

1 APRIL  
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)

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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



**2Ki 25:24 *And Gedaliah sware to them, and to their men, and said unto them, Fear not to be the servants of the Chaldees: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon; and it shall be well with you.***

After the destruction of Jerusalem and the carrying away captive of the Jews to Babylon (586 bc), Gedaliah was appointed by Nebuchadnezzar to be governor over the poor Jews who had been left in the land to be vinedressers and husbandmen (2Kgs 25:12, 22).

Upon learning that one of their own had been appointed governor in Judea, the rebel Jewish soldiers who had escaped capture, came with Ishmael, Johanan and other officers, to Gedaliah at Mizpah (2Kgs 25:23; Jer 40:7-10). As these men were afraid of the vengeance of the Chaldeans because they had fought against them, Gedaliah assured them that they need have no fear of vengeance from their conquerors, and promised them protection and security if they would remain and cultivate the land and become the peaceful subjects of the king of Babylon (2 Kgs 25:24).

Unfortunately, Gedaliah was only about two months in office, when Ishmael, with another ten wicked fellows, murdered him.

We learn from Jeremiah 40:13-16 that Johanan had warned Gedaliah against the plot of Ishmael to assassinate him. Johanan even volunteered to kill Ishmael to protect Gedaliah. But Gedaliah disregarded the warning by Johanan, and accused him of lying about Ishmael. The all too trusting and kind governor refused to believe the report by Johanan. The consequence was that he was murdered by this same Ishmael while entertaining him in his own house (Jer 41:1).

## Who was Gedaliah?

He was the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, ruler (2 Kgs 25:22). Ahikam was one of those whom King Josiah, when struck by the words of the book of the law, sent to inquire of the Lord (2Kgs 22:12-14). Ahikam was a friend of the prophet Jeremiah; he protected the good prophet during the reign of the wicked king Jehoiakim (Jer 26:24). His son, Gedaliah, followed in his father's steps, and he was chosen by the Babylonians as the one to whom they committed Jeremiah for safety after taking Jerusalem, and on whose loyalty they could depend on, in setting him as governor over the remnant of the people in Judea. Gedaliah thus inherited from his father and grandfather a legacy of the fear of God and trust among men.

### What can we learn from the character of Gedaliah?

1. He was a GOOD man - His benevolent and wise rule did much to inspire the feeble remnant of his countrymen with heart and hope. In the midst of poverty, devastation, and hopelessness, he injected hope in them.
2. He was a PEACE LOVING man – He urged the citizens that remained in Judea to be peace loving subjects to their conquerors. He knew the consequences if they were to rebel.
3. He possessed a NOBLE character - He believed in the best of every person. He liked to think good about others. When Johanan warned him about the plot by Ishmael to kill him, he rebuked him instead. His kindly nature and generous disposition would not allow him to think evil of a brother.

James likewise exhorts: *"Speak not evil one of another, brethren"* (Jas 4:11). That was Gedaliah; he refused to speak evil or think evil of a brother. How often we see conflicts and quarrels appear because someone is suspicious of another brother. Someone heard a gossip and believed it without verifying it. Or, someone is so sensitive that he keeps suspecting another person's motive and action.

You are blessed if you have Gedaliah as a friend. His friendship is sincere and honest. He is a blessing to be with and he will be genuinely concerned about your affairs. He will be a peace maker if you have trouble with another person.

Gedaliah was such a good person that even the evil Nebuchadrezzar chose him above all other men in Judea to be the governor. You see, even his enemies could see the good that was in him. His enemies trusted him. He was such an honourable man of good standing among men.

Let us be like this man Gedaliah. He was benevolent, good, trustworthy, peaceful, and noble. Are we like him? Do people trust us with their possessions and secrets? Are we peace loving persons? Are we honourable persons? Be a Gedaliah.

# From the Brotherhood



## What About the Thief on the Cross?

*Adapted by Wayne Jackson*

*(<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/424-what-about-the-thief-on-the-cross>)*

**“Why do you insist that baptism is essential for salvation? While hanging on the cross, Jesus pardoned the thief who was crucified with him. And that forgiveness was granted without baptism (Luke 23:43). Surely this is a clear example of salvation by faith, not by baptism.”**

To argue that the example of the thief on the cross is a pattern of salvation today involves an unwarranted assumption and a faulty view of biblical chronology.

Here are the basic facts of the case.

### The Facts

When the Lord was crucified, he was positioned between two robbers, both of whom, at some point during the six hours of agony, reproached him (Matt. 27:44; Mk. 15:32). The Greek grammar suggests a **repeated** verbal assault. However, as the ordeal proceeded, a **change** occurred in one of the thieves. This aspect of the case is only recorded by Luke.

“And there was also a superscription over him, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. And one of the malefactors that were hanged railed on him, saying, Art not thou the Christ? Save thyself and us. But the other answered, and rebuking him said, Dost thou not even fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said, Jesus, remember me when thou comest in thy kingdom. And he said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise” (Lk. 23:38-43).

Several important facts come to light by a careful analysis of this paragraph.

By comparing Luke’s record with that of Matthew and Mark, it is obvious that there was a **change in the man’s view** regarding Jesus. Instead of reviling the Lord, he glorified him and petitioned the Savior. And Jesus graciously responded to his change in behavior.

The penitent thief had a good deal of information concerning Christ. Exactly when he learned these facts is not specified. But there are two possibilities. Either he considered what he heard about Christ during that six-hour episode and became convinced of his royalty, or else he already knew about the Savior from **earlier circumstances**.

Here's a thoughtful question. Isn't it possible that he had been exposed significantly to information about Jesus earlier in his life, had been impressed by it, and later regressed into a life of crime?

Note some things about the man's beliefs.

- He acknowledged the existence of God.
- He believed in a standard of right and wrong.
- He confessed that he and his companion had transgressed divine law.
- He conceded they were being punished "justly."

Additionally, he confessed the innocence of Christ. The Teacher had done "nothing amiss." And remember, the Lord was being crucified for his affirmation of being the "Son of the Blessed One" (Mk. 14:61, 62). The robber's statement, therefore, is basically an acknowledgement of the truth of Jesus' claim.

Then consider this. The penitent thief **believed** that Christ was a "king" and that this act of murder would not terminate the Savior's life. Rather, the Lord would "come in [his] kingdom." And he was confident that Jesus would be able to bless him in that future state.

At the very least, these expressions indicate that the thief believed it was possible to have association with the Lord after both of them were dead.

While it is not impossible, it does seem improbable, that this man could have accumulated this much theological information, with such clear implications, and under such excruciating conditions, in such a short period of time.

It is entirely feasible that this criminal had absorbed some earlier teaching concerning the Master.

### **Unknown Possibilities**

If the foregoing is possible, isn't it also possible that this man could have been a disciple of John the Baptist, or of the Lord himself, or of one of Christ's disciples as they went forth teaching (Mt. 10:5ff; Lk. 10:1ff) — during the preceding years?

If such were the case, the man might well have already been immersed for the forgiveness of his sins on some past occasion (cf. Mk. 1:4; Jn. 4:1-2).

I am not suggesting that this proposition can be proved. I am simply saying that no one can make the dogmatic statement: "The thief had never been baptized." That is an unknown factor. He might well have been an "erring child of God" at this point.

## The Authority of Christ

Having said that, let us now focus our attention in another direction. The careful Bible student must acknowledge that there are different periods of sacred history, in the course of which, certain religious requirements may vary. Abraham was never commanded to be baptized or to observe the Lord's supper.

In today's era of religious history, we are not obligated to observe the Passover, or to offer animal sacrifices. Jehovah has had **different requirements in different periods of history**.

In view of this principle, consider the following facts.

### Christ Had Authority to Forgive Sins

During his personal ministry, Jesus possessed the authority to forgive men's sins personally and directly.

For example, once while in the city of Capernaum, the Lord encountered a man who was paralyzed. The unfortunate gentleman had been conveyed to where Christ was by four of his friends. When Jesus saw "their faith," he said to the palsied man, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mk. 2:5). Then, in order to establish his "authority" in the matter of personally forgiving sins "on earth" (Mk. 2:10), Christ healed the man of his malady.

It is interesting to note that there is no mention made of the fact that the man was required to **repent of his sins**. If recorded examples of events occurring during the Lord's personal ministry are a precedent for the Christian age, shall it be concluded that no repentance is obligatory today?

### His Ratified Last Will and Testament

The fact is, while Jesus was on earth he had the authority to dispense blessings **directly** based on the circumstances at hand. At the time of his death, however, his authority was made resident in his testamentary "will" (Heb. 9:15-17). And the terms of that will specify baptism as a **condition** of pardon (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

No one has the legal right to **eliminate that condition** by appealing to something the Lord did during earthly ministry before his final will was ratified. The heavenly kingdom takes precedence over the former.

It becomes very apparent, therefore, that those who appeal to the case of the "thief on the cross" as a specific example for conversion today are mistaken in several particulars.

- They do not comprehend the **difference** between the Savior's earthly ministry and his current reign from heaven; and,
- They have thrust aside the plain demands of the New Covenant.



# Happy Birthday

May God give you the strength and wisdom to smoothly surmount all the challenges life brings you. Stay blessed and enjoy your day to the fullest.



April	
Quek-Low Juek Tiang	4
Leow Hwee Chin	5
Yap Kim Whatt, Arthur	5
Goh Ser Ern	6
Chua Shuan Kwee	9
Soo Kok Leong	10
Lim Poh Teng	11
Cheong Hup Choon, Jerry	13
Teo-Chow Sau Ching	13
Chee Eng Heng, Henry	14
Chin Kok Hin, Peter	14
Jose Manuel Cardoza	14
Wu Wenyu	15
Nguyen Thi Kim Yen	25
Ng Eng Xiang, Jaslyn	27
Goh-Chuang Bow Chin, Susan	29

## WEEKLY NEWS



### Meeting Reminder

#### **Business Meeting**

Date: 1 April 2018, Sunday (**TODAY**)

Time: 12.30pm

#### Meeting Agenda:

*Church Annual Budget for FY2018/2019*

### Change of support

With effect from 1 April, **bro Kwan Tai Choom** will be employed and supported by the LAP Chinese congregation.

### Health

Please pray for the health & recovery of **sis Shermin's grandmother** from dizziness.

### Combined Gospel Meeting Briefing

**Date:** 8 April, Sunday

**Time:** 12.30pm

**Venue:** Church building (Hall)

*All servers and receptionists are requested to attend this short briefing after Bible Class.*

### Travels

*(Please pray for travelling mercies)*

**Sis Candice** in Hanoi till tomorrow

### Guests last week

1. Sis Deborah Tan (*Tai Ping COC, M'sia*)
2. Kenny Kee (*sis Debbie's husband*)
3. Samuel De Cruz (*sis Mergie's husband*)
4. Chloe Neo (*sis Sydney's cousin*)
5. Shana Teo (*sis Sydney's friend*)
6. Iris (*sis Lois' friend*)
7. Jonalyn F. Balagot
8. Triston



## UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

### Youth Fellowship

**Date:** 8 April, Sunday

**Time:** 1.30pm – 3pm

**Venue:** Church building (Hall)

### **Topic: Miracles**

*Ever wondered what purpose miracles served in the past? Do miracles still exist today? Why do some believe miracles still exist?*

*Join us for a discussion on this topic. All are welcome, young or old.*

### Men & Ladies Workshop

**Date:** 14 April, Saturday

**Time:** 10am – 3pm

**Venue:** Jurong church building

### **Program**

**10am – 12pm (bro John Moore):**

*Teacher training workshop (men & ladies)*

**1pm – 3pm (bro John Moore):**

*Teacher training workshop (men)*

**1pm – 3pm (sis Carla Moore):**

*Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World (ladies)*

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS

# Reasons to Believe

SPEAKER: JOHN MOORE

JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY LIM AH PIN CHURCH OF CHRIST AND JURONG CHURCH OF CHRIST

Photo Credits – Raymond Soh

11 – 13 APRIL 2018  
7:45 PM – 9:00 PM

CONCORDE HOTEL

100 Orchard Road Singapore 238840



## SPECIAL SERIES OF STUDIES ON:

### **“THE BOOK OF REVELATION”**

April 23 & 24 (9.30am – 2.30pm)

April 25 (9.30am – 11.30am)

### **“BIBLICAL GUIDANCE & AN INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN COUNSELING”**

April 25 (11.30am – 2.30pm)

April 26 & 27 (9.30am – 2.30pm)



**Speaker:**  
**John Moore**

A native of Dripping Springs, Texas, John has served as an evangelist, teacher, preacher and minister of the gospel for over 30 years. He and his wife, Carla are working with Bear Valley Bible Institute International, and serve as the Directors of Bible Land Passages Project, a ministry dedicated to training preachers, defending the faith, and guiding souls to Jesus.

John also serves on the advisory board of World Video Bible School and he is the narrator and author of both the book and video, “Searching for Truth” and the narrator and instructor of “Learning To Use The Greek New Testament” — a thorough study of New Testament Greek presented in 35 lessons on 13 DVDs. Since 1986, he has preached in gospel meetings in over 18 states, and has conducted or participated in yearly campaigns in various foreign countries including Jamaica, Tobago, Malaysia and Singapore.

**Date:** April 23 – 27, 2018 (Mon-Fri)

**Time:** 9.30am – 2.30pm

**Venue:** Lecture Hall, Four Seas College

To register:



admin@fourseas.edu.sg



62618507/91062794 by April 13, 2018.

## NEWS



### Thursday Bible Class

Marriage:

Why It Fails So Often  
by bro Andy Lin

### Birthday of the week

4 Apr (Wed) – Juek Tiang

5 Apr (Thu) –

Hwee Chin & Arthur

6 Apr (Fri) – Ser Ern



Please send any news &  
prayer requests to  
[limahpincoc@gmail.com](mailto:limahpincoc@gmail.com)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Overseas:

- *Sis Shuan Kwee* in Hong Kong
- *Sis Farah, bro Siang Yee, bro Gavin* in London, UK, for studies
- *Bro Long Jun* in China
- *Bro Nigel* in Dubai
- *Bro Kenneth Liong* in California, US

### Health

- *Sis Baby's & Auntie Yeoh's* health
- *Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Linda's, sis Peiyi's & sis Molly's* health
- *Sis Molly's brother's* health
- *Bro Roberto's* migraine
- *Sis Doris'* recovery from her spine surgery
- *Bro Capi's mother's* health
- *Sis Jenny's mother's, Sis Siew Siew's mother's, sis Shu Fang's mother's & sis Doris' mother's* health
- *Lisa, bro David & sis Jenny's daughter,* from giddiness & headaches

### Pregnancy

- Sis Lydia (Jun'18), sis Jasmine Chan (Jun'18), sis Debbie (Jun'18)

### NSF

- Bro Kevin, bro Wei Jie, bro Benedict

## MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		1 Apr 2018	8-Apr-18	15-Apr-18
<b>Song Leader</b>		Justin Kwan	Jonathan Yang	Benjamin Kwan
<b>Opening Prayer Leader</b>		Michael Yeo	Low Chong Ping	Peter Chin
<b>Psalms Text</b>		Psa 59:10-17	Psa 60:1-12	Psa 61:1-8
<b>Preacher</b>		Ernest Lau	Alvin Lin	John Moore
<b>Lord's Supper Text</b>		1 Cor 11:23-29	Mar 14:22-25	Mat 26:26-29
<b>Lord's Supper Servers</b>	<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>	Benjamin Tan	Kenneth Quek	Paul Lim
	<i>Prayer: Offering</i>	Joel Lee	Timothy Ng	Alan Poon
	<i>Assistant</i>	Ng Wei Xiang	Leonard Chia	Cornelius Lee
<i>Foundation Class</i>		Arthur Yap	Lau Jeng Sang	Justin Kwan
<b>Announcer</b>		Jimmy Lau	Ernest Lau	Benjamin Kwan
<b>Greeters</b>		Benbin Aspacio Ellen Hernandez	Jessica Patete Maria Fu	Wang Teng Wee Teo Kim Tian
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
<b>Song Leader &amp; O.P.</b>		Joel Lee	Jeremy Kwan	Jonathan Yang
<b>Speaker</b>		Ong Jun Wei	Lee Tian Seng	Ernest Lau
<b>Lord's Supper, Giving &amp; C.P.</b>		Martyn Gostelow	Paul Lim	Ong Jun Wei
Thursday Service @ 7.45pm				
<b>Song Leader</b>			Alvin Lin	Gospel Meeting
<b>Opening Prayer Leader</b>			Peter Chin	
<b>Closing Prayer Leader</b>			Kenneth Quek	