

## **KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (KEC SERVICE Online)**

Please take note that this Sunday's service begins at **8.30am**, not 9am.

We will not be showing any new Kids' Church Videos for the moment. Please do join one of our Sunday School groups instead! Contact Abang Trang for more info.

You can access the livestream at [https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live\\_videos/](https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live_videos/)

Or on Youtube here: <https://youtube.com/bemkec/live>

*8.30am – Livestream starts*

*Livestream link should be available by 8.25am latest.*

### **1. CALL TO WORSHIP – Isaiah 54:1-8**

### **2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Joshua Baru)**

SONG 1: For All You've Done

SONG 2: Undivided

SONG 3: Lord I offer my life to you

### **3. Christianity Explored**

### **4. Prayers**

### **5. Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 7:25-40**

<sup>25</sup> Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. <sup>26</sup> Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. <sup>27</sup> Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. <sup>28</sup> But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

<sup>29</sup> What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; <sup>30</sup> those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; <sup>31</sup> those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

<sup>32</sup> I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— <sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. <sup>35</sup> I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

<sup>36</sup> If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong<sup>[a]</sup> and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. <sup>37</sup> But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. <sup>38</sup> So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>39</sup> A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. <sup>40</sup> In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

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### **SERMON OUTLINE: Devoted to you – the Christian & singleness (1 Cor. 7:25-40)**

The cultural script

The church script

Why should we value singleness?

→ Consider this: Jesus was single

1 Corinthians 7 will help us further appreciate and affirm the single life

Concerning “virgins”

The question facing the Corinthian Christians

Wisdom

Remain as you are!

But don’t undervalue singleness!

## **1. Value the single life, because marriage is not forever (v.29-31)**

The “crisis”

The present age is passing away

History as a 5-act drama

Act 1: Creation

Act 2: Fall

Act 3: Redemption Initiated

Act 4: Redemption Accomplished

Act 5: Redemption Consummated

What time are we in now?

Don't live as if this world is all there is

Don't have to overvalue marriage

The eternal blessing of our relationship with Christ

Isaiah 56:4-5

## **2. Maximise the single life, because marriage is not simpler (v.28b, 32-38)**

Marriage creates new problems!

Marrieds, be honest about the difficulties of marriage

Also about being freed for kingdom opportunities

The “divided” life

More capacity

Flexibility to invest in God’s kingdom

All about how you can serve God and serve others

Invest in friendships!

Marrieds, are you allowing singles into your life?

Don’t forget, many of us will one day be single again

Implication for church

Don’t have ungodly reasons for avoiding marriage

### **3. If you do leave the single life, marry a believer (v.39-40)**

Going out with non-Christians?

What matters in the end

## Response: Be Thou my Vision

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Connect cards
- Giving
- Pr Brian on leave Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April
- Questions about/Responses to sermon series? Submit them at <https://bemkec.my/1CorQnA>
- *Putting Parenting to bed*: This video-based parenting course continues **today**, 10.30-11.30am, Zoom. Facilitators: Ong Chin Yin and Lynn Ngui.
- *Christianity Explored* – starting 8pm every Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> for 8 weeks (inclusive of Gawai break) via Zoom. Register at <https://bemkec.my/christianity-explored/>
- Church Library will be open next **Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2-4pm.**
- Prayer Meeting – on Zoom until further notice.

### BENEDICTION

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 15:13