



2023

LOVING BEYOND | BOUNDARIES

BLESSED SUNDAY!

We are glad to worship God together with you! May we continue to be a light and blessing to one another and others beyond boundaries!

SERVING THIS WEEK

Dn Amos Chia
Dominic Lim
Dns Joella Tan
Janet Ang
Nicolette Yu
Kwok Siew Lian
Arnci Amor
Jonathan Chua
Chen Jinling

NEXT WEEK Church Anniversary

The Church Facing a Troubled World

John 16:15-33
Rev Yap Wai Keong

Lead Ps Wendell Chua

9027 7465

Ps Lawrence Ong

9146 8277

Assis-to-Ps Joseph Tee

9088 0077

Ps Yap Kim Sin (Advisory)

9862 4390

Read (pg 8-10)

A Tale of Two Identities (A Book Circle Review)

By Lau Wah Ming

ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Theme *Loving Beyond Boundaries*

Prepare for Worship

Prelude

Exalt His Name

Call to Worship
Invocation
Doxology
Opening Hymn
Responsive Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-7

Worship in Song

Listen to His Word

What is So Good About the Good News? Rev Oh Boon Leong

Galatians 1:1-10

Holy Communion

The Bread and The Cup
The Lord's Prayer

Pray to Him

Pastoral Prayer

Give to His Work

Offering
Offertory Response

Closing Hymn
Benediction
Announcements
Postlude



SERMON NOTES

What is So Good About the Good News?

Galatians 1:1-10



The Gospel is good news, not good advice.

What's so good about the Good News?

I. Jesus is raised from the dead

II. Jesus gave Himself for our sins

III. Jesus delivers us from the present evil age

The ultimate goal of our deliverance: Glory of God
Theology demands doxology!



Reflections...

What kinds of “different gospel” have you encountered? How can we be faithful to the Gospel/Good News of Christ? What are some ways you can share the Good News with unbelievers you know?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for Fellow Bible-Presbyterian Church in Singapore (BPCIS) Churches: Shalom B-P Church

- » Pray that Shalom may be “faithful to our commission” (their church theme for the year), that they may embrace Jesus’ command of disciple-making.
- » Pray that they may be compelled to share the gospel; to understand the gospel’s immense value and sharing it with conviction.

Zion Family Ministry Survey

(Click here to participate: <https://forms.gle/XFbk6XYzrAHVVaM6A>)

- » Thank God for our church’s desire to better minister to the families in our congregation.
- » Please pray for wisdom for our team (Eld Lim Siah-Chuan, Eld Lin Hongsui, Dn Tony Seah, Dn Ivan Lee, Muru Nagaraju, and ATP Joseph Tee) to discern the results of our latest Family Ministry Survey.

ZS Church Camp 2023: 18 - 22 June

- » Church Camp is starting TODAY! Pray for journey mercies as the church family gathers to be enriched by the time of learning and fellowshiping together.
- » Continue to keep Rev Dr. Oh Boon Leong in prayer as he shares God’s Word with us. Pray also for the CEF helpers who will be running the children’s program.
- » Pray for the Camp Committee (Ps Wendell Chua, Dn Tony Seah, Dn Jonathan Foo, Ng Peiyi, Shermaine Lim, Michael Tay, Henry Jr. Chua, Theodore Goh) as they execute the camp activities.

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



Prayer Fellowship

**PF takes place every Wednesday except on public holidays or as announced!*

28 June

Wednesday @ 8.00pm

**No PF on 21 June due to Church Camp*

Join in prayer together for our church: <http://tiny.cc/zionPF2023>

Meeting ID: **865 4863 7670**
Passcode: **017541**

For queries, please contact
Ps Lawrence Ong @ 9146 8277

Upcoming Combined Services
@ Sanctuary 1

ZS Anniversary (25 Jun) | 4.00pm

URGENT

Looking for Volunteer Wheelers

We are looking for volunteers...

- To wheel Cheshire Home Residents to the Morning Service
- Can commit either to or fro duty only
- To serve twice in a month

If you're keen to volunteer, contact:
Elder Chua 9010 2893 / Olga 8158 1885

An illustration of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue top and yellow pants, pushing a man in a wheelchair. The man is wearing a red shirt and blue pants. They are both smiling. The background is a simple line drawing of a house with a window.

Family Ministry Survey 2023

To better serve our families, we need to hear from you!

Please take 5-7 minutes to complete the following survey for the Family Ministry:

<https://forms.gle/XFbk6XYzrAHVVaM6A>

For queries, please contact
ATP Joseph Tee.

Collection of Electronic Gadgets

Donate your old phones, laptops & tablets (must be in working condition) to our mission partners!

Please pass your old electronics to Olga (8158 1885)!

An illustration of a person's hands placing a black smartphone into a cardboard box. The box is already filled with various electronic devices, including a laptop, a tablet, and a mouse. The background is a simple line drawing of a house with a window.

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NEW! COVENANT BIBLE SCHOOL COURSE:
How to Interpret the Bible?
by Dr. David Chapman
9 Thursdays beginning 13 July,
7.30pm - 9.30pm



As disciples of Christ, we recognise the Bible as the Inspired Word of God. This highlights the importance of accurately understanding what the LORD is saying from His Word. Whether you are a new Christian or a seasoned Bible teacher, this course will equip learners to interpret the Bible properly and bring great benefit in your spiritual growth!

Sign up now:

<https://www.covenantbibleschool.org/register>

Project Silver Screen:
Functional Screening
15 July, 9am-5pm

CALLING: All Seniors aged 60 years and above!



The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) is organising a Functional Screening for all Zion members who are Singaporeans aged 60 years and above.

This simple & pain-free check-up can help detect age-related decline in seniors' vision, hearing and oral health early so that timely intervention can be provided to improve their quality of life.

Register interest by 25 June:
Roland Chan @ 9338 8054
ATP Joseph Tee @ 9088 0077

**Only eligible for those who have not attended a Functional Screening in the past 1 year*

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Church Office will be closed from 19 June to 22 June due to Church Camp. Please contact the Pastors directly if you have urgent matters. Thank you for your understanding!

Congratulations to...



Elliot and Tisha Aruldoss (2MS) on the birth of their daughter, **Elyssa Mae Aruldoss** on 12 June 2023.



Deepest Condolences to...

Kelly and Ivan Feng (2MS) on the Home-going of **Mdm Shen Xiao Bin**, mother of Kelly, grandmother of Ivan, on 6 June 2023.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Services	Worshippers & Volunteers
ZMS	181
2MS	111
ZES	50
Total	342
Sunday School	36

FELLOWSHIP TEA CONTRIBUTIONS

18 June	George & Lily Goh	Thanksgiving
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WEEKLY OFFERING

General and Missions Fund
(Received 05 June - 11 June)

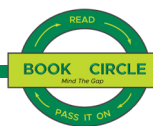
\$25,821.50



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A TALE OF TWO IDENTITIES



A Book Circle Review by Lau Wah Ming

*It is the best of humanity, it is the worst of humanity
It is the time for faith, it is the time for repentance
It is a will freely given, it is a will subject to bondage;
It is the spring of hope, it will be the winter of judgement*



No, we are not reviewing a novel. We are talking about new life in Christ, our new identity, new self; but we are to be mindful of the other identity, namely our old self (Eph 4:24, Col 3:10).

In the book “**Union with Christ: Reframing Theology and Ministry for the Church**” by **J Todd Billings**, the author brings us back to the theology of union with Christ, and explains the concept of adoption, the doctrine of justification and sanctification, divine incomprehensibility and much more. He draws references from the Reformed theology and explains from scripture concerning the centrality of union with Christ, which holds lessons for us and the church ministry. In this brief snapshot I will focus on the applications for individual believers like us.

Billings highlights that the believer’s union with Christ is central and essential for our communion with God. It is our union with the **crucified and risen** Christ indwelling in us by the Spirit that is the basis of our identity and our life of salvation in Christ, and a model and power for our gospel mission. The author articulates the concept of adoption to show that we are first accepted into God’s family and then being transformed through the process of growing in God’s family. Hence, we receive the double gifts (i.e., double grace) of justification and sanctification, in union with Christ. The Spirit of adoption gives new life (Romans 8:15).

Billings submits that no part of human identity goes untouched by union with Christ: one’s life is found in Christ, by the Spirit, in service to God the Father. As the adopted children of God, we are living into God’s future, a future that Jesus himself owns.

A TALE OF TWO IDENTITIES



Humans were first created by and united with God; but in the fall, humans were alienated from God.

When the Spirit comes to us in redemption, we are united to Jesus Christ: this is not to lose our human identity; rather, it is restored. Our new self in Christ is our true self at its best. When we are in union with Christ, we are much more human than before: why? because we are in communion with God.

Union with Christ receives its fullest exposition in Paul's letters and John's gospel. In Paul's writing, union with Christ in his death and resurrection are the components of salvation and underpins Paul's claim that believers can now find their new life in Christ. In John's gospel, union with Christ is connected with both faith and obedience-abiding in Christ, as a branch abides in a tree. **Billings** submits that modern theology and church life has obscured the other side of the coin, namely, "in ourselves we are dead, slaves, **and can do nothing**". The key text is: (Jesus said in John 15:5) "*I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me **ye can do nothing**.*" Salvation and sin are two sides of the coin: a person bears fruit only through union with and abiding in Christ, which means that one bears no fruit apart from that abiding.

The application to us believers is that if we want to receive scripture's teaching about union with Christ, we must accept the strong language about sin that accompanies it. This strong language leads to the doctrine of the bondage of the will to sin. (And to the concept of the depravity of sin.) The question has been asked: if a sinner can do nothing but sin apart from the Spirit's regeneration, is that sinner really free enough to be considered responsible? Is there "free will"? **Billings** takes pain to counter all the negative queries, and (here, in brief only) explains that the free will is still responsible as it chooses what it desires and is not coerced by an external force to sin. The good news is that redemption involves a restoration of communion with God through the double grace of union with Christ.

A TALE OF TWO IDENTITIES



As stated in Col 2:13, *“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made [you] alive together with him[Christ], having forgiven us all our trespasses.”*

The rest of the book talks about the mystery of God, and about Christians’ duties to execute righteous acts and social justice. He explains that although God’s ways are not our way and He is divinely transcendental, we can gain human knowledge of God through our union with and abiding in Christ. (*Read the full account.*) On justice, **Billings** highlights (*quoting Calvin*) “that free remission of sins cannot be separated from the Spirit of regeneration” and Paul’s teaching on the subject (Romans 6:1) and concludes that in union with Christ, we will bear fruit of showing a Spirit-empowered activation of our lives, in obeying Christ’s command in Matthew 22:37-39, for love of God and neighbour.

I conclude this review with this thought to us: Salvation is not self-centred or to be seen as self-beneficial; it is a restoration of communion with God through our union with Christ by the Spirit, when we receive the double grace (gifts) of justification and sanctification. Sanctification continues till we see Christ face to face (2 Cor 3:18). Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are in union with Christ; **“jia you”**. - This book is available in the library.

If there is a book that is of interest to you or an author and a topic that you want to know more about; do let us know so that we can check on your behalf the book’s availability via the library. As this is a pilot initiative, we seek the patience and understanding of requesters should the response be delayed, or the book is not available.

For book requests or to see book availability in the library, please contact: Bee Hong @ 9171 1009 or Pek Hong @ 9818 8220

“Nurturing in each gardener a heart with a thirst to seek after Him”