

MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS

SERVICES	13 MAY	20 MAY
CHILDREN'S CLASSES	Sui Lin, Linda, Shirley, Ai Cheng & Audrey	Sui Lin, Linda, Shirley, Ai Cheng & Audrey
USHERS	DANIEL, JOSEPHINE & MARY YEOW	SALLY & PENNY
SERMONETTE	<u>CHARLIE DIPALMA</u> A Survey Of Proverbs - Some Actions Of The Wise Person	<u>RENGA</u> The Kingship of David (2 Samuel)
BIBLE STUDY		<u>CHARLIE DIPALMA</u> A Survey Of Proverbs- Some Actions Of The Wise Person
SERMON		
SONG LEADING	CHARLIE	CHARLIE
OPENING PRAYER	FRANCIS	MAHIBAN
SCRIPTURE READING	JOVIN	YONG ENG LIM
LORD'S SUPPER	CHRIS & LIM YEW BOO	JOVIN & ALVIN
COLLECTION	RENGA	CHRIS
ANNOUNCER	RICHARD	YEOW
CLOSING PRAYER	ENG	EDWARD
CHORES	JENETTE LIM	JENETTE LIM

PORTFOLIOS OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2007

Chairman
Charlie Chan

Deputy Chairman
Richard Lee

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Edward Low

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Benevolence
Mahiban Daniel

Evangelism
Richard Lee

Education
Yeow Chin Kiong

Youth Work
Alvin Goh

Sunday School
Richard Lee
Ron Ying

BCC Programme
Charlie Chan

STATISTICS FOR 6 MAY 2007

CONTRIBUTION	RM2,813
MISSION FUND	RM1,225
BIBLE STUDY	37
YOUTHS / VISITORS CLASS	4 / 2
WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	56
FRI - PRAY MEETING (4 MAY)	26
MANDARIN WORSHIP	6
MANDARIN CONTRIBUTION	RM140

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion - A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,

DAYBREAK



BENEVOLENCE***EDIFICATION***EVANGELISM

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A weekly handout for members of
CHURCH OF CHRIST
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SUNDAYS:
9.30 AM
BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.30 AM
WORSHIP
2.30PM
MANDARIN WORSHIP

FRIDAYS:
8.00 PM
BIBLE STUDY

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that



CHALLENGING QUERY #444

Is singing in Christian assembly without instrumental accompaniment an important Bible doctrine?
YEOW CHIN KIONG

Asking whether the singing of hymns and psalms in Christian assemblies without the use of musical instruments is an important Bible doctrine begs another question, namely whether the many teachings of the Bible are of varying importance for the Christian. The whole point of II Timothy 3:14-17 is that all the teachings of the Holy Scriptures are important for salvation. It is not for man to sit in judgment over which of the Creator's commandments, statutes, precepts and instructions are important and which are not, but rather it is his duty to handle the word aright (11 Tim.2:15),- as regards their application today,- and not deceitfully (II Cor.4:2).

To illustrate, the Ten Commandments and the entire law of Moses is as important today as it was for the Israelites under the Mosaic Dispensation, not as commandments to be obeyed by Christians () but as teaching instruments ("a tutor" according to Gal.3:24-25; Rom.15:4) that draw our attention to the Gospel Age and commandments appropriate for Christians. Even the account of the sacrifice offered by Cain and Abel some millennia ago (Gen.4:4-8) is important for Christians today,- not to follow as by authority of example but as clear Divinely-inspired teaching (i.e. "doctrine") on God's distinguishing acceptable worship from the

unacceptable. The blood of animals have no part in the Christian Age (Heb.9:11-22) but their imagery as a means of teaching what the shedding of Jesus' blood means is as important today as it was to the Patriarchs and Israelites in Old Testament Times.

The Bible itself does not categorize its doctrines into "core", fundamental or important ones and the peripheral or unimportant. As far as God's teachings or commandments concerning one's attitude to **doing God's Will** is concerned, Jesus taught the principle "these you should have done, and not to have left the other undone". (Matt.23:23). And, concerning one's attitude to **worshipping God**, the Lord taught that God desires that He be worshipped in spirit and in truth (John 4:19-24). Further, the **conduct of Christian assemblies** is regulated by scripture (I Tim.3:14-15; I Cor.11:17-34, especially verses 17 to 18, "when you come together"). The unambiguous command to sing (Col.3:16; Eph.5:19) fits within this context of doing everything according to God's Will.

The correct way of worshipping God should be determined by God Himself as the sole Object of man's worship. We cannot worship as we please, but only in spirit and in truth (John 4:19-24),- the truth found in His word (John 17:17). Every occasion of Christian assembly is an occasion for worship, and the act of singing at such assemblies ought to be regulated by what the Holy Scriptures of God has determined to be the correct practice. It is the supremely presumptuous and headstrong Christian who would have it any other way. It is simply incongruous to sing Pollard and Stebbins' "Have Thine Own Way" with musical accompaniment for God has stipulated that Christians are to "sing" (Col.3:16 and Eph.5:19). Indeed Colossians 3:16 is followed by a verse reminding us to do **all things** "in the name of",- that is, by the authority of,- Jesus.

It is unfortunate that some brethren consider the use of instrumental music in Christian assemblies a teaching not as important as the Gospel and the preaching of it. The preaching of the Gospel is certainly fundamental to the Great Commission, but so is the observance of everything which the Lord has commanded (hence the "two limbs" of Matt.28:19-20). As it is, our Lord had appointed his Apostles to be the bearers of all truth (John 16:13), Paul among them (I Cor.15:9) and apostolic teaching requires **singing** in *assemblies* of Christians (the implication of Col.3:16's "teaching and admonishing **one another** with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing...).

It would be interesting to ask brethren who consider the use of instrumental music in Christian assemblies unimportant to explain why this is the case. We should ask them, "Not important as compared to what other doctrine?". Certainly not when compared to the doctrine of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, for the Lord Himself has said that it is entirely worthless to call Him "Lord" and not do God's Will (Matt.7:21-23) nor the things which He said (Luke 6:46).

To say that a doctrine is "important" means that adhering to it in thought, word and practice has positive consequences and ignoring it has negative consequences. Whatever excuses men have for introducing instrumental accompaniment into the Christian assembly, they should never dismiss the doctrine,- or any other teaching within Holy Writ,- as unimportant. To do so would be tantamount to removing portions of the Word of God, an act with grave consequences indeed (Deut.4:2; 12:32; Rev.22:18-19).

SJ NEWS UPDATE

OUR GUESTS LAST WEEK

Sun - Mr Gopi (SJ guests) * Terrance (Pow Chin's guest) * Tan Tee Ming & Nerrine (Ai Mei's guests) * Yit Meng (Karen's guest) *

OUR VISITORS LAST WEEK

Sun - Sister Wong & Pow Chin (Klang) * Yoke Hoon (Malacca) * Kathleen (Skudai) * Karen (JB) * Henry Chun (Korea) * Charlie DiPalma (Kangayam)

Sun Mandarin - Ah Soon (Klang) * Candy (Kuantan)

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the health of: Doris Chan (KL), Francis, Katherine, Leela, JC Choate, Mahiban, Sarojini, Gary, Mdm Pang (Bessie's mother), Mr Chiah Tee Sang (Sis Tee's brother-in-law), Ah Ngen (Han's brother), Steven How (*Daybreak* printer) * Santhi and family *

AWAY FROM US

Eng and family back in Malacca

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO

The DiPalmas on the demise of Mary's mum last Thursday about 4am (Malaysian time). Please pray for Mary and her siblings as they grief their loss.

A SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST FOR

Beth Johnson who had surgery last Monday for a prolapsed colon. Pray for her complete recovery before she returns to India to continue her work there together with husband, Dennis Johnson (a missionary to India, who has been to Malaysia).

TRACT DISTRIBUTION

Join the soul-winning bandwagon either at 8.30am Saturday or after Sunday service for the month of May 2007.

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

- Eng's home fellowship at 8pm, Tuesday 15 May
- Chans' home fellowship at 8pm, Wednesday, 16 May

PROGRAMMES COMING UP

1. Ladies fellowship with Mary DiPalma 3pm, Saturday, 26 May 2007
2. **18th** Restoration Seminar & **8th** Restoration Roundtable (both on elders and deacons) Friday, 31 August 2007