

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 August 2019

Combined Worship Service

"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

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Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7.30 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415); Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045)

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

I was extremely disturbed to see two young people hugging each other inappropriately in church some year ago when I was going to the restroom. By the time I came out, they were gone. I asked myself, "How could such thing happened in the church?"

Is Christian conduct important? The Bible is replete with verses that link Christian conduct with how the world sees Christ. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Writing to the persecuted Christians who lived as refugees scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Peter said, "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12). Our Christian conduct among non-Christians should be so good that when they accuse us of being evildoers, they will have to recognize our good deeds and so praise God on the Day of His coming. In the same vein, Paul said to Titus that Christians are to be a model of good works, in their teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned (Titus 2:7, 8).

Think about it. If Christians conduct themselves no differently from the world, what good is that? If indeed the world is watching and they see no difference between themselves and Christians, what motivation (if any) will there be for them to forego their unbelieving lifestyle? Speaking forth a rebuke to a worldly complacent Church, Horatius Bonar aptly said, "I looked for the church and I found it in the world; I looked for the world and I found it in the church." Is this the kind of church you members want?

Christian conduct is utmost important to the Christian witness. Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, tells us that we are like salt for the whole human race (Matthew 5:13) and we are like light for the whole world (Matthew 5:14). For that reason, we are to shine before men so that the world's people will see the good works we do and praise our Father in heaven (Matthew

5:16).

Dearly beloved, you and I are called to a high standard of conduct worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:10). We must reckon that we are no longer behaved like the people of the world. We have a Christian's philosophy of life and our personality is radically changed upon conversion. We are not who we used to be (Ephesians 4:17). We are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Are you lacking in Christian conduct? A lack of Christian conduct is moral deficiency, and Christians lacking it tend to behave dishonestly, unethically and uncharitably. However, Christian conduct is gauged by general tendencies, not on the basis of a few isolated actions. We must look at the whole life. For example, King David was a man of good character (1 Samuel 13:14) although he sinned on occasion (2 Samuel 11). Although King Ahab may have acted nobly once (1 Kings 22:35), he was still a man of overall bad character (1 Kings 16:33). We have a few saints in the Bible are described as having noble character: Ruth (Ruth 3:11), Hanani (Nehemiah 7:2), David (Psalm 78:72), Job (Job 2:3) and Daniel (Daniel 1:8). These individuals' lives were distinguished by persistent moral virtue.

Godly conduct is the outcome of the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification. One of the means of sanctification God uses is putting His children through trials of life (James 1:3, 4; Romans 5:3, 4; Job 23:10). Some of us may find ourselves unable to comprehend. Satan is quick to throw doubts or questions into our minds. Or some of us may find ourselves questioning God's goodness or wisdom in allowing these things to happen. Or some of us may even be bitter and angry with God for allowing this to happen to us and wonder if He really understands. Take heart! God does understand and nothing happens to us by chance or with no meaning or purpose (Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 1:6, 7). Amen.

Aspire To What Is Higher

Aspire to godly excellence
And wisdom for your life,
For these have eternal value
And is the character of Christ

Why should we spend more time
On what is only external?
Shouldn't we be feeding our spirits?
For it's our spirit that is eternal

For there is far more value
In pursuing godly things,
For with it our souls shall prosper
And know eternal blessings

God wants to lift us up
To our full potential in Him,
To rise above our limitations
And run the race to win

Don't let circumstances in life
Hold you back once more,
For you can arise and conquer it
As you trust in the living Lord

And as the Lord reveals to you
His purposes and His will,
Know that He equips you for
Your destiny to fulfil

And He will be to you a friend,
You can go to when in need,
Just keep your eyes focused on Him
And upon His Word believe.

(M. S. Lowndes)

Pastor Colin Wong

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Theme for the Quarter :

THE MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Combined Worship Service :

Brother Paul Wong Lu Sheng

speaks on

Authentic Christian Ministry

(Scripture Text : 1 Timothy 1:1-20; Responsive Reading : 2 Corinthians 2:1- 4:5)

Interpreter : Brother Seow Zhi Fa