

LAP BULLETIN

28 July 2019

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

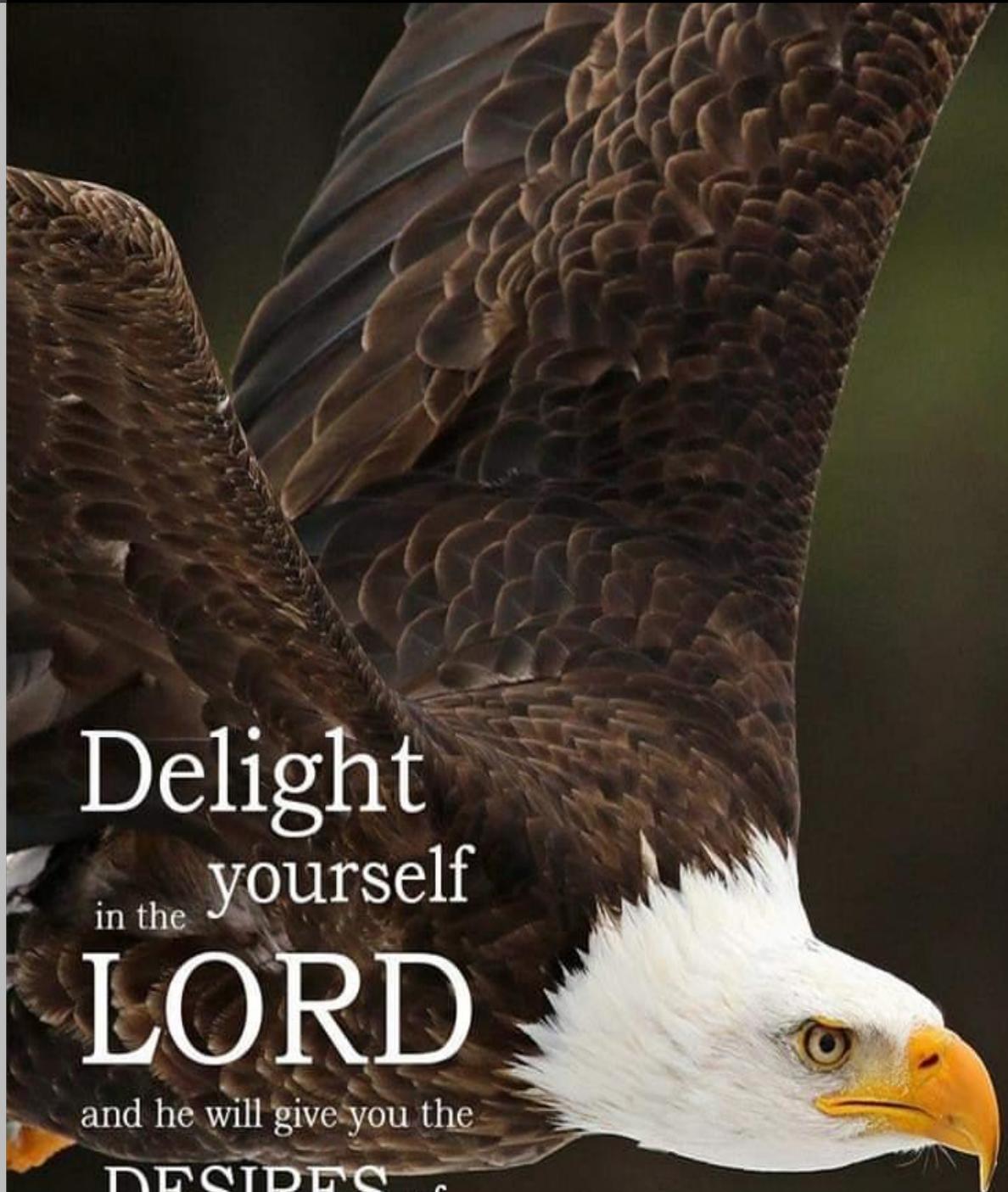
Bro Benjamin Tan
Bro Jerry Cheong

Preacher

Bro Ernest Lau

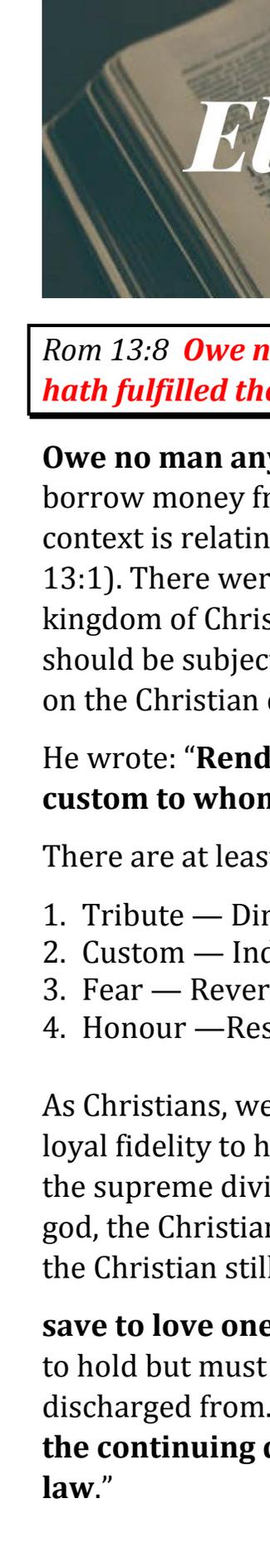
Administrator

Sis Goh Ser Ern



Delight
yourself
in the
LORD
and he will give you the
DESIRES of
your
Heart

PSALM 37:4



Elder's exhortation

by bro Jimmy Lau

Rom 13:8 *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

Owe no man anything - Be in debt to no one. This does not mean the Christian cannot borrow money from the bank. The context of Romans 13 is not talking about money. The context is relating to the duties of the Christian in relation to the government (Rom 13:1). There were some Christians in Rome who thought that since they were in the kingdom of Christ and Christ was their only king, therefore, the only authority they should be subject to was Christ. Paul had to correct this misconception and gave a lesson on the Christian duties in relation to civil authority.

He wrote: “**Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour**” (Rom 13:7).

There are at least 4 things the Christian owes to the government:

1. Tribute — Direct taxes such as income and properties.
2. Custom — Indirect tax such as services and goods.
3. Fear — Reverence for law of the land for law breakers will be punished (verse 3-4).
4. Honour — Respect due to persons of distinction (verse 1-2).

As Christians, we do not cease to be citizens of the land. The Law of God binds us to a loyal fidelity to human statute; limited only by the case when such statute contradicts the supreme divine law. For example, if there is an imperial order to sacrifice to a Roman god, the Christian's response is to submit to God rather than men (Acts 5:29). Otherwise, the Christian still owes to the civil government his duties as citizens.

save to love one another – Love is the only debt that the Christian is not only permitted to hold but must continue to hold. It is the only debt the Christian can never be discharged from. The NIV renders this way: “**Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.**”

To the civil authority, we owe subjection, reverence, obedience, and tribute; towards all men, we owe mutual love. This commandment includes civil rulers; the Christian is to pray for them (1 Tim 2:1-2). He is not even to speak evil of them: **“Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people”** (Acts 23:5). That means, the Christian will not even go onto the internet and say nasty things about the government ministers.

We owe our fellow men nothing but mutual love. This is the only debt we can never be discharged from. Gill commented: *“This debt should be always paying; saints should be continually serving one another in love, praying for each other, bearing one another’s burdens, forbearing each other, and doing all good offices in things temporal and spiritual that lie in their power, and yet always owing; the obligation to it always remains”* (Gill Comm).

Love is a debt. It is said that Christ paid the debt He did not owe, and we owe the debt we could not pay. Love is the debt we owe to God and fellow men. **“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”** (Mark 12:30-31).

For he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law – Love fulfils the law of God. Love sums up the whole law. The Christian who loves will not speak evil, hate, steal, murder, be disrespectful, dishonour, lie etc against his fellow men. He will instead, manifest all the characteristics of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

1Co 13:4 **Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant**

1Co 13:5 **or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;**

1Co 13:6 **it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.**

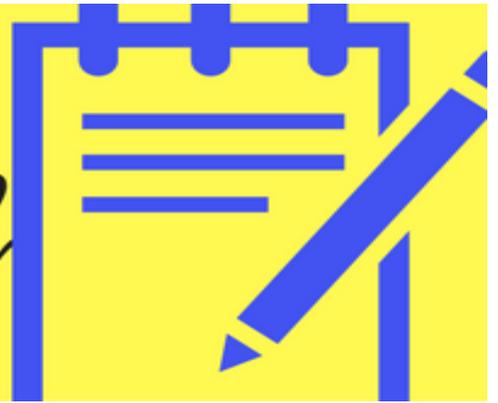
1Co 13:7 **Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

1Co 13:8 **Love never ends.**

Love is a debt; are you paying it each day? You owe me your love; and I owe you my love. You cannot say you have no more patience for me for love is always patient. I cannot say I have enough of your nonsense for love always endures all things. Yes, we cannot stop loving each other for love never ends.

We owe each other our love. This is the debt we must keep paying. Are you paying your debt of love?

From the
Brotherhood



Why Does God Allow Evil?

Adapted from Jeff Hamilton

(<http://lavistachurchofchrist.org/LVarticles/WhyDoesGodAllowEvil.htm>)

There is no doubt that sin, and the evil that accompanies it, exists in this world. When atrocious examples of evil come to our attention, people commonly wonder why God allows such evil to happen. Atheists will use the very existence of obvious evil to argue against God. "If God were so good," they smirk, "why is there evil in the world?" Since evil exists, these people conclude that God must not exist.

Have you ever thought about reversing the argument? If evil is so prevalent, why is there righteousness in the world? Since righteousness exists, should we conclude that evil does not exist? Obviously the existence of one extreme does not preclude the existence of the other extreme.

Yet, still the question needs to be addressed. As Christians we are to have a ready answer for every question regarding our faith (I Peter 3:15). Perhaps you have studied this question in the past, but given the tragedies of recent days, it will do each of us good to review the Scriptures so we may answer the questions that are bound to come up.

But, before addressing why evil is allowed to exist, we need to define what is evil. We don't have to look far to find recent events that most people agree are evil. There is no doubt that the taking of thousands of innocent lives in New York, Washington, D.C, and Pennsylvania is a prime example of evil at its worse.

In fact, we can go farther and note that evil always involves sin. The two are equivalent: Sin is evil. Some sins are much more abhorrent than others. The loss of thousands of innocent lives strikes us as more evil than an individual's lie. Yet, we must understand that both are wrong. Both are different facets of evil.

John defines sin as the breaking of law (I John 3:4). The very existence and recognition of evil argue that a law or several laws are being broken. The tragedy of September 11, 2001, was evil because innocent people were murdered. This means that we recognize the fact that murder is wrong. In other words, we acknowledge that a law exists making murder sinful. If such a law did not exist, then there could be no violation of that law (Romans 4:15).

Recognizing this, some have foolishly argued that here lies a quick way to remove evil from the world - remove every law! Too hard to believe? We all recognize that this nation has a drug problem. What has been touted as a solution to the drug problem? Why, legalize the drugs! As if this would solve the problem!

It was once against the law to have sex outside of marriage. Those laws have been dropped from the books as being unenforceable. Has the sin of fornication therefore disappeared with the removal of the law? Has it even decreased? No, the exact opposite effect has been recorded. People are living together in staggering numbers and the rate is increasing phenomenally.

The problem we must face is that evil still exists even when we do not acknowledge it in our laws. *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned - for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses ..."* (Romans 5:12-14). Notice that even before God gave the law to Moses, sin was still in the world. Yet, God did not impute the punishment for sin against mankind.

Consider the age-old exclaim, "I didn't know that was illegal!" Does our ignorance of a law mean the law doesn't exist for us? Obviously no. We are still held accountable to uphold a law even if we did not know of its existence. Yet, if we truly had no way of knowing the law, the judge might be lenient in passing sentence.

In a similar vein, though people sinned (broke the law) before God gave the law to Moses to record, he did not count the sins against the people who broke the law. Yet, the consequences of sin, in this case death, remained even though sin was not imputed.

To summarize, sin exists even when the written laws do not acknowledge a particular action as sinful. Putting on blinders to avoid seeing evil does not make the evil go away, nor does it make it any less evil. In other words, laws do not create evil.

Where, then, does sin originate?

If we come to a fork in a road, we must choose which direction we will take. Because a decision must be made, I can guarantee that everyone approaching the fork will not choose the same path. Even if I put up a sign explaining the desirability of one direction over the other, I can still guarantee that the less desirable path will still be used.

James 1:12-18 explains that sin comes from people making the wrong choice. Sin comes from man and not from God. We all have desires that are necessary for us to live. Satan uses these natural tendencies to put us in situations where the satisfaction of our desire would cause us to break a command of God. It is a trap, but it is a snare that we willingly walk into because we want what is offered.

Not only does Satan tempt us, but our fellow men, already caught up in sin, will use our desires to gain their own goals (II Peter 2:18-19). Temptation is so prevalent in this world that none are immune to sin (I Corinthians 10:12). Yet, the situation is not hopeless. God remains in control, even when we are tempted to violate God's laws (I Corinthians 10:13).

Yet, if evil exists, and people will choose to do evil, why did God bother giving men a law? Paul explains that the law does not cause people to sin, but it does clarify our sins (Romans 7:7-12). The law, being from God, is holy and good. It defines for man what God sees as sin. It helps us understand the nature of sin and of evil.

Unfortunately, the law is also exploited by Satan. By defining sin, it lets us know about options we might not have considered before. Every parent faces this dilemma. We want to warn our children against the dangers present in this world, but we don't want our children to lose their innocence toward life. Paul spoke of this same problem in Romans 7. He, by nature, would not be one to covet what belongs to another man. But when he learned about coveting through the law, he faced the temptation to covet from the simple fact that he was now aware of the possibility.

This does not excuse our decision. We have been warned in advance by the law. Hence, the law leaves us with no excuse when we violate the law.

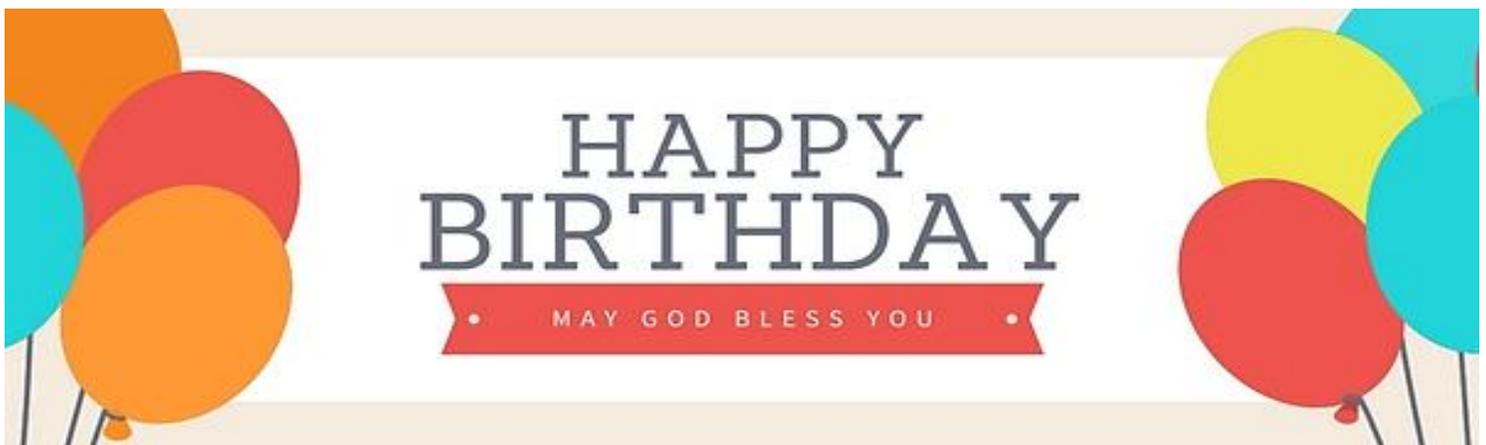
Perhaps now we can address why evil continues to exist in this world. Sin exists because people want it (Jeremiah 5:30-31). God tolerates its existence because it creates a distinction between the righteous and the wicked (Romans 7:13). When we sin, and we see the affect of evil on our lives, then we learn, however reluctantly, that God was right. We are forced to see that God's laws are actually the best path because we see the devastation caused by people who sin. The existence of sin and the existence of people willing to commit sin show us just how bad off mankind is (Ecclesiastes 3:16-18).

When we battle against sin, we are strengthened by the effort (James 1:12). What kind of shape would I be in if I laid in bed all day? Many of us work out in some type of physical exercise. Yet, why do we bother? Simply because we understand that exercise, even when we don't fully enjoy it, helps us to enjoy life more fully. What kind of shape would I be in if I never exercised my faith? Even though the choices are not always enjoyable, I need the opportunity to make them so that I may be better able to serve God.

We must also acknowledge that evil continues to exist in this world because we refuse to recognize sin. This is the trap the Jews fell into (Romans 2:17-24). When you don't pay a bill, are you not stealing? If you leave out some of your income at tax time, are you not lying? How can a person lead others out of sin if they wallow in sins that they feel are not so bad?

This was a major point in Jesus' sermon on the mount. Murder is awful, but it is preceded by the sin of anger (Matthew 5:21-22). Adultery is evil, but it is preceded by the sin of lust (Matthew 5:27-28). We cannot make a half-hearted stand against evil. Evil will not go away if we accept some sins but reject others. This is an all-or-nothing war. Evil cannot be defeated if we allow sin to continue to exist in our own lives.

Where do you stand in this battle against evil? Either you are for righteousness and God or you are against him (Matthew 12:30). There is no middle ground.



<i>August</i>					
1	<i>Matilda</i>	10	<i>Daryl & Leonard</i>	22	<i>Veronica</i>
3	<i>Fong Yoke</i>	12	<i>Ludina & Germaine</i>	23	<i>Jasmine Yong</i>
4	<i>Henry Leow</i>	14	<i>Sarah Ho</i>	30	<i>Sharyl</i>
6	<i>Wai Kheng</i>	15	<i>Cynthia Lee</i>	31	<i>Suzanne</i>
8	<i>Poh Im, Max & Martyn</i>	17	<i>Jana</i>		

WEEKLY NEWS



Lunch

There will be lunch catered for the church TODAY. All are welcome!

Farewell

Sis Maria and bro Benedict will be returning to their respective home countries soon. **Sis Maria will be returning to Indonesia on 3 Aug** to care for her husband, who has been diagnosed with bone cancer and is not undergoing further treatment. **Bro Benedict will be returning to Taiwan on 6 Aug** after completing his NS here. We wish both of them all the best, and please continue to keep them in our prayers.



Travelling

1. **Bro Jimmy** will be going to Malacca from 2-4 Aug. He will be preaching at Malacca COC on 3 Aug.
2. **Bro Kenneth Quek & family** in Japan till 9 Aug.

Guests last week

1. Sis Jenny (*Lavender COC*)
2. Sis Roselyn Cardona
3. Kenny Kee (*sis Debbie's husband*)
4. Joycelin Tok (*bro Gideon's friend*)
5. Gan Sok Ting (*bro Reuben's friend*)
6. Glaiza Tolentino (*sis Stephanie's cousin*)
7. Adhi (*Glaiza's friend*)
8. Lawrence & family (*sis Stephanie's friends*)
9. Ed & Eva Carrido, Jojo & Jely Carrido, Francia Carrido Lopez (*sis Ludina's family*)
10. Ryan (*sis Rachel's friend*)
11. Sulis (*sis Baby's helper*)
12. Emily Esconde
13. Kwang Han

UPCOMING EVENTS

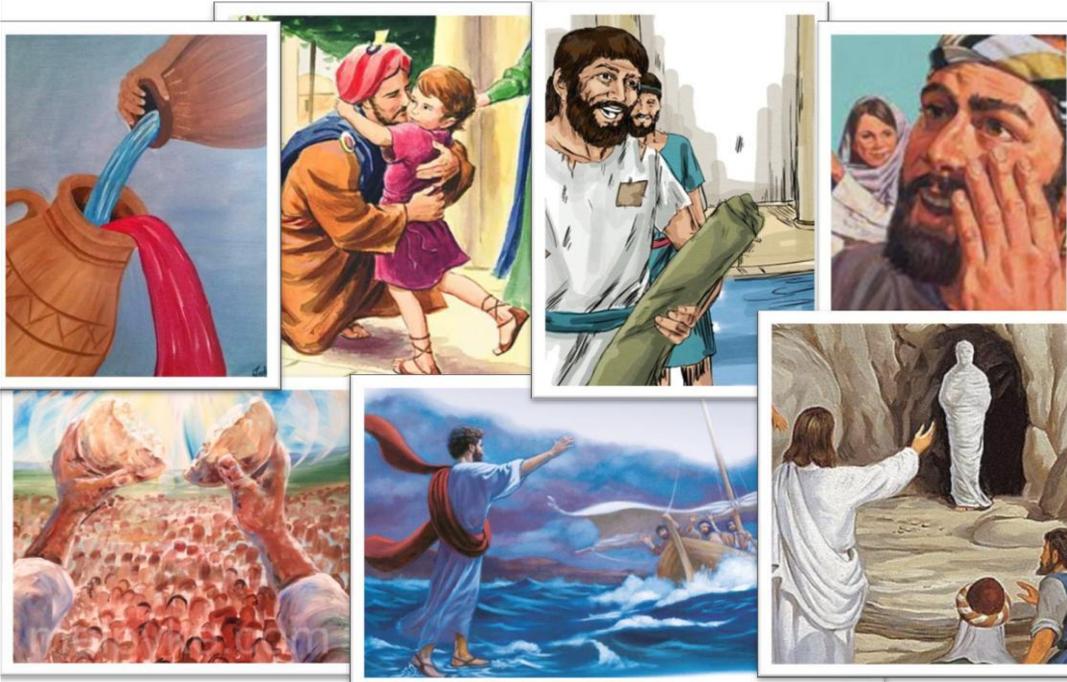
MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

“I SEEK NOT MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME.”

- TESTIFIED BY JESUS CHRIST

JESUS AND THE SEVEN WONDERS

BIBLE QUIZ: JOHN CHAPTERS 1 TO 11



9 AUGUST 2019
10AM

CHURCH BUILDING
AUDITORIUM

JOHN 5:30



Ladies Fellowship (Tea & Time in God's word)

Date & Time: 17 Aug @ 2pm - 3.30pm

Venue: LAPCOC

Discussion: Making & Maintaining Friendships

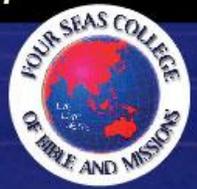
Please inform sis Katie/sis Chee Ming/sis Guek Hoon by 11 Aug.

22 Lectures

• Q & A Forum

• Special classes for Men & Women

12th ANNUAL FOUR SEAS LECTURESHIP



Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow

Date

NOV 27 – 30, 2019 (Wed - Sat)

Daily Chapel (3rd Floor)
8.15 am - 8.45 am

Daily Lectures (2nd Floor)
9.00 am - 3.15 pm

Venue

120, Boon Lay Drive, S 649924

☎ 6261 8517

@ www.fourseas.edu.sg

f www.facebook.com/fourseascollege

Vacation Bible School 2019 presents:

"I WILL DO IT!"

Taking the Initiative

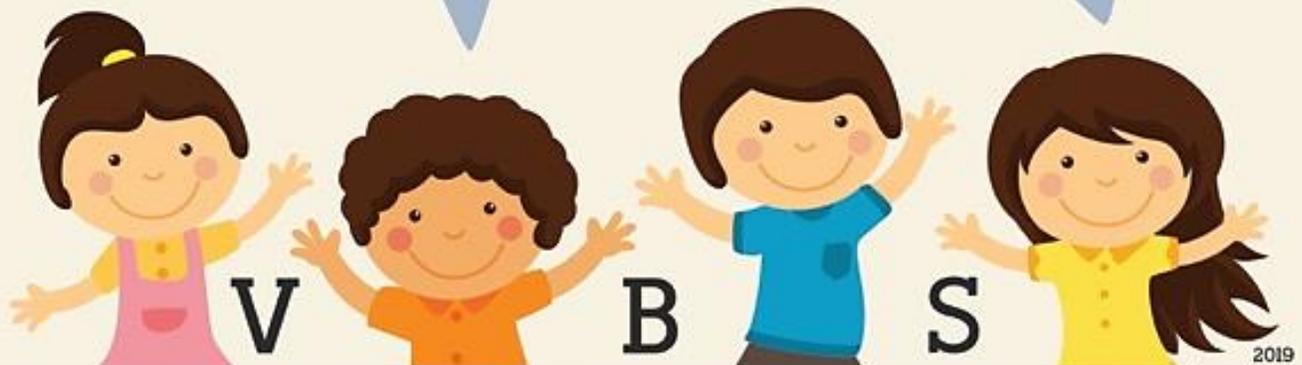
3 - 5 December 2019 (Tuesday to Thursday)

9am to 5pm daily

Lim Ah Pin Church of Christ

20 Lim Ah Pin Road, Singapore 547839

(For children aged 4 - 12)



Please contact Daryl (9737 0441) or Ser Ern (9457 6057) to enquire. Registration closes on 1 October 2019.

Bible Curriculum

- of the month -

August 2019

Sunday	4 Aug	11 Aug	18 Aug	25 Aug	
Worship Sermon	Being a Hospitable Brother	Being an Example	Being an Evangelist	Being a Brother's Keeper	
	Ernest Lau	Michael Yeo	Kwan Tai Choom	Peter Chin	
Men's Class	What Does It Mean to Love God?	Are You a Saint?	Christian: What Does It Really Mean?	"Judge Not" & Rebuking Sin	
	Michael Yeo			Farand Lim	
Ladies' Class	True Greatness by Serving Others	Deny Self & Take Up Your Cross	"Judge Not" & Rebuking Sins	Duties to Civil Government	
	Eunice	Stephanie	Chee Ming	Tingwei	
Young Adult Class	Sermon on the Mount Benjamin Kwan				
Foundation Class	Gospel of Mark Reuben Lim				
Upper Primary Class	A New Life Begins	The Old and New Laws	The Christian's Freedom	The Flesh vs The Spirit	
	Tingpei				
Lower Primary Class	Korah Wants his Way	Aaron's rod	Water from a Rock	The Israelites are Saved	
	Ser Ern				
Nursery Class	Thomas the Doubter	Judas and Matthias	Paul and Barnabas	Paul and Silas	
	Melissa				
Cradle Roll	Family Constance				
Thursday	1 Aug	8 Aug	15 Aug	22 Aug	29 Aug
Adult Class	"Jesus Raises Lazarus" (John 11:28-54)	"The Anointing of Jesus" (John 11:55-12:11)	"Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem" (John 12:12-19)	"The Drawing Power of Jesus' Death" (John 12:20-36)	"The Rejection of Jesus" (John 12:37-50)
	Timothy	Ernest			
Children Class	Foolish Nabal and Wise Abigail	David is Kind to Mephibosheth	David and Bathsheba	David Loves God's Word: Psalm 119	Absalom
Primary	Rhui Yin				
Nursery	Seow Hui				



Thursday Bible Class
"Jesus Raises Lazarus"
(John 11:28-54)
by bro Timothy Ng

Next Sunday Sermon
Standing Up to Fill the Gap:
Being a Hospitable Brother
by bro Ernest Lau

Birthdays this week
 29 Jul (Mon) –
 Soo Ping & Gideon
 30 Jul (Tue) – Chloe
 31 Jul (Wed) –
 Sis Baby & Lynette
 1 Aug (Thu) – Matilda
 3 Aug (Sat) – Fong Yoke
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Please send any news &
 prayer requests to
limahpincoc@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rezoning

We are presently in the process of applying to have our premises rezoned for worship. Please pray for the success of this project!

Overseas

- **Bro Kenneth Liong and sis Iris** in San Francisco
- **Bro Jonathan & sis Joan, bro Siang Yee, sis Farah** in UK
- **Sis Shuan Kwee** in Hong Kong
- **Bro Jeshua** in Switzerland (till 27 Sep) and UK (till 30 Apr'20)

Health

- **Bro Philip Vanwinkle's, sis Suan Kiang's & sis Linda's** health
- **Bro Kian Hong's** recovery from his eye surgery
- **Bro Wee Sin's** recovery from surgery for his right shoulder tendon
- **Sis Jane's** recovery from breathlessness
- **Sis Shu Fang's father's** recovery from angiogram
- **Bro David Sum's father's** recovery from spine surgery
- The health of **Justina** (sister-in-law of sis Tuan Sang)

Pregnancy

- Sis Deborah (Aug'19)

NSF

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

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		28-Jul-19	4-Aug-19	11-Aug-19
Song Leader		Benjamin Kwan	Isaac Chua	Jimmy Lau
Opening Prayer Leader		Peter Chin	Jerry Cheong	Benjamin Tan
Preacher		Jimmy Lau	Ernest Lau	Michael Yeo
Lord's Supper Text		Php 2:5-11	1 Cor 11:23-29	Mar 14:22-25
Lord's Supper Servers	<i>Scripture Reader</i>	Leonard Chia	Zachary Ling	David Sum
	<i>Prayer: Bread</i>	Soo Kok Leong	Henry Leow	Gordon Loo
	<i>Prayer: Fruit of Vine</i>	Henry Chee	Dave Tapiru	Wong Sek Hoong
	<i>Prayer: Offering</i>	Andy Lin	Benedict Yo	Ong Jun Wei
Assistant		Melvin Tan	Ng Wei Xiang	Nicodemus Oey
Announcer		Michael Yeo	Benjamin Tan	Ernest Lau
Greeters		Shum Chee Ming Lim Poh Im	Sharyl Lau Wang Ting Pei	Constance Lau Ellen Hernandez
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
Song Leader & O.P.		Jimmy Lau	Benedict Yo	Jeremy Kwan
Speaker		Benjamin Kwan	Ernest Lau	Ong Jun Wei
Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P.		Ong Jun Wei	Lim Poh Teng	Gavin Cheah
Thursday Service @ 7.45pm				
Song Leader			1-Aug-19 Ernest Lau	8-Aug-19 Benjamin Kwan
Opening Prayer Leader			Charlie Teo	Benjamin Tan
Teacher			Timothy Ng	Ernest Lau
Closing Prayer Leader			John Goh	Ong Jun Wei