



We're here to see lives changed by Jesus ...
meeting Him and becoming like Him.



We extend a warm welcome to all who join us in worship today. May the Lord our God bless you as you hear His Word and join in prayer and praise.

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TODAY'S SERVICE

- Welcome & prayer
- Songs
Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)
O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
- Offering
- Communion
- Prayer time
- Reading
- Message
- Song
How Great is Our God
- Prayer & blessing

- ☩ If you would like prayer after the service today, ask the people around you or come to the front and someone will pray for you.
- ☩ A crèche is available for parents with little children. The service is relayed into the room so you are able to listen to it. Please ensure the room is left tidy.
- ☩ Please join us for a cuppa after the service.

PASTORAL NOTES

Dear Church Family

We've been greeted this new year with disasters on the world stage. There's the continuing problem of bushfires in Australia, which have claimed so many lives and destroyed homes. This week 176 lives were lost instantly when a passenger airplane crashed in Iran. Though the exact cause of it is yet to be established, it's hard to believe that the crash wasn't unrelated to the tension between the US and Iran. Indeed many experts believe the plane was accidentally downed by one of the missiles fired by Iran against US forces in Iraq. My thoughts are not so much about the leaders of these nations, but how their actions affect ordinary people. Two of the passengers were newly married – they were just starting their life as a family! Very sad – but I'm comforted by the truth that God cares for the weak and the ordinary people. It's also comforting to remember that God is sovereign, that although we may not at the moment see how His plans are unfolding in the Middle East (and even in our own lives), yet He is outworking His purposes for His glory and for the good of His children. The Lord says in His Word:

Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Philippians 1:6 – "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Please continue to uphold our church family and ministry in prayer. Pray for the Eldership as they take

the time this new year to review a number of areas of our church life and ministry.

As a church we believe and value prayer. And I've sensed the Lord wanting us – as we begin the new year – to devote seven days this month to prayer and fasting. I will be giving you further details soon, but in the meantime I encourage you to seek the Lord – seek Him through prayer and Bible meditation. And believe His promise that if we seek Him, we will find Him, if we seek Him with all our heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

I'm glad today to be able to return to our study of 1 Timothy, and today we're looking at 6:1–2. As our text addresses slavery, I've reproduced below a quote which I hope will be helpful to answer the question of why the Bible does not explicitly condemn slavery.

Blessings in Christ,
Deo

"Many people today are troubled by the fact that the New Testament does not denounce slavery; in fact, it seems to accommodate it ... But the truth is, though Scripture does not denounce slavery, neither does it approve of it. There is no defence of slavery in Scripture; there is no attempt to perpetuate it in any degree. In fact, although there were sixty million slaves in the Roman Empire at the time when 1 Timothy was written, by the end of the second century slavery had widely disappeared, largely because of the impact of Christian teaching and the influence of Christians throughout the Empire. So it is apparent that, though Scripture does not come out in strong language against the institution of slavery, nevertheless, Christianity is the major reason

why slavery has disappeared around the world." – Ray Stedman

It should be noted as well that Christians have been leading and continue to lead the battle against different forms of modern slavery.

PRAYER FOCUS

This week we focus our prayers on the following:

- Bushfires in Australia: we pray for the ongoing fires to be extinguished; for strength and provisions for those who have lost loved ones and/or property to the fires; for all involved to see the saving hand of God amidst the crisis.
- Plane crash in Iran this week: for comfort upon those who have lost loved ones; for the true cause of the crash to come to the surface, and for justice and righteousness to prevail.
- Peace in the Middle East – the situation there is so complex and complicated, but we pray for the people there to know the Prince of Peace.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, phone Lynn Whitlock at 573 8858 or 027 733 9558.

NOTICES

1. The Tue 10am home group at 90 Lindens Road resumes this week. All welcome!
2. Tea@10 on Fri 24 Jan at 10am at the Marina Cove (Upper Lounge). All welcome.

SERVING AT PBC*

Cleaning

4 Jan John & Judith
11 Jan Graham & Gwenda
18 Jan Kirsty
25 Jan Deo & Guan

Hosting

5 Jan John & Judith
12 Jan Lloyd
19 Jan Daniel & Allison
26 Jan Ana & Linda

Music & Sound

5 Jan: Guan (leading), Jonathan (guitar), Bronwyn (keyboard), Nelia (singer), Gyllian (projector), Andy (sound)

12 Jan: Allison (leading), Minette (singer), Bill (projector), Gerald (sound)

19 Jan: Guan (leading), Judith (singer), Gyllian (projector), Gerald (sound)

26 Jan: Garry (leading), Kirsty (singer), Lynette (projector), Andy (sound)

*If the date doesn't suit please arrange a swap with others on the roster.

News/messages for this bulletin need to be received by Thursday 4pm. Phone Deo at 022 421 1405 or email pictonbaptist@gmail.com.

Previous issues of this bulletin are available on our website.