23). But what if we are unable to work and earn a living because of physical limitations? God provides us a safety net by means of our physical family (1Ti 5:4) and spiritual family (1Jo 3:17-18) to take care of one another’s needs. While we may not have everything we want in life, we will certainly be provided for by God.

Safety and security needs

Safety and security needs are needs like health, employment, property, stability etc. To fulfil these needs, some in the world resort to superstitions and amulets to give them a sense of security. But Jesus promises to give us peace that is “not as [what] the world giveth” (Joh 14:27), a peace that “passeth all understanding” (Php 4:7), enduring even in times of tribulation (Joh 16:33). Such peace is possible because we have an all-powerful God who delivers us out of all our afflictions (Psa 34:19), in not allowing us to be tried “above that [we] are able” to bear, but providing us a “way to escape” (1Co 10:13). As children of God, we have the privilege of coming before the “throne of grace” of the Greatest Being in the universe to seek His mercy and grace in our “time of need” (Heb

4:16). But what if we suffer health challenges and God does not seem to grant our requests for recovery? This does not mean that God does not care or that He is unable to help us because He gives us grace to bear the trials (2Co 12:7-10) and He gives us a spiritual family to “bear one another’s burdens” (Gal 6:2). While we may not have a comfortable life, we will certainly be cared for by God.

Love and belonging needs

Love and belonging needs are needs like friendship, family, intimacy, connectedness etc. To fulfil these needs, some in the world resort to immorality and vice to find a sense of belonging and “brotherhood”. But God knows that “it is not good that man should be alone” (Gen 2:18) and so He instituted marriage and family for our happiness (Mat 19:4-6). But what if we are not married and we come from broken homes? To address this need, God has given us a spiritual family where we are commanded to “love one another; as [Christ has] loved [us]” (Joh 13:34). Even if all men forsake us, we still have the assurance that God “will never leave [us], nor forsake [us]” (Heb 13:5). This fellowship with God and the church is indeed something to be treasured (1Jo 1:3), because it is a relationship that will carry through eternity. While our friends and family may ostracize us for following Christ, we will certainly be cherished by God.

Self-esteem needs

Self-esteem needs are needs like achievement, respect, individuality etc. To fulfil these needs, some in the world resort to bullying and oppression to feel good about themselves. But Jesus tells us that we have an esteemed place in God’s creation, being of “more value than many sparrows” (Luk 12:6-7). Such high regard has God for man in “[crowning] him with glory and honour” and “[making] him to have dominion over the works of [God’s] hands” that the Psalmist could only wonder in amazement, “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Psa 8:4-6). Even though man is “a little lower than the angels”, yet Christ “took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham” to “make reconciliation for the sins of the people” (Heb 2:16-17). Listen carefully, Christ did not die to save angels, yet He died to save man! In addition, God also gave us a spiritual family where we are commanded to “esteem other better than themselves” (Php 2:3-4). While we may not be well regarded by the world, we will certainly be honoured by God.

Self-actualization needs

Self-actualization needs are needs like morality, creativity, purpose, potential etc. To fulfil these needs, some in the world resort to material pursuits and dangerous

excitement to find meaning in life. But the answer to a more abundant life is found in Christ (Joh 10:10), as attested to by the apostle Paul's declaration, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Php 1:21). God has given us a greater purpose in life than ourselves, that is, to "fear God, and keep his commandments" (Ecc 12:13-14). Man often desire to leave legacies that will be remembered by future generations, but the greatest legacy that will never be forgotten is our "work and labour of love" for God (Heb 6:10), for "[our] works do follow [us]" after this life is over (Rev 14:13). To this end, in pushing us to our greatest potential, God has given us a spiritual family to "provoke [us] unto love and to good works" (Heb 10:24-25). While we may not live a life of excitement, we will certainly enjoy eternity with God.

No wonder the Psalmist proclaimed that he shall not be in want with God as his shepherd (Psa 23:1). God has met all his needs – physiological needs (Psa 23:2), self-actualization needs (Psa 23:3), safety and security needs (Psa 23:4), self-esteem needs (Psa 23:5), and love and belonging needs (Psa 23:6). In fact, the apostle Peter acknowledged that there is no better alternative in life than to follow Christ (Joh 6:67-69). To the world, religion becomes an afterthought only after all their needs have been met; but for Christians, Christ should be the centre of our lives (Col 3:4). Brethren, let us "set [our] affection on things above, not on things on the earth", "for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2Co 4:18). Praise the Lord that Christianity is still relevant and very much alive today!



July									
Auntie Yeoh	1	Lydia	6	Kim Tian	12	Sydney	22	Geok Eng	30
Olivia	1	Debbie	9	Victor	13	Jessica	25	Chloe	30
Gordon	3	Swee Inn	9	Cynthia Tan	20	Benedict	26	Baby Tan	31
Nigel	4	Lois	12	Shawn	22	Gideon	29	Lynette	31

WEEKLY NEWS

Welcome to the Family of God!

We rejoice over the baptism of **sis Chloe (sis Sydney's cousin)** on 24 Jun! Let us give her a warm welcome into the family of God!

Her particulars are as follows:

Name: Chloe Neo

Birth Date: 30 July 2002

Email: neo_chloe@plmgss.edu.sg



Wedding & Auntie Yeoh's 90th birthday

Our heartiest congratulations to **bro Martyn & his wife, Stephanie**, over their wedding yesterday! Please pray for these newlyweds as they begin a new life together as husband & wife. The family would like for everyone to celebrate this joyous occasion, as well as Auntie Yeoh's 90th birthday today, with a buffet lunch after the bible class.

Health

Please pray for **bro Victor** who had a cataract operation and is recovering at home.

Travels (Please pray for travelling mercies)

1. **Bro Reuben** in Taiwan till 7 Jul
2. **Sis Germaine** will be travelling to Korea from 1 -8 Jul.

Guest Last Week

1. Sis Janet Lee, bro Hao Shen, sis Elinna & sis Nadia (*Central North COC, Perth*)
2. Sis Julia & Jonavan (*Wahfu COC, HK*)
3. Bro Dennis & sis Lisa
4. Bro Ivan Kwek
5. Bro Go Soon Heng
6. Peh Guang Rong (*sis Yan Ling's husband*)
7. Kenny Kee (*sis Debbie's husband*)
8. Tan Peck Hoon (*sis Peck Lian's sister*)
9. Anna Jezreel Tinguil (*sis Mergie's sister*)
10. Chloe Neo (*sis Sydney's cousin*)
11. Mervyn (*sis Sydney's friend*)
12. Gan Sok Ting (*bro Reuben's friend*)
13. Shalen Manuel (*sis Seow Hui's helper*)
14. Nanette Cuplang
15. Janie O Twera

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

Youth Fellowship

Date: 8 July, Sun

Time: 1:30 to 3 pm

Venue: LAPCOC

Agenda: What does God have to say about drinking alcohol?
Is social drinking acceptable?

Come and join us in a discussion on this topic.

Bible Quiz

Date: 9 August, Thu
(Public Holiday)

Time: 3pm – 5pm

Venue: LAPCOC

Book: Exodus 13-24

Start reading up today!

Inter-congregation Church Camp (ICC)

Date: 20-22 Aug, Mon-Wed

Venue: Erya by Suria, Bentong

Theme: The Right Hand of Fellowship

Main Speaker: Bro Kwan Tai Choom

Organizer: Kota Kemuning COC

Please look for bro Alvin or sis Ser Ern if you are interested to attend.

NEWS



Thursday Bible Class

How Can We Understand the Bible Alike?

by bro Peter Kwan

Birthday of the week

1 Jul (Sun) – Auntie Yeoh & Olivia

3 Jul (Tue) – Gordon

4 Jul (Wed) - Nigel

6 Jul (Fri) - Lydia



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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Overseas:

- *Sis Shuan Kwee* in Hong Kong
- *Sis Farah* in London, UK, for studies
- *Bro Long Jun* in China
- *Bro Nigel* in Dubai
- *Bro Kenneth Liong and sis Iris* in San Francisco
- *Bro Ernest & sis Stephanie* in Palau

Health

- *Sis Baby's & Auntie Yeoh's* health
- *Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Linda's & sis Molly's* health
- *Sis Alice's* recovery from a closed fracture
- *Lisa's (bro David Sum's daughter)* recovered from her surgery.
- *Sis Molly's brother's* health
- *Bro Capi's mother's* health
- *Sis Siew Siew's mother's, sis Shu Fang's mother's, sis Doris' mother's, sis Shermin's grandmother's & sis Sarah's grandmother's* health
- *Bro Gideon's* recovery from his jaw recovery
- *Sis Germaine's* chronic hives

Pregnancy

- Sis Debbie (Jun'18), sis Stephanie (Dec'18)

NSF

- Bro Kevin, bro Wei Jie, bro Benedict, bro Titus

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		1-Jul-18	8-Jul-18	15-Jul-18
Song Leader		Alvin Lin	Amos Yang	Justin Kwan
Opening Prayer Leader		Low Chong Ping	Michael Yeo	Danny Poo
Psalms Text		Psa 69:1-12	Psa 69:13-25	Psa 69:26-36
Preacher		Benjamin Kwan	Alvin Lin	Peter Chin
Lord's Supper Text		Isa 53:4-9	Php 2:5-11	1 Cor 11:23-29
Lord's Supper Servers	<i>Scripture Reader</i>	Shawn Wong	Nicodemus Oey	Marc Wee
	<i>Prayer: Bread</i>	Andy Lin	Charlie Teo	Lim Poh Teng
	<i>Prayer: Fruit of Vine</i>	Henry Chee	Kenneth Quek	Paul Lim
	<i>Prayer: Offering</i>	Joel Lee	Alan Poon	Ong Jun Wei
	<i>Assistant</i>	Ng Wei Xiang	Leonard Chia	Cornelius Lee
<i>Foundation Class</i>		Arthur Yap	Lau Jeng Sang	Benjamin Tan
Announcer		Paul Lim	Jimmy Lau	Benjamin Kwan
Greeters		Constance Lau Wu Wenyu	Lim Poh Im Shum Chee Ming	Ludina Carrido Susan Cheong
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
Song Leader & O.P.		Timothy Ng	Joel Lee	Amos Yang
Speaker		Paul Lim	Alvin Lin	Henry Leow
Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P.		Jerry Cheong	Lim Poh Teng	Ling Leong Dak
Thursday Service @ 7.45pm				
Song Leader			28-Jun-18 Alvin Lin	5-Jul-18 Benjamin Kwan
Opening Prayer Leader			Henry Leow	Lee Tian Seng
Closing Prayer Leader			Reuben Lim	Kenneth Quek