

17 March 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)

.....  
**Elders**

Bro Jimmy Lau  
Bro Lee Tian Seng  
Bro Michael Yeo

**Deacons**

Bro Benjamin Tan  
Bro Jerry Cheong

**Preachers**

Bro Alvin Lin  
Bro Ernest Lau

**Administrator**

Sis Goh Ser Ern

## CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS

# DO I NEED THE BIBLE?

**Speaker: Peter Chin**

**31 March 2019, Sunday | 9.30am |**

**20 Lim Ah Pin Road Singapore 547839**

[www.lapcoc.org](http://www.lapcoc.org) / [limahpincoc@gmail.com](mailto:limahpincoc@gmail.com) / +65 6286 5605



## *Preacher's exhortation*

# **BE IT UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD**

*by bro Alvin Lin*

When we think of a man after God's own heart, David comes to mind, a man whom God says "shall fulfil all my will" (Act 13:22). How about a woman after God's own heart? I think Mary, our Lord's mother, would be well deserving of the honour. After all, didn't the angel Gabriel say that she is "highly favoured" by God (Luk 1:28)? Like David who fulfilled all of God's will, Mary submitted herself fully to God's will as well in proclaiming "be it unto me according to thy word" (Luk 1:38). King Lemuel was taught by his mother that the virtuous woman is blessed by her children and praised by her husband and Mary even more so by her complete obedience to the will of God (Pro 31:28). Elizabeth declared her to be "blessed art thou among women" (Luk 1:42) and Mary acknowledged that "all generations shall call me blessed" (Luk 1:48). In this article, we shall examine how Mary fully submitted herself to the Word of God.

### **Even if it is troubling**

Mary submitted herself to the Word of God even if it troubled her (Luk 1:29). After all, this was a rare sighting of an angel after 400 years of silence from God (Amo 8:11-12), and he brought forth high praise for Mary. And when we receive such praise from people, isn't it often the case that it is accompanied by a difficult ask? Even though Mary might not comprehend the full magnitude of the heavy responsibility upon her, she still accepted it and kept all the sayings in her heart (Luk 2:19,51). On the other hand, there are others who challenge the Word of God instead when it troubled them. What is our response when the Word of God troubles us? Do we question God like Gideon (Jdg 6:13)? Do we run away from God like Jonah (Jon 1:3)? Or do we submit like those added to the Lord's church on the day of Pentecost (Act 2:37)?

### **Even if it seems unbelievable**

Mary submitted herself to the Word of God even if it seemed unbelievable to her (Luk 1:34). Her question did not stem from unbelief, but from wanting to find out the means of

conception (Luk 1:35), and she believed the things which were told her from the Lord (Luk 1:45).

On the other hand, there are others who challenge the Word of God instead when it seemed unbelievable to them. What is our response when the Word of God seems unbelievable to us? Do we mock God like Jehoram's officer (2Ki 7:2)? Do we doubt God like Zacharias (Luk 1:20)? Or do we have faith like Peter even though our experience tells us otherwise (Luk 5:5)?

### **Even if it causes embarrassment**

Mary submitted herself to the Word of God even if it caused embarrassment to her (Luk 2:5). Can you imagine this heavily pregnant young lady travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered for a census? She would probably run into many familiar faces along the way and there might be some gossiping on how she became pregnant even before her marriage with Joseph. She would also have to deal with real fears of losing her husband (Mat 1:19), or even losing her life (Deu 22:24)! On the other hand, there are others who challenge the Word of God instead when it caused embarrassment to them. What is our response when the Word of God causes embarrassment to us? Do we persecute those who correct us like Herod (Mar 6:17)? Do we deny our Lord like the rulers (Joh 12:42)? Or do we repent of sins like David (2Sa 12:13)?

### **Even if it leads to suffering**

Mary submitted herself to the Word of God even if it led to her suffering (Luk 2:35). The last we read of Joseph was when Jesus was 12 years old and it is likely that Joseph had passed away before Jesus' ministry as our Lord had entrusted the care of His mother to John (Joh 19:26-27). If this is the case, Mary must have had a difficult life raising up at least 7 children by herself (Mar 6:3). On top of that, she would lose her oldest child at the prime of His life and witness His cruel death by crucifixion (Joh 19:25). The Chinese have a saying to describe one of the greatest griefs of life, 白发人送黑发人, meaning "to see one's child die before oneself", an agony which Mary would have to suffer. Simeon's prophecy that "a sword shall pierce through thy own soul" described what Mary must have felt when the stakes were driven through Jesus' hands as He was crucified to the cross. On the other hand, there are others who challenge the Word of God when it led to their suffering. What is our response when the Word of God leads to our suffering? Do we complain against God like the Israelites (Exo 14:11)? Do we speak against God (Job 2:9)? Or do we rejoice at the privilege of suffering for Christ (Act 5:41)?

Mary "found favour with God" in being chosen as our Lord's mother (Luk 1:30), because she submitted herself to the Word of God in asking "be it unto me according to thy word" (Luk 1:38), even if it is troubling, even if it seems unbelievable, even if it causes embarrassment,

and even if it leads to suffering. The reason why Mary submitted to the Word of God so willingly and readily is because she saw herself as the “handmaid of the Lord” (Luk 1:38). In so doing, she was “exalted” (Luk 1:52) and “filled... with good things” (Luk 1:53). Let us demonstrate the same humility in telling God “be it unto me according to thy word”, and asking God for “not my will, but thine, be done” (Luk 22:42).



## Is the Church Just Another Social Club?

*Adapted from Dripping Springs Church of Christ  
(<https://dschurchofchrist.com/church-just-another-social-club/>)*

You come into a nicely furnished building and are warmly greeted. The service begins with a cordial welcome and announcements about sick members and upcoming service projects. You make a pledge of loyalty to a higher ethic and pay your dues. The service ends with the promise to meet again next week and you leave feeling encouraged and uplifted. Sound familiar? While this may seem like the description of a Sunday worship service, we just described your everyday Lion’s Club meeting.

If we aren’t careful, it’s easy in American society to view the church simply as another social club: we come and enjoy good friendships, share meals together, and “pay our dues.” Yet, the church is far more than a social gathering; it is a community of worship, holiness, hope, and healing, and evangelism. These are keys areas which only the church can fulfill. Its distinctive nature stands out and places it in a category beyond a mere social club. Let’s look at these more closely.

### **Worship.**

Jesus informed the Samaritan woman at the well that God was seeking a particular type of people in **John 4:23-24**:

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, **for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.** God is spirit, and those who worship him **must worship in spirit and truth.**

What an incredible thought: God is actively seeking people who will worship him with a joyful, loving, and humble heart (in spirit) and in submission to His will and word (in truth).

This means that, as God's redeemed people (the church) when we come together in worship we are satisfying a specific desire of the Triune God which only we can fulfill. When you are worshipping God sincerely, according to the pattern prescribed in the New Testament, it is as if He looks and says, "That's who I'm looking for!" The world can't worship God in the way He desires because they haven't obeyed His gospel and therefore won't thank Him for His grace (**Rom. 1:21**), and certainly won't submit to His truth (**1 Cor. 2:14**). It is within the church and its worship that we discover the unique practice of "kissing the face of God."

### **Holiness.**

Christians are "called to be saints" (**Rom. 1:7**). The church is God's "holy nation" (**1 Pet. 2:9**) and a "kingdom of priests" (**Rev. 1:6**). One of the central purposes of the church is to encourage God's people to live holy and righteous before God. This was why the Hebrews writer censured Christians from habitual absence from the gathered assembly in **Hebrews 10:24-25**:

And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works**, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the

### **Day drawing near.**

The purpose of God's people gathering together in worship is to "stir the pot" of our righteousness. Some congregations will even have a sign as they enter the auditorium which reads "Enter to worship, leave to serve." Only the church can encourage and equip God's people to live holy and righteous before Him.

One of the major ways this is accomplished is through the preaching of the word which convinces, rebukes, and exhorts us to live as we should (**2 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 4:12**). Because of this, a great weight of responsibility is laid on the shoulders of the preacher and elders to make sure that sound, substantive teaching is brought when God's people are together (**Titus 2:1**). If the only thing Christians hear on Sunday are stories and simplistic "How to" sermons, then the church is on its way to being another social club. We must be challenged by the deep truths of the text, to "preach Christ crucified" (**1 Cor. 1:23**). In this, we conform more to the image of Christ; only the church can produce this result.

### **Hope.**

As I write this article, our country is still recovering from another school shooting in Florida. There is a deep sense of despair in the air. Our society is reaping the whirlwind of sin in dramatic fashion. Evil men are doing evil things, and it doesn't look like it's going to change. For many, life is a hopeless affair.

But, as one writer said, "New Testament Christianity is a religion of hope, a faith that looks forward. For the Christian, the best is always yet to be." As Christians we are "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (**1 Pet. 1:3**). This hope is only found within the church, the redeemed people of God who "Set [their] hope fully on the

grace that will be brought to [them] at the revelation of Jesus Christ (**1 Pet. 1:13**). Within worship we partake of the Lord's Supper every week, reminding us of the hope we have through the death of Christ, and the hope we look forward to at His return (**1 Cor. 11:26**).

### **Healing.**

While some like to accuse the church of being a place of judgment, I continue to see the love, grace, and mercy that is experienced among God's people. What many outside the church don't realize is that, due to God's demands for holiness (per our previous point), repentance is required (**Luke 13:3, 5**). This isn't simply feeling sorry for sin but allowing that grief to grow into a transformed life (**2 Cor. 7:9-10**). Just like a broken bone, in order for the soul to heal from the damage of sin, it must be set right before we can put on a splint—and it doesn't always feel good.

Yet, it is within the church that we discover a place of healing from the ravages of sin. The church, and the church alone, gives the true Biblical call for repentance in order to receive the healing of God's grace and love through Jesus Christ. Although social clubs bring healing to their community, it is only those who find shelter in the shadow of the cross who can bring fellow sinners under the comforting, forgiving wing of their God.

### **Evangelism.**

The church isn't stagnant, it is a growing and maturing group of people sent on a mission. This mission is given in **Matthew 28:19-20**:

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

The saving message of Jesus Christ, shared with all people of every ethnicity, is the sacred trust that is given to the church. The church has the unique obligation to “declare the manifold wisdom of God” to the “rulers and authorities in the heavenly places” (**Eph. 3:10**). Only Christians who have experienced the true grace of God will reach out to others and share that saving message. No social club can fulfill this objective.

### **Conclusion**

The point of our post isn't to criticize social/civic clubs (on the contrary, many of these clubs are often filled with individuals who have Christian values and sometimes by New Testament Christians. Rather, the point is that we will guard ourselves against the mindset which designates the church of Christ as another social gathering. No doubt, the church is God's gathered people, but a people who have a distinctive purpose that no one else can accomplish.

This also implies that, when we fail to worship God with a sincere, truthful heart; when we fail to live holy and righteous lives before Him; when we fail to place our hope fully on the grace of God; when we fail to preach and practice penitent healing; and when we fail to evangelize, then we have ceased to fulfill our purpose and find it increasingly more difficult to show the distinction between our fellowship and the local rotary club.

# WEEKLY NEWS



## Business Meeting

Date: 24 March, Sunday

Time: 12.15pm

*The agenda of the meeting is pinned on the noticeboard.*

## Special Collection

There will be a special collection on 24 Mar for the Central North Church of Christ Building Project.

## Travelling (Pray for safety)

1. **Bro Alvin, sis Mary Ann, & sis Ellen** in JB today for sis Ellen's graduation. They will be worshipping with Skudai COC.

2. **Bro Kian Hong & sis Kia Sang** in Perth till 21 Mar

3. **Sis Eunice** is away on a work trip in the Netherlands till 18 April

4. **Bro Tian Seng & bro Jong Wah** in the Philippines till 18 Mar.

5. **Bro Tian Geng, sis Jasmine and her parents** in Hong Kong till 18 Mar.

## Guests last week

1. Bro Ivan & sis Joann Kwek (*Central North COC, Australia*)
2. Bro Menard & sis Jane Dator (*Lavender COC*)
3. Kenny Kee (*sis Debbie's husband*)
4. Jason Lam (*sis Sarah's husband*)
5. Peh Guang Rong (*sis Yan Ling's husband*)
6. Bryan Chan (*sis Chee Ming's son*)
7. Adriel Yeo (*sis Julia's nephew*)
8. Kelvin Kuan (*sis Eunice's friend*)
9. Mei Ling (*bro Benedict's & bro Capi's friend*)
10. Lay Lay (*sis Lydia's helper*)
11. Meyske (*sis Debbie's helper*)
12. Shalen (*sis Seow Hui's helper*)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!



## Evangelism Sunday Tracting

Date: 23 Mar, Sat

Time: 4.30pm

Meeting Point:

Blk 302 Hougang Avenue 5

*Join us to spread the gospel!*



**Thursday Bible Class**

**"Sowing and Reaping"**

(John 4:27-42)

by bro Peter Chin

**Next Sunday Sermon**

**How to be a doer of the**

**Word? (James 1:22)**

by bro Joseph Lee

**Birthdays this week**

19 Mar (Tue) –

Irene, Marc & Rachel Quek

20 Mar (Wed) – Amy Yap

21 Mar (Thu) – Tuan Sang,

Nicodemus & Christine Oey

23 Mar (Sat) – Annie Cheong



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

# PRAYER REQUESTS

**Overseas:**

- **Bro Long Jun** in China
- **Bro Kenneth Liong and sis Iris** in San Francisco
- **Bro Jonathan & sis Joan, sis Farah** in UK
- **Sis Shuan Kwee** in Hong Kong
- **Bro Kevin** in New York for studies
- **Bro Siang Yee** in UK for studies

**Health**

- **Sis Suan Kiang's & sis Linda's** health
- **Bro Zachary's** recovery from abdominal cramps
- The health of **Justina** (sister-in-law of sis Tuan Sang, sis Kia Sang, bro Jimmy and bro Jeng Sang)

**Pregnancy**

- Sis Christine (Apr'19), sis Mae (May'19), sis Deborah (Aug'19)

**NSF**

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

## MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		17-Mar-19	24-Mar-19	31-Mar-19
<b>Song Leader</b>		Jeshua Lin	Alvin Lin	Joel Lee
<b>Opening Prayer Leader</b>		Victor Lee	Low Chong Ping	Lim Poh Teng
<b>Preacher</b>		Ernest Lau	Joseph Lee	Peter Chin
<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>	Ong Jun Wei	Titus Goh	Nicodemus Oey
	<i>Prayer: Bread</i>	Paul Lim	Henry Chee	Jeremy Kwan
	<i>Prayer: Fruit of Vine</i>	Michael Yeo	John Goh	Soo Kok Leong
	<i>Prayer: Offering</i>	Gavin Cheah	Andy Lin	Farand Lim
	<i>Assistant</i>	Zachary Ling	Ng Wei Xiang	Melvin Tan
<b>Announcer</b>		Benjamin Tan	Amos Yang	Ernest Lau
<b>Greeters</b>		Constance Lau Lim Poh Im	Eunice Chua Ludina Carrido	Sharyl Lau Wang Ting Pei
<b>Evening Worship @ 7pm</b>				
<b>Song Leader &amp; O.P.</b>		Jeshua Lin	Timothy Ng	Alvin Lin
<b>Speaker</b>		Michael Yeo	Jerry Cheong	Ernest Lau
<b>Lord's Supper, Giving &amp; C.P.</b>		Farand Lim	Kenneth Quek	Ong Jun Wei
<b>Thursday Service @ 7.45pm</b>			<b>28-Mar-19</b>	<b>4-Apr-19</b>
<b>Song Leader</b>			Alvin Lin	Reuben Lim
<b>Opening Prayer Leader</b>			John Goh	Charlie Teo
<b>Teacher</b>			Peter Chin	Timothy Ng
<b>Closing Prayer Leader</b>			Gavin Cheah	Henry Leow