

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray for Rev Dev Menon as he prepares to speak next Sunday (9 October) from Acts 2:22-47. Message title: "Peter's First Sermon." Rev Menon is Pastor of the English Service in Zion Bishan Bible-Presbyterian Church. Service will be livestreamed at bit.ly/gracebpsermons.

Adult Fellowship Retreat in Penang 23-25 October Speaker: Rev David Wong. Theme: "Walking on the Narrow Road" based on Matthew 7.13-14.

Evangelism and Missions. Pray for God's guidance as plans are discussed and made for outreach efforts in the month of December.

Flower Contribution Slots available- 16 October, 13 & 27 November.

Refreshment Contribution Slots available- 27 November.

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

Speaker	Rev Dev Menon
Worship Leader	Dn Jeremy Hor
Musicians	Lim Sue San, Stanley Poh
Scripture Reader	Hor Siow Shia
AV Ministry	Melinda Poh, Joshua Lim
Ushers	Richard Tan, Naomi Neoh
Junior Worship	James Chen
Pre-Primary Worship	Hannah Yeo
Flowers	Lynna Seah
Refreshments	Tang Yu Sin
Prayer Meeting Devotion	Elder Victor Goh

LAST WEEK'S GIVINGS

Offerings \$ 2, 131.00
Tithes \$ 1, 346.00

QR code for tithes & offerings
(Please indicate "Tithe" or "Offering" under Reference no. / description)



LET US PRAY

Join us in praying for the church and the world via Zoom. Please contact Rev Tan at 9784 2761 for Zoom meeting ID and password. You may also email us your prayer items at prayer@gracebpc.org.sg

MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

What About Other Religions?

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

Proverbs 14:12 (ESV)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Moderator	Elder Victor Goh 9682 2281 Victor_Goh@gracebpc.org.sg
Co-Moderator	Elder Seah Soon Huat 9835 2178 Soon_Huat_Seah@gracebpc.org.sg
Honorary Pastor (Mandarin Service)	Rev Lee Fatt Ping 9668 1549 Fatt_Ping_Lee@gracebpc.org.sg
Pastor (Mentoring)	Rev Tan Eng Boo 9784 2761 Eng_Boo_Tan@gracebpc.org.sg

Grace Bible Presbyterian Church



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Rev Lee Fatt Ping

Worship Leader
Eld Victor Goh

Musicians
Adeline Lek
Chew Weh

Scripture Reader
Jonathan Sam

AV Ministry
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Ushers
Dn Allan Lim
Lynna Seah
Tan Chew Gim

Junior Worship
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Hannah Yeo

Flowers
Adult's BC
(Dn Chea Oei Kiang)

Refreshments
Adult's BC
(Dn Chea Oei Kiang)

OUR MISSION

To bring people to salvation in Jesus Christ and disciple them in their relationship with Christ.

OUR VISION

To be a church that is passionate about God, transformed by the Word, authentic in relationship, and bold in witness.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Call to Worship

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Opening Song

MH78 Strong in Salvation

Opening Prayer

Gloria Patri

Worship in Song

MH99 A Shelter in the Time of Storm

Responsive Reading

Proverbs 23:1-18 (KJV)

Giving and Thanksgiving

Doxology

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11:1-13 (ESV)

Pre-Sermon Song

MH405 Trusting Jesus

Corporate Prayer

Sermon

The Necessity of God-Pleasing Faith

Holy Communion

MH187 He Is Lord

Closing song

MH413 Faith Is the Victory

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Month of October Preaching Schedule

2 Oct	The Necessity of God-Pleasing Faith (Hebrews 11:1-13)
9 Oct	Peter's First Sermon (Acts 2:22-47)
16 Oct	Church Heritage
23 Oct	Church Heritage

Sunday Worship & Activities

9.30am Main Service 10.00am Junior Worship (7-12 yrs old) 11.30am Bible Classes

DEALING WITH THE PRIDE OF SELF- ACHIEVEMENT

By Rev Tan Eng Boo

**“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”
(Proverbs 16:18)**



Photograph taken by Rev Tan Eng Boo

Above is a photograph of the *Hagia Sophia* (Ayasofya in Turkish) taken on September 20, 2022 when I visited the basilica of the Greek Orthodox Christian Church for the second time since 2011. “Hagia Sophia” means “Holy Wisdom” in English. Translated into English, it means, “Church of the Holy Wisdom.” Today, it has been converted into a Mosque.

“From 1935—nine years after the Republic of Turkey was established by Ataturk—to 2020, the legendary structure was operated as a museum by the national government. Beginning in 2013, some Islamic religious leaders in the country sought to have the Hagia Sophia once again opened as a mosque. In July 2020, the Turkish Council of State and President Erdoğan reclassified it as a mosque.” (<https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-greece/hagia-sophia>)

Over a thousand years ago, a Byzantine Roman Emperor, Emperor Justinian, built a cathedral (*Hagia Sophia*) that was so magnificent that when he entered it for the first time in AD 537, he exclaimed: “Solomon, I have surpassed you!” Interesting indeed! If you have been into *Hagia Sophia* you will notice the magnificent structure of the building, especially the Dome and some wonderful paintings dating back to the time of Emperor Justinian. But for the Emperor to compare his ability with that of Solomon’s which the Bible records, **“And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt” (1 Kings 4:29-30)**, is unthinkable. Furthermore, Solomon’s ability to build the first Temple is a feat that no one, not even a single Emperor, can even begin to or dare to compare their achievements with.

John Stott writes, “At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere

of our Christian discipleship, pride is the greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend.” (<http://www.rayfowler.org/sermons/lord-i-have-a-problem/dealing-with-pride/>).

“Pride”—that familiar word is so real in every one of us. We manifest it almost every day. Even the disciples of Jesus were arguing who should be the greatest (Matthew 18:1-5; Luke 22:25-27). Pride is so subtle.

There is one lesson I wish to share with you about pride during my visit to the *Hagia Sophia*. For Emperor Justinian to say, “Solomon, I have surpassed you!” may seem to have been a valid statement, but he should have been careful, as it can be observed that the ego may be working hard to promote oneself in the form of **self-achievement!** It is certainly not wrong to work hard to achieve things in life. The Bible, however, has a word of warning for us in the matter of boasting: **“Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches” (Jeremiah 9:23)**. Beware of boasting in the following wisdom (which can lead to a superiority complex), power (which can lead to arrogance) and riches (which can lead to self-sufficiency). These are all just achievements in one’s life, but we should never be boastful about them.

Many of us Christians know this verse (Jeremiah 9:23) very well and we ought to practice it. The prophet Jeremiah went on to say that if you want to boast, do it this way: **“but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD” (Jeremiah 9:24)**. Beloved, if you really know the Lord, you will not want to boast about your achievements in life. You will instead boast that you know the Lord and in a practical way, manifest love, justice and righteousness in your life because the Lord delights in it!

The Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechism in Question and Answer 1 states the following: “What is the chief end of man? Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.” The Bible tells us with great clarity that man was created in order to bring glory to God. Thus the chief end of Christians and of the church is to bring glory to God. There is no higher calling than this, **“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31)**. Our primary responsibility is to ensure that we bring glory to God through our lives as we use whatever gifts or talents the Lord has given us. You may want to think of some practical steps you can take to glorify God.

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18). There is really nothing for us to boast in our life as a Christian when it comes to self-achievement. But be careful, pride is subtle. **“God opposes the proud...” (1 Peter 5:5)**.

May we always be grateful to the Lord for achievements in our lives and always be humbled by what God, in His graciousness, has done for us. We are what we are by the grace of God, so let us glorify God. Amen!