

4 FEBRUARY
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

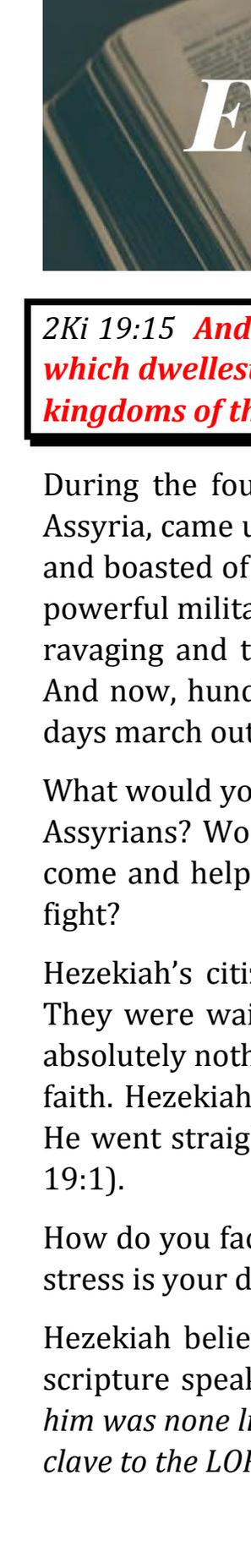
Sis Goh Ser Ern



**WHEN ONE
DOOR CLOSES,
ANOTHER
OPENS;**



**BUT OFTEN WE LOOK SO LONG AT THE CLOSED DOOR
THAT WE DO NOT SEE THE ONE HAS BEEN OPENED FOR US.
-HELEN KELLER**



Elder's exhortation

by bro Jimmy Lau

2Ki 19:15 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

During the fourteenth year of the reign of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, came up against Judah (2 Kgs 18:13). Sennacherib reviled against Jehovah God and boasted of his own strength and might. No doubt, the Assyrian army was the most powerful military force on earth at that time. They were winning every battle and were ravaging and threatening the weaker cities into submission and destroying the rest. And now, hundreds of thousands of the Assyrian soldiers were within a two or three days march outside Jerusalem.

What would you do if you were the king Hezekiah? Would you surrender the city to the Assyrians? Would you quit and run for your life? Would you pay another country to come and help you defeat the Assyrians? Or, would you stand up to the enemies and fight?

Hezekiah's citizens were trembling within the city walls. What could their king do? They were waiting for his response. Humanly speaking, in military terms, there was absolutely nothing Hezekiah could do. It was a test of faith; Hezekiah's faith and Judah's faith. Hezekiah did not summon a council meeting with his counsellors and generals. He went straight to God. He went into the temple and turned to God in prayer (2 Kgs 19:1).

How do you face impossible challenges where failure is guaranteed? In today's society, stress is your daily companion; how do you deal with it?

Hezekiah believed in the power of prayer. Why? It's because he trusted in God. The scripture speaks favourable of him: *"He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him,"* (2 Kgs 18:5-6a).

1 Thessalonians 5:17 exhorts us to *“Pray without ceasing.”* God want us to pray. It is a demonstration of our faith and trust in Him. It is surrendering our will to the One who can do all things: *“For with God nothing shall be impossible”* (Luke 1:37).

Look at the prayer of Hezekiah. He started by giving his adoration to God: *“O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see,”* (2 Kgs 19:15-16a).

He acknowledges God’s supremacy. Jehovah is not to him just a god; He is the only true God. God to him is the one and only deity that ever exist and there is no one else. He is the Creator of heaven and earth. The Assyrian army is mighty, but his God is mightier.

We see that Hezekiah was a man distinguished by his trust in God. He knew his God. He had full confidence that He would deliver him from his present trial. He was confident that God would answer his prayer. He was a man who believed in prayer.

How often the Christian is discouraged by the difficulties which arise, and which he did not calculate on! Still, in a world filled with chaos, the more we need to trust God and go to Him in prayer because prayer is the antidote to anxiety: *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”* (Phil 4:6-7).

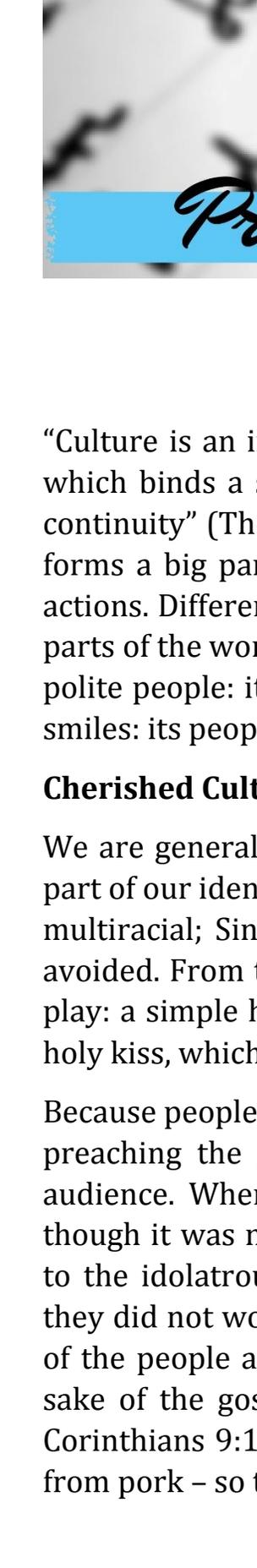
The result of prayer is peace. This peace guards our hearts and minds from disbelief. Yes, prayers alleviate our weariness and give us peace. *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”* (Matt 11:28).

Prayer deepens our relationship with God. It brings us closer to Him. When we pray, we share our innermost being with Him; we become connected to our Maker. Brethren, we must plug in to God in prayers. Do you know what you are missing when you unplug God and plug in to the world?

Praying is talking to the Lord, just like friends talk to each other and are brought closer together through their sharing. Prayer reminds us that we are dependent on God and not on ourselves. Prayer draws us closer to God. Brethren, you MUST begin and end your day with a prayer. If until now you still have not formed the habit of praying before you sleep and praying immediately after you wake up, start today.

Hezekiah was faced with a seemingly impossible problem to tackle; he went to God. God heard his prayer and delivered him from his trouble.

Let us follow his example and be a prayerful Christian.



Preacher's exhortation

The Cretan Culture

By bro Ernest Lau

“Culture is an integrated system of beliefs, of values, of customs, and of institutions... which binds a society together and gives it a sense of identity, dignity, security, and continuity” (The Willowbank Report on Gospel and Culture). Culture is something that forms a big part of our identity: it affects the way we think, our behaviour, and our actions. Different places come with different cultures, and hence, people from different parts of the world behave differently. For example, the Japanese are well-known to be a polite people: it is a part of their culture. Thailand is known as the land of a thousand smiles: its people are known to have a happy disposition.

Cherished Culture

We are generally proud of our culture. It is something we grew up with, and forms a part of our identity. We are proud of our Singaporean culture e.g. being a food paradise; multiracial; Singlish; honesty & diligence. Even in the church, our culture cannot be avoided. From the moment we enter the church building on Sunday, we see culture at play: a simple handshake. In contrast, the early Christians greeted one another with a holy kiss, which was part of their culture (cf. Romans 16:16).

Because people cherish their cultures so much, we must take culture into account when preaching the gospel. The apostle Paul was always sensitive to the culture of his audience. When preaching to the Jews, Paul commended them for their zeal, even though it was not unto righteousness (Romans 10:1-2). On Mars Hill, when preaching to the idolatrous Athenians, Paul commended them for being very religious, though they did not worship the right God (Acts 17:22). Also, he was familiar with the culture of the people and often quoted from the poets of the people (cf. Acts 17:28). For the sake of the gospel, Paul would even seek to blend in with the culture of others (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). If preaching to a Jew, Paul would act like a Jew – e.g. refraining from pork – so that he could win over the soul to Christ.

Cretan Culture

However, it is possible that there are elements of our culture which are not so good. In Titus 1:12-13, Paul had some negative things to say about the culture of those who lived on the island of Crete: “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” Paul might seem harsh; we usually avoid saying bad things about the culture of others because it can be quite offensive. Paul probably knew that, and hence he made it clear that he was quoting from one of the Cretan’s own prophets i.e. Epimenides. However, Paul said that “this witness is true,” that Cretans were indeed a people who were untruthful, cruel, and lazy gluttons (Note: this does not mean that every single Cretan was like that, but on a whole, it was true for the Cretan population).

We also need to assess our own culture honestly, because there might be elements of our culture which are not good also. We can probably identify some things about our own Singaporean culture which are less-than-ideal e.g. being kiasu, working too hard, complaining. Knowing that the culture is such, rebuke may be required and necessary; concerning the Cretans, Paul instructed to “rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.” If the culture is such, there is the high likelihood that Christians are affected or guilty of it. The church may therefore need to place extra emphasis in addressing the unhealthy parts of our culture.

Christian Culture

Instead of having the Cretan culture, we need instead to have the Christian culture. Despite our various cultures, we are first and foremost, citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20). Therefore, no matter which culture we are from, our conduct must be different from the world (Philippians 2:15), and it must be a conduct that is according to the gospel (Philippians 1:27).

This does not mean that we have to forsake our own culture entirely. However, if there are parts of our culture that are at odds with the gospel, we have to avoid them. For example, Singaporeans are a hardworking people; however, that does not mean it is entirely excusable for us to miss out on the work/activities of the church, because we know we must seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). Just because Singaporeans like to complain, that does not mean it is excusable for us to do so: Christians have been commanded not to murmur or dispute (Philippians 2:14).

As much as we have to be sensitive to the culture of the people around us, at the end of the day, we must realize that we are meant to be different at the core. We are God’s chosen people (1 Peter 2:9). May our Christian light so shine that we may lead others to Christ (Matthew 5:16).



FEBRUARY

Shum Chee Ming	1	Poo Ruixian, Rachel	10
Ong Siew Siew	2	Axel Timothy Chee	10
Wong-Teo Ailin, Dawn	4	Chua-Lau Kia Sang	15
Katie Zoey Ho	4	Lin Min Xuan, Jeshua	18
Tan Wei Ling, Eileen	6	Lee Tian Seng	19
Foo Jock Chin, Jane	7	Wang Teng Wee, Adeline	20
Leow Wen Xin, Naomi	9	Yeo Siew Wah, Michael	20
Ng-Quek Lie Hui, Patricia	9	Tan Yan Ling	21



Collection of angbao for our Mission Workers

We appreciate our mission workers – *bro Kwan (China), bro Bob Xiang (China), bro George Zhang (China), bro John Yo (Taiwan), bro Wang (Taiwan), bro Glen Tattersall (Australia) & bro Hai (Vietnam)*. Boxes will be made available for you at the pulpit area **till 4 Feb (TODAY)** to give angbaos to show your appreciation to them during this festive season.

Changes due to Chinese New Year

Due to the Chinese New Year reunion dinner which falls on 15 Feb, Thu, the midweek bible class will be brought forward to **14 Feb, Wed**.

Travels (Please pray for travelling mercies)

1. **Bro Gavin** will be leaving for studies in UK from **tonight** till 10 Apr. He will be worshipping with the Stockwell church of Christ.
2. **Sis Stephanie** will be travelling to Malaysia from 6-12 Feb. She will be worshipping with the Subang Jaya church of Christ on Sunday.

Health

Please pray for the health & recovery of the following:

1. **Sis Jenny's sister** from her appendix operation and infection
2. **Sis Annie Cheong's husband** from his skin allergy

Guests Last Week

1. Sis Tan Ai Luan (*Ipoh COC, Malaysia*)
2. Bro Calvin Tan (*Kota Kemuning COC, Malaysia*)
3. Sis Deborah Tan (*Taipung COC, Malaysia*)
4. Kenny Kee (*sis Debbie's husband*)
5. Peh Guang Rong (*sis Yan Ling's husband*)
6. Jason Lam (*sis Sarah's friend*)
7. Chary (*sis Swee Inn's helper*)
8. Jonalyn F. Balagot

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Date: 25th February 2018

Time: 1.30 - 3.00 pm

Venue: Church building

*All are welcome
(especially seniors)
to join in for an afternoon
of exciting performances
and fun games.*

Blood Drive 2018



17 March 2018, Sat

11am - 5pm

20 Lim Ah Pin Road

Singapore 547839

To register, please email
your name and contact no.
to limahpincoc@gmail.com.

NEWS



Thursday Bible Class

The Way to Lasting Relationships
by bro Lee Tian Seng

Birthday of the week

- 4 Feb (Sun) – Dawn & Katie
- 6 Feb (Tue) – Eileen
- 7 Feb (Wed) – Jane
- 9 Feb (Fri) – Naomi & Patricia
- 10 Feb (Sat) – Rachel Poo & Axel



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 Siang Yee* in London, UK, for studies
- *Bro Long Jun* in China
- *Bro Nigel* in Dubai

Health

- *Sis Baby's & Auntie Yeoh's* health
- *Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Linda's & sis Peiyi's* health
- *Bro Roberto's* migraine
- *Sis Fong Yoke's* recovery from her cataract operations
- *Sis Doris'* recovery from her spine surgery
- *Bro Capi's mother's* health
- *Sis Susan Goh's mother's, sis Jenny's mother's, Sis Siew Siew's mother's* health
- *Sis Lois' mother* from severe stomach pain

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		4 Feb 2018	11 Feb 2018	18 Feb 2018
Song Leader		Jonathan Yang	Joel Lee	Jeremy Kwan
Opening Prayer Leader		Danny Poo	Timothy Ng	Victor Lee
Psalms Text		Psa 53:1-6	Psa 54:1-7	Psa 55:1-12
Preacher		Steven Chan	Lee Tian Seng	Kwan Tai Choom
Lord's Supper Text		Mat 26:26-29	Isa 53:4-9	Php 2:5-11
Lord's Supper Servers	<i>Scripture Reader</i>	Gavin Cheah	Zachary Ling	Nicodemus Oey
	<i>Prayer: Bread</i>	Chua Kian Hong	Lim Poh Teng	Kenneth Liong
	<i>Prayer: Fruit of Vine</i>	Kenneth Quek	Henry Leow	Benjamin Tan
	<i>Prayer: Offering</i>	Andy Lin	Martyn Gostelow	Cornelius Lee
	<i>Assistant</i>	Gordon Loo	Shawn Wong	Jose Cardoza
Announcer		Ernest Lau	Lau Jeng Sang	Arthur Yap
Greeters		Timothy Ng	Alvin Lin	Jimmy Lau
		Wang Tingwei	Nicodemus Oey	Grace Ler
		Ellen Micah	Lois Chee	Wu Wenyu
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
Song Leader & O.P.		Amos Yang	Kevin Lee	Ernest Lau
Speaker		Joel Lee	Paul Lim	Justin Kwan
Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P.		Alan Poon	Cornelius Lee	Marc Wee
Thursday Service @ 7.45pm				
Song Leader		8 Feb 2018		14 Feb 2018 (WED)
Opening Prayer Leader		Jeshua Lin		Ernest Lau
Closing Prayer Leader		Peter Kwan		Ong Jun Wei
		John Goh		Henry Leow