

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

27 September 2020

English Worship Service

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

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

E-mail: maranatha.bpc@pacific.net.sg

Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.30 pm

**Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415);
Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045); Elder Royce Yeo (HP : 9362 3067)**

APPRECIATION OF GOD'S MERCY AND HIS WORD

This Lord's Day meditation is taken from Psalm 119:17-19. There are two important truths which I would like to share with you - The Bountiful Mercy of God and Our Appreciation of the Word.

Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word (17).

Deal bountifully with thy servant (17a).

You and I owe our lives to God's mercy. If God has not dealt with us bountifully, we would have perished long ago. The Psalmist said, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities" (Psalm 103:8-10). Here we see the bountifulness of God. He is merciful, gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy (like a fountain that never runs dry). He does not always strive with us nor does he keep his anger forever. His nature is such that he does not deal with us according to our sins and punish us according to our iniquities.

Because of God's bountiful dealings with him, King David lifted up his voice to sing praises to the God of his salvation (Psalm 13:6). He exclaimed, "What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?" (Psalm 116:12)

The same is with us. God has done so much for us. The Psalmist exclaimed, "Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered" (Psalm 40:5). So, do we. Of all the acts that God has done for us, the greatest of all was the giving of his one and only Son to die on the cross for our sin (John 3:16). There is no end counting God's bountiful

blessings. Try it!

...that I may live, and keep thy word (17b).

Why did David ask God to deal liberally with him? The answer is found in the latter part of the verse – “...that I may live, and keep thy word” (17b). If God were to deal with him as he dealt with the sons of Samuel or Eli or Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5, then David would not stand a chance to live. Calvin said, “The prophet asks as a principal favor, that, while he lives, he may devote himself entirely to God.” That is what David did. He asked God to deal with him bountifully, liberally, generously so that he may live and keep his Word.

Question 1 of The Shorter Catechism asks, “What is the chief end of man?” The answer is, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” Writing to the Corinthians, Paul said, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Christians are called not only to live a holy life but also to know God and his Word. For knowing his Word means keeping his Word and keeping his Word means doing his will. Therefore, let us not forget that our lives belong to God, and while we are still on earth, let us devote ourselves wholly to God and his service.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law (18).

When it comes to reading the Word, what is one of the first things you would do? Perhaps, some of you may say a “Prayer.” That’s good! However, it is not enough just to say a prayer or any prayer like “Lord, bless me in the reading of your Word.” You need to pray a specific prayer. Here David prayed specifically to God to open his eyes, not physical but spiritual so that he might behold wonderful things from his Word (Luke 10:21-24).

In Ephesians, we read about Paul praying for the Ephesians specifically that God might enlighten them so that they might know what the hope of the calling of God is, what the riches of the glory of God’s inheritance in the saints are (Ephesians 1:3), and what the surpassing greatness of God’s power is toward us who believe (Ephesians 1:18, 19).

Sad to say but it is true. Multitudes of Christians today run from one Bible conference to another, hoping to be revitalized or empowered by the Holy Spirit. Now I am not saying that Bible conferences are bad. God can use them to revive, refresh and rekindle his people’s love for him. However, I am referring to those who believe that spiritual vitality or awakening depends on attending Bible conferences. No. Spiritual vitality depends on the realization of the benefits of salvation which God has bestowed upon his people.

Do you know how blessed you are in Christ? Do you know the power of God operating in and through you? Do you know how to appropriate it in your life?

The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in our Christian life. He is the Author of the Holy Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21). Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17). He will guide us into all the truth. He will teach us and bring to remembrance all that we have learned from him

(John 14:17, 27). Paul tells us that no man can know the things of God except the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10-14).

The Holy Spirit not only guides, teaches, directs, convicts but he also reveals, enlightens and illuminates us on the Holy Scripture. He enables the people of God to understand the Word of God. Sad to say but it is true. The church has many spiritually blinded Christians. They have a form of religion but their religion does not have the power to change lives. These people are ever learning but never come to the truth of God (2 Timothy 3:5, 7).

Let us be clear that nobody can know his Word unless God the Holy Spirit reveals it to them. Jesus said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Matthew 11:25). Therefore, there is a need of divine illumination to enable us to profit from the Word.

I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me (19).

I am a stranger in the earth (19a).

Christians are strangers and pilgrims on earth (1 Peter 2:11). The saints of old considered themselves as strangers and pilgrims on earth. Having left their own country, they desired a better one, that is, a heavenly one, which God has prepared for them (Hebrews 11:13, 16).

Before Jesus went to the cross, he told to his disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3). These are words of assurance and comfort. Every Christian has a place of dwelling in heaven. Every Christian knows his final destiny. There is no fear in him. He knows where he is going the moment he closes his eyes.

However, every Christian needs to be reminded that the world is a wilderness or a desert through which he is hastily passing. As the chorus says, "This world is not my home, I am just passing through." Yes, the world is not our home. Our home is heaven which is far better (Philippians 1:23). Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

...hide not thy commandments from me (19b).

What was that that cheered and guided the Psalmist in his journey on earth? The answer was the Word of God. What was that that motivated the saints of old to long for a better country? The answer was the Promises of God (Hebrews 11:13).

The Psalmist realized the seriousness of God hiding his Word from him. The latter part of the verse means God was not speaking to him. Being a stranger on earth, he knew how important the Word was to him. Without the Word, he would not know the will of God or what direction to take. He would be lost in the wilderness. He would stumble and fumble along the way. That is why he pleaded with God not keep his Word from him. Luther said, "I have no inheritance beyond thy word, therefore forsake me not."

Christians are strangers on earth but they have the Word to guide them. The Word of God and the promises of God will keep them going till they finish their journey on earth and see Jesus face to face (2 Timothy 4:7). Amen.

Reflect & Pray
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes—illumine me,
Spirit divine!
-Scott-

Pastor Colin Wong

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House blessing of brother Cen Cai Qiu and sister Pancy.

Duties of Session Members 2020 – 2022

Pray for the newly elected session members who will have the following areas of focus during their terms of service. In addition, pray also for co-opted member, who will assist the Session in various areas of focus.

Session Members	Area of Focus
Pastor Colin Wong	Pulpit Ministry English & Chinese Worship Service Church Maranatha Messenger Chairman, Evangelism & Mission Committee Prayer Meeting NBC Coordinator Catechism Class
Elder Daniel Tau	Assist Pastor Colin Advisor, CED Adult Sunday School Leader Coordinator, VBS & CCG Advisor, Church Camp Advisor, Church Building / Logistics Advisor, MRM, Visitors & Ushering Catechism, Alternate Teacher 1 st Vice Chairman, Evangelism & Mission Committee
Elder Peter Ong	Advisor, CED Advisor, MYPF Advisor, MAF NBC Bible Study Leader (Simei NBC) Website Co-Ordinator Catechism, Alternate Adult Sunday School Teacher 2 nd Vice Chairman, Evangelism & Mission Committee
Elder Royce Yeo	Treasurer, HR and Finance Coordinator, Food Ministry Committee Member, MAF & Chinese Service Interpretation Message Recording 2 nd Vice Chairman, Evangelism & Mission Committee
Dn Ron Chua	Clerk of Session Chairman MAF Member, Evangelism & Mission Committee Advisor, Church Lease Extension

Co-Opt Members to the Session	Area of Focus
Bro Eric Heng	Internal Accountant
Bro Ng Thiam Koon	Maranatha Resource Ministry Church Building / Logistics Church Camp Visitors & Ushering Safe Management Officer Advisor, MYPF & Church Choir
Bro Seow Zhi Fa	Committee Member, Chinese Service Church Van / Transport Coordinator Chinese Sunday School Teacher Interpretation
Sis Chiang Mui Leng	CED, Superintendent Sunday School Leader
Sis Amy Lim Sis Phoebe Chia	Sunday School Teacher
Sis Goh Choon Pio Sis Pancy Lai	Translation
Bro John Wong	MYPF Leader (Overall) Youth Sunday School Leader
Sis Goh Choon Pio	MYPF Leader to the Ladies
Sis Tan Puay Hong Sis Seow Li Fang	Worship / Choir/ Musician / Pianist
Bro Hum Kee Hong	PA System

Pianists: Sisters Anne Yeo, Anya Ng, Melody Seow, Seow Li Fang, Chua Puay Hong

Violinist: Sister Joy Seow

PA System Assistants: Brothers Hum Kee Hong, Kyle Guillen, Luke Yeo

Ushers: Elder Daniel Tau, Dn Ron Chua, brothers Ng Thiam Koon, Allan Oh, Ian Ng, Kyle Guillen

Sunday School Teachers: Elder Peter Ong, Elder Daniel Tau, Elder Royce Yeo; sisters Mui Leng, Amy Lim, Phoebe Chia, Jenny Guillen; brothers John Wong, Seow Zhi Fa

Theme for the Quarter :
FREE IN CHRIST
(An Exposition on the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians)

English Worship Service :
Rev Colin Wong speaks on Can the Gospel of Grace be Rejected? (Galatians 2:11-21)