

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 16th May 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/

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

8.30am – Livestream starts

Livestream link should be available by 8.25am latest.

0. Starter question: How important is conscience?

1. CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 32

2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Joshua Baru)

SONG 1: Nothing but the blood of Jesus

SONG 2: Jesus paid it all

3. Theology is for Doxology: The Significance of the Ascension (in 90 seconds)

4. Prayers

5. Bible reading: Hebrews 9:6-14; 10:19-25; Romans 14:1-15

⁶ When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. ⁷ But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. ⁸ The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. ⁹ This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. ¹⁰ They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here,^[a] he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining^[b] eternal redemption. ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal

Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,^[c] so that we may serve the living God!

10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **25** not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

14 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. **2** One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. **3** The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. **4** Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. **6** Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. **7** For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. **8** If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. **9** For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister^[a]? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. **11** It is written:

“As surely as I live,” says the Lord,
‘every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.’”^[b]

12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. **14** I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. **15** If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died.

SERMON OUTLINE: CONSCIENCE

A subject that doesn't get much airtime

But consider how the NT treats it (eg. 1 Tim. 1:18-19, 4:1-2; 1:5, 3:9)

Conscience plays a significant role in determining

- The health of our Christian life
- Our joy

What the conscience is

Two definitions (one simpler, one more comprehensive):

- "Your consciousness of what you believe is right and wrong" (Andy Naselli)
- Your "self-awareness that judges whether or not an act one has carried out or plans to carry out is in harmony with one's moral standards" (Baker Encyclopaedia of the Bible)

i. A shadow that speaks

corresponds to you, yet independent of you

"God's spy in your bosom"

ii. A courtroom

A court reporter

A witness

A prosecuting attorney

A judge

An executioner on death row

eg. Romans 9:1, 2 Cor. 5:11, Romans 2:15, 1 Cor. 8:7; 2 Sam. 24:10

iii. Gold or silver

Solid but malleable...can be stretched, shaped and moulded

Every human being has a conscience!

Romans 2:14-15

A gift: restraining & reforming

Struggling...

1. We need our conscience to be deeply cleansed

Problem: Not just that we feel guilty, but that we *are* guilty!

Hebrews 9:1-10 – the tabernacle

Limited access

Set up to tell you...

Limited efficacy

10:3 – annual reminders of your sin

Our strategies to cleanse our conscience

Overcompensate

Silence

Enter Jesus the High Priest who offers the once-for-all sacrifice

Objectively opened a new and living way → subjective confidence (10:19, 22)

Know the joy of a cleansed conscience

2. We need our conscience to be regularly calibrated

Our consciences can malfunction

a) Tell us we're not guilty when we are!

The seared conscience (1 Tim. 4:2)

The corrupted/defiled conscience (Titus 1:15)

Hence 1 Cor 4:4, Proverbs 14:12

b) Tells us we're guilty when we're not!

1 Cor. 8:7

The Accuser

How do we calibrate our consciences?

By the truth of God's Word

Case study: Acts 10:9-16

What should we do if different Christians have differently calibrated consciences? (Rom. 14)

The issue

Principle 1: Don't do something if your conscience tells you it's wrong

Principle 2: Don't lead someone to sin against their conscience, and compromise their integrity

Principle 3: Welcome one another, even though we have differing consciences

Principle 4: Let our conscience continually be calibrated by Scripture

Know the blessing of a properly trained, appropriately sensitive conscience!

Response: And can it be

Further reading

- Conscience by Andy Naselli & J.D Crowley
- Pure Joy by Christopher Ash

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Connect cards
- Giving
- After-service – meet with Pastor. Zoom details:
Meeting ID: 944 4840 4386
Passcode: 439961
- HFG Update
- KEC Church Administrator vacancy:
Any interested parties are encouraged to apply and submit their CV as soon as possible, addressed to the Church Secretary (email: kecsibkh@gmail.com or brian.bemkec@gmail.com or edwards@cmsb.my). Preferred qualifications is diploma/degree in business admin/management/HR, but other fields/level are also acceptable. Please see the advertisement for the position in full at <https://bemkec.my>
- *Christianity Explored* – happening 8pm, every Thursday for another 5 weeks (inclusive of Gawai break) via Zoom.
- Webinar – “Understanding Faith: Learning to find our identity in Jesus”, with Pr Anand Mahadevan, Saturday 29 May 2021 (11am-1pm)
- Advance Notice: Missions Weekend (18-20 June)
- Prayer Meeting – on Zoom until further notice.

BENEDICTION

²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- Hebrews 13:20-21