

**22 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



**1 JAN 2020,
WED
@ 10AM
LAPCOC**

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



Elder's exhortation

by bro Jimmy Lau

1Co 9:22 *To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*

Today, many are more concerned about their personal rights than the rights of others. Everything is about the great I or me - I don't like it; I don't benefit from it; I don't feel edified; I don't like the sermon.

Where is the self-sacrifice? In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul speaks of self-sacrificing love. He explains his willingness to forfeit personal liberties and accommodate himself for the sake of the gospel. He mentions two groups of people – Jews and Gentiles.

In the Jewish community, for example, some new Christians still wanted to observe the Sabbaths, attend the synagogues, follow the dietary laws, and maintain all the feasts and ceremonies of the Old Testament law. Those things they had observed when they were following Judaism and it became a habit that was associated with the true God, and hence, they still felt such things were obligatory.

On the other hand, among the Gentiles, there were those saved out of idolatry who now feared having anything to do with meat offered to idols. They would not eat any meat that had been offered to idols. But there were some who were well taught and believed it was alright to eat and they ate. This became a stumbling block to the other group and it gave rise to contention and confusion.

It has been said: Love is easy; it is loving that is hard. It is easy to fall in love; it's staying in love that is difficult. As we fall in love, our affections effortlessly motivate us. When the feelings subside, we must work twice as hard to maintain and deepen the relationships. In the end, the effort is in the decisions we make. Choosing love is choosing selflessness. It is putting the other person's happiness above self.

Paul was selfless. His love was self-sacrificing. He cared little about his personal rights. He was willing to forego his apostolic freedom in order to reach out to both races. Why? He said: *"I do for the gospel's sake"* (1 Cor 9:23).

One of the characteristics of love is that love is not selfish (1 Cor 13:5). Love is thinking more about others rather than self. Paul wrote: *"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others"* (Phil 2:4). He means we are to take thought for others.

Paul is one who lives by what he preaches. He preached self-sacrificing love; he lived a life of selfless love. There were weak brethren; he said he would become weak like them. He put his own interest and happiness second place.

A happy family is built on love; it is destroyed by selfishness and an unforgiving spirit. Likewise, a happy church is built on love and destroyed by selfishness. Every man has his own opinion on certain issues. How should it be resolved? Should a church business meeting turn ugly? Should a voice be heard at the expense of disrupting a meeting and causing stumbling blocks to other Christians? Do elders have the right to rule and make decisions?

Learn from the good apostle Paul. His principle in life is this: *"If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend"* (1 Cor 8:13).

Eating meat is a matter of comparative unimportance; Paul said he can dispense with it. His love was selfless. He would not do anything that might cause another Christian to stumble.

Who will follow his example? Who will abstain from anything lawful in itself when it offends a weak brother? Who will put another person's happiness before his own?

Indeed, who will? Such a person will: He is the Christian who loves God and his brethren. *"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also"* (1 John 4:21).



From the Brotherhood



Those “Testimonies” Regarding Miracles

By Wayne Jackson

(taken from <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1017-those-testimonies-regarding-miracles>)

They flow from my computer and across my desk. I am speaking of those “testimonies”; testimonies that detail the most incredible “supernatural experiences” imaginable. These experiences supposedly have happened to the correspondents personally or, more often than not, to someone they know, or about whom they have heard.

One gentleman tells of the time when his father accidentally cut off a finger. According to the “testimony,” he simply stuck it back on, wrapped it up, and it was miraculously “healed” in only a few weeks. That was hardly the manner of healing in the case of Malchus’ ear (Luke 22:51). Another story concerns a family member who ran out of automobile fuel. He simply prayed, poured water into the gas tank, and drove on! One cannot but wonder how many miles per gallon “miracle-water” produces. This morning another kindly soul tells me of an experience wherein he became “spiritually intoxicated,” and saw clouds floating around inside a church auditorium. He interpreted this as a reception of “Holy Spirit baptism.”

Of course one can pick up a supermarket tabloid and read almost any week of some person who was captured by aliens and spent a weekend on Mars. Then there are those who die and travel down that long, dark corridor toward the bright light, or they float above the surgical table, only to return to their normal environments and “thrill” us with the fascinating details of their out-of-body adventure. The catalog of “experiences,” religious or otherwise, virtually is endless.

Just how does one evaluate these phenomena? We are reticent to wound the feelings of sincere people; at times, however, the teacher of truth must run that risk and be blunt. The honest Bible student should consider several possibilities, based upon scriptural data.

Dishonesty

Some “experiential” claims are born of absolute dishonesty. Whatever the ultimate motive may be — whether publicity, the solicitation of a following, the acquisition of money, etc. — some people are duplicitous. Consider the following Bible case.

A courageous man of God went to the city of Bethel and rebuked a corrupt king, Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who led Israel into sin with his idolatry (see 1 Kings 13:1ff; cf. 14:16). After the completion of his sacred mission, and en route toward home, an old prophet approached the man of God. The elderly gentleman told of an “experience” with an angel that involved an invitation to the man of God to accompany him back to his house in Bethel for refreshment.

The fact is, however, the alleged angel’s message was directly contrary to a revelation from the Lord, and scripture explicitly declares that the older gentleman “lied” to the man of God (v. 18). As a result of believing that experience-oriented lie, the man of God lost his life. Some religious leaders are liars — and that is one of the more complimentary things that may be said of them.

Delusional Experiences

Eliphaz, one of Job’s erstwhile friends, in attempting to buttress his argument that the patriarch’s suffering was the result of egregious, personal sin, told of a horrifying “experience,” mystical in nature (see Job 4). In the dead of night, Eliphaz claims to have heard a “whisper,” and saw a “spirit” pass before his face. Such struck terror in his heart; he exclaimed that his whole frame shook and the hair of his body stood at attention! The “spirit” allegedly spoke, providing a message, the essence of which cast Job into a shadow of disrepute.

The motive behind Eliphaz’s story is not revealed in the sacred record. Was he, like the old prophet mentioned above, merely lying? One need not assume that necessarily. Was he delusional? Was he so anxious to conjure up evidence supporting his theological position that he forced himself to believe the event actually happened? This, without doubt, is a common occurrence.

There are folks — honest, genuinely devout people — who are members of sects that are super-emotionally charged. Their services commonly are a “baptism” in adrenalin. They are urged by spellbinding leaders to “expect a miracle.” They feel that somehow they are not “spiritual” if something supernatural does not happen in their lives. Hence, they “seek,” and they “find” — though not in the biblical sense!

The important point to remember is this: No “experience” can be a substitute for the truths that are revealed through the biblical documents. Experience is to be measured by, and controlled by, the plain testimony of scripture. Scripture must not be forced into the mold of subjective sensations.

There are two ideological extremes that must be avoided. One is “empiricism,” a philosophical concept that suggests there is no reality apart from one’s personal experience. For example, the skeptic would contend that since no miracles are obvious today, the possibility of a miracle is nonexistent. That is not a logical conclusion.

On the other hand, the knowledgeable Christian does not argue for the validity of those miracles recorded in the Bible on the basis of what we experience today; nor does he contend against the possibility of modern miracles simply because he has not experienced them personally.

Rather, the genuineness of miracles, such as those performed by Christ and his apostles, are established on the ground of the credibility of the ancient witnesses (who were willing to forfeit their lives for what they saw and heard), along with the integrity of the documents that record those testimonies. On this web site there are various articles that argue this case.

This point is crucial; one may not set aside the plain Bible teaching regarding the cessation of miracles, just because he believes he knows of a modern “miraculous” experience. Using strong hyperbolic language, Paul contended that the message of the gospel may not be altered — if even an angel should declare it otherwise (Galatians 1:8).

One may not take a modern “experience,” therefore, and argue for its supernatural nature if, in fact, biblical argumentation clearly establishes the reality that supernatural phenomena served a specific and limited role in the divine scheme of redemption, and that miraculous experiences, therefore, are no longer operative today.

In reality, this is precisely the case. For further consideration, we invite our readers to carefully study the article on [What Does the Bible Say About Miracles?](#).

Do not confuse experiential “mirages,” with genuine “miracles.”

WEEKLY NEWS

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!



We rejoice over the **baptism of sis Glaiza Tolentino (also known as Chin Chin)** (sis Stephanie's cousin) on 15 Dec! Let us give her a warm welcome into the family of God! Her particulars are as follows:

Name: Glaiza Tolentino

Birth date: 16 Sep 1988

Email: chinchinfelomino16@gmail.com

Travelling (Pray for safety)

1. Those travelling to Malaysia
 - **Sis Chee Ming & family** till 23 Dec
 - **Bro Ernest & family, bro John & bro Jeshua** from 23-26 Dec for Youth Development Program (YDP), bro John & bro Jeshua will be extending their trip till 29 Dec
 - **Bro Kwan & sis Sew Hua** from 23-30 Dec
 - **Bro Peter & sis Pooi Fun** till 28 Dec
2. **Sis Michelle** will be travelling to Seoul, Korea for Winter School Immersion Program from 27 Dec – 11 Jan'20
3. **Sis Joy** in the Philippines till 26 Dec
4. **Sis Emily** in the Philippines till 12 Jan'20

Bereavement

Our deepest condolences to **bro Kwan and bro Peter Kwan's families** over the passing of their mother, sis Tan Kim Kee on 13 Dec. The families would like to thank members for supporting them during this time of bereavement. Please pray for the bereaving families as they grieve over the loss of their loved one.

Business Meeting

The result of last week's business meeting is pinned on the noticeboard.

Guests last week

1. Sis Yeoh Swee Teen (*Canada*)
2. Bro Menard & Jane Dator (LCOC)
3. Sis Joann (Central North COC)
4. Bro Samuel De Cruz (*sis Mergie's husband*)
5. Kenny Kee (*sis Debbie's husband*)
6. Bryan Chan (*sis Chee Ming's son*)
7. Richard Ong (*bro Victor's friend*)
8. Sony (*sis Glaiza's friend*)
9. Lay Lay (*sis Lydia's helper*)
10. Meyske (*sis Debbie's helper*)
11. Tita (*sis Precious' helper*)
12. Isaiah (*Cheshire Home*)



Thursday Bible Class

"Lovest Thou Me?"

(John 21:15-25)

by bro Timothy Ng

Next Sunday's Sermon

Bridging the Gaps

in the Church:

Between Different Cliques

by bro Benjamin Kwan

Birthdays this week

24 Dec (Tue) -

Kwan Tai Choom

25 Dec (Wed) - Sara Wu



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 (till 15 May'20)

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 Lee (Jun)

NSF

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

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		22-Dec-19	29-Dec-19	5-Jan-20
Song Leader		Isaac Chua	Jeremy Kwan	Ernest Lau
Opening Prayer Leader		Victor Lee	Low Chong Ping	Benjamin Tan
Preacher		Ernest Lau	Benjamin Kwan	Jimmy Lau
Lord's Supper Text		1 Cor 11:23-29	Mar 14:22-25	Isa 53:4-9
Lord's Supper Servers	Scripture Reader	Zachary Ling	Roberto Pascual	Gavin Cheah
	Prayer: Bread	Andy Lin	Wong Sek Hoong	Ling Leong Dak
	Prayer: Fruit of Vine	Ling Leong Dak	John Goh	David Sum
	Prayer: Offering	Ong Jun Wei	Henry Chee	Martyn Gostelow
Announcer		David Sum	Leonard Chia	Ng Wei Jie
Greeters		Jimmy Lau	Michael Yeo	Timothy Ng
		Naomi Leow	Jonalyn Balagot	Wang Tingwei
		Christine Phang	Ludina Carrido	Teo Kim Tian
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
Song Leader & O.P.		Jimmy Lau	Ernest Lau	Benjamin Kwan
Speaker		Ernest Lau	Ong Jun Wei	Ernest Lau
Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P.		Farand Lim	Jimmy Lau	Benjamin Tan
Thursday Service @ 7.45pm				
Song Leader			Benjamin Kwan	James Mira
Opening Prayer Leader			Kenneth Quek	Jerry Cheong
Teacher			Timothy Ng	Ernest Lau
Closing Prayer Leader			Chua Kian Hong	Low Chong Ping