



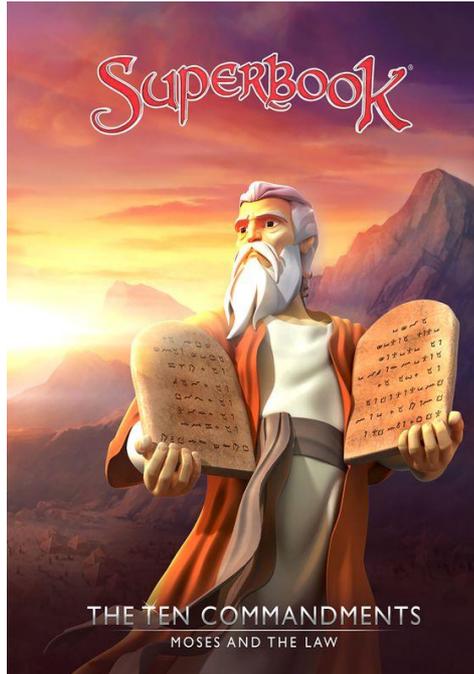
2020 Year Theme:
Be Strong and Courageous! Joshua 1:9

Theme: The Ten Commandments

Today's scripture texts: Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Philippians 3:4-11; Psalm 19:1-6

God's ways are offered as the doorway to God's abundant, eternal life. Like water that finds the smallest of cracks to flow through, and that bursts out in even the most surprising places (a rock in the wilderness), so God's life – God's living water – flows into any life that has even the smallest crack open to it, and brings life and refreshing and welcome and inclusion.

This week the central focus is The Law, and on how some are excluded from God's life because they have allowed the Law to become stagnant, repressive and legalistic. In the Exodus reading, Moses' journey continues, with the Israelites receiving God's law. But, because of their fear, they chose a lifeless Law, passed on to them second-hand through Moses, over a relationship with God, to which The Law is simply a doorway. Here the Law ends up being an end, rather than a means to an end, to an intimate relationship with



In Philippians, Paul, who could celebrate his righteousness under the law, expressed his disregard for legalistic purity, and instead embraces the life of Christ – both his resurrection and his suffering – for it is in Christ that he knows true life, and true connection with God and others.

In Psalm 19 God's law, like creation, is shown to be simply a way that God is revealed and is a gift that brings life – as it should be.

We are henceforth challenged to allow the law its proper place, and use it to lead us to life, while ensuring that the same gift of life is available to all.

GOD'S TOP TEN

1. PUT GOD FIRST
2. WORSHIP ONLY GOD
3. RESPECT GOD'S NAME
4. REST ON THE SABBATH TO HONOR THE LORD
5. RESPECT YOUR PARENTS
6. DO NOT HURT ANYONE
7. BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE
8. DO NOT STEAL
9. ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH
10. DO NOT WISH FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S THINGS

EVENTS

Online Bible Class & Worship

23 August

9.30 am Bible Class
The Parable of the Talents
by Romaine Jackson

11.00 am Worship
The Ten Commandments
by KC Chew

Wed Online Bible Class
26 August

7.30 pm
The Book of Psalms
Teacher: Lim Cher Yam

Zoom Prayer Warriors

8.00 pm
Every 2nd & 4th Tue
Lim Lian Chye

Gladiolus Place
Devotions 7.30 pm
Every 2nd & 4th Mon



Use this QR code to access Online Worship



In-person Congregational Worship Service continues today. (Up to 50 members). Members who intend to worship in the church premises on Sunday are to register and submit the online form on PPCOC website each week. May also use the QR code on Page 4 FOCUS Newsletter.

YOU can join us in worship by going to www.ppcoc.org and click on our Online Worship under Resources tab or Quick Links. You can also check the Donate tab on how to make bank transfers to the church for tithes and offerings.

Worship In Crisis by John Lim

I originally wrote this on my blog in February 2020 to reflect on the culture of worship and worship leading in Harding University. As we begin our fifth month of online church, I find these thoughts relevant. Since the pandemic forced us to change how we "assemble" to worship, I believe this is God's invitation for us to rediscover the heart of worship. What is it? And why does it matter in a time of crisis?



Worship in a Broken World

We're eight months into 2020 and the world has gone bonkers, to say the least.

COVID-19 continues its rampage around the world, plaguing millions with health issues and billions more with fear and paranoia. People are losing their jobs and worrying about their next meal. Entire industries are shutting down and governments are scrambling to keep their people alive.

Beirut just endured a deadly explosion. International superpowers are locked in what some are calling the new Cold War. The US grapples with racial tensions and human rights issues, spreading its conflict all over the world. It's like an orchestra where everybody is trying to play their own song - everything is clashing, nothing makes sense, and it's a complete mess.

And that's not to mention the everyday tragedies that happen around the world. People are dying because someone else started driving on drugs or alcohol. Human beings, created in God's image, get trafficked and dehumanized to satisfy someone else's disgusting sexual fantasy. It's not looking good folks.

So now what?

As a church called to live *in* the world but not *of* it, we have a choice to make. We can choose to wall ourselves against the brokenness of the world. Hide from the painful realities and pray that God will speed us off this planet before we suffer with it.

We can react like the world does, in fear and self-preservation. Turn inward to our own needs and forget that our neighbors are desperately fighting to survive too.

Or we can be different and choose to worship. I don't mean "worship" as in hiding inside our pretty church buildings one day a week to forget about the world. Actually, we don't even have the privilege of worshiping in a building today. Worship does not *distract* us with some faint hope of a better world while we let this one burn to hell around us.

That's unhealthy, unbiblical and delusional escapism. And it has no place among the people of God.

Rethinking Worship

No, worship doesn't and shouldn't distance us from a godless world. Worship empowers us to *restore* this world by inviting God back in. This is the battleground where we fight for the glory of God on *our knees* in prayer and with lifted hands in anthems of praise. We celebrate and effect God's victory when we proclaim the powerful Living Word to a world that doesn't know it needs it.

Worship unites people of all languages and races and places and time. When we sing, we sing with David and Asaph and every writer of the Psalms. When we pray, we pray with the first church who prayed until fire and wind descended from heaven.

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We proclaim the same words of life that welcomed Jew and Gentile, man and woman, slave and free.

Worship is too powerful a weapon to leave alone. As someone wiser than me once said, "Something happens to walls in the context of worship. *They come down.*"

Worship in Our Times

In that spirit, brothers and sisters, let us give thanks to God for the people who have made online church possible in the last few months.

For men-to-serve who took time to record themselves and put the worship assembly together.

For a praise team who made music with their voices so that we could make music in our hearts. For music mixers who spent hours making sure those songs truly edified.

For the leadership team that helps us to navigate this strange season of online church, and also works to prepare for our return to in-person assemblies.

And now that we are familiar with online church, let us look to the future and ask ourselves how our worship will look like in the future. We have some homework to do and some questions to ask.



As worshipers, how will we worship in a way that invites the *shalom* of God into the world? How do we make worship not simply a Sunday affair, but a 24/7 posture of reverence to the Almighty? In light of Sunday, how do we share the hope of Christ with those around us from Monday to Saturday?

Men-to-serve, how will we prepare ourselves to lead worship so that we are not just going through the motions, but in a way that draws minds, hearts and bodies to worship in spirit and truth? What if we treated every opportunity to serve as a sacred encounter with the risen Lord, and we conducted ourselves in fear and trembling at the thought of mediating his graced Word to others?

Worship is too powerful a weapon to leave alone. Let us wield it wisely. Together.

John Lim



Family News, Concerns & Prayers

We rejoice with the angels in heaven for the baptism of **Pang Tee Shan** this morning. Pray for Tee Shan to grow in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus

We have just kicked off our PPCOC YouTube channel. This is a good platform to access various past sermons & lessons. Members are encouraged to subscribe to the channel in order to get notifications of new content uploads. Members who are keen to be part of this video ministry can also get in touch with **Dennis Law**.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT7QgS9pteTlwte_2p0Bf8Q

First promotional video clip for **October 3rd Disciple Maker's Workshop**

<https://ppcoc.org/videos/DiscipleMakerWorkshop.mp4>

Nuggets for our Souls

by **Lee Hock**

Have you experienced a disappointment, health issues, or failure that resulted in a thoughtful & reflective prayer?



When you fail a test or lose a job or experience the end of a relationship? When humbled by life's circumstances, what did you do? David poured out his heart to the Lord & did a soul-searching inventory (Psalm 131:1).

With his circumstances, he found comfort like a young child who longs to simply be with mum. (Psalm 131:2). Circumstances humbles us. Teaches us to be hopeful & patient relying on God who has promised to never leave or forsake us. Do we trust GOD fully?

Heavenly Father, when life becomes turbulent, help us not to be anxious but to trust You & seek your comfort & providence.

SUNDAY GIVING



16 August - \$14,570.80

WAYS TO GIVE

(C) Donate via PayNow (QRCode)

1. Scan the QR code using your mobile banking app
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General Fund
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Pasir Panjang Church of Christ Sunday Worship Attendance

Please read and follow the instructions carefully. Failure to do so may make your registration void. Do this only once. Thank you for your cooperation.

SUBMISSION IS OPEN FROM MONDAY AND THE CUT-OFF DATE/TIME FOR SUBMISSION WILL BE FRIDAY, 12 NOON FOR THE COMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE.



<http://bit.ly/2Wk8Qg8>

FEEDBACK on Church Matters



<http://bit.ly/38KH8wK>

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Dennis Law
Lim Kok Hin
Vincent Lim

Ministers
Patrick Ong 82005250
eMail: patrickong@ppcoc.org
Beng Chuan 96393008
eMail: tanbengchuan@ppcoc.org