

## God Bless You

Lawrence Woo

As the start of 2019, we invariably greet one another with good words and well wishes. For Christians, we often say to each other 'God bless you!'

In the New Testament, there are two primary Greek words translated as "blessing." *Makarios*, which carries the meaning of happiness, and *Eulogeo*, which means "to speak well of." So when we say 'God bless you', we wish God has spoken good things about the person whom we spoke to, or pronounced good things for their benefit.

But what do we actually mean when we say to someone 'God bless you'? What is our definition of being blessed? Would it be one or more of these circumstances: a nice feeling, a good life, a loving marriage, a wonderful family, obedient children, a healthy body, a successful career, good exam results, a secured home, financial abundance, ..... Perhaps you could add one or two more positive circumstances to the list. So, if one or more of these circumstances apply to us, does it equate to us being blessed by God?

It's certainly true that earthly gifts that we receive, such as those mentioned above, are all unmerited blessings from God. These undeserved blessings, which God pours out on all people, Christians and non-Christians alike, through His grace, ought to be received with thanksgiving and praise, leading us to glorify God through them. However, the problems come when we trust in ourselves rather than in God for being successful; and feel self-sufficient and proud rather than depending on God for deliverance. All earthly blessings are temporary and can be taken away. A secured job disappeared when the company collapsed, a comfortable life shattered when disaster struck, a good marriage cracked, our children rebelled, our health spiralled downward, our family fell apart.....

So what kind of blessings we should seek? The Bible teaches us to seek for the true eternal blessings of God. One can find a long list of them but Eph 1:3-14 reminds us that the key God's blessings to Christians are: 1) election as saints, 2) adoption as His children, 3) acceptance by God through Christ, 4) redemption from our eternal condemnation because of our sins, 5) the forgiveness of our sins because Christ paid for the wage of them on the Cross, 6) knowing the mystery of His will, 7) the inheritance bestowed through Christ, and lastly 8) the sealing of the Holy Spirit. With all these spiritual blessings from God, which are His promises, our life is ultimately blessed through Christ because our past failures have been addressed, God is with us in this life, and that our future after death is secure.

Most of us would have made our new year's resolution by now. I wonder for Christians would it be that we will truly appreciate the spiritual blessings of God and praise Him more in 2019 as a result. For those who are yet Christians, you too could access all of these spiritual blessings if you are in Christ Jesus. The way to be in Christ is to repent from our sins, confessing to God that we are sinners. When we believe that Christ died to take our punishment and now lives to give us new life, He grants us forgiveness of sins and all the blessings that accompany that salvation.

Happy New Year to you and may you be truly blessed in 2019!

## Bristol Chinese Christian Church 布里斯托華人基督教會

Charity Registered No: 1058943



*2019 Theme: "We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ"*

**6th January 2019**

**Forgetting What is Behind,  
Straining Forward What is Ahead (Php 3:12-14)  
Chee Kiat Wai**

<b>*Combined service</b>	<b>*THIS WEEK</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK 13th January</b>
<b>Host</b>	Brian	Lloyd
<b>Worship</b>	Kevin	Yin
<b>Offering</b>	MM	Christine
<b>Reader</b>	Brian	Christine

*Next week's sermon: Spiritual Blessings in Christ (Eph 1:1-14)*  
Edward Stuart

A very warm welcome to everyone joining us for today's service, especially those who are with us for the first time. Please feel free to introduce yourself to one of us and stay for the refreshments after the service so that we may get to know you more.

**It is our prayer that you may know and experience the love of God today.**

### Contact Us

BCCC - Tyndale Baptist Church, 137 Whiteladies Rd, Bristol, BS8 2QG

[www.bristolccc.org](http://www.bristolccc.org) | [bristolccc.uk@gmail.com](mailto:bristolccc.uk@gmail.com) |  Bristol Chinese Christian Church

Pastor Martin Choi - 07563 060361  
Pastor Chee Kiat Wai - 07725 749501

Chairperson: Lawrence Woo - 07952 461935

## Announcements & Prayer Items

1. **Happy New Year with every blessing! May we love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength more in 2019.**
2. Today is our first **Holy Communion service** in 2019. We welcome all brothers and sisters in Christ who have been **baptised** to take part in the Lord's table. Our speaker today is **Pastor C-K Wai**. May the Lord speak to us through the message.
3. The first **corporate prayer meeting** in the new year will take place **next Sunday from 4.15-5.15pm**. Let us all come together and pray in unity.
4. **The church theme for 2019 is "We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Eph 4:15 ESV).**
5. The next **SGM** will be held **from 4:15-5:30 pm on 20/01**. There will be reports on church affairs provided by the EC at the meeting. **BCCC members please attend.**
6. **Verse of the week: "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."(Philippians 3:14)**
7. **"The eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end"**(Deuteronomy 11:12b). Let us pray for the **care, faithfulness and grace of God** be with every member **from the start to the end of year.**
8. Pray for **vision from God** in the New Year, pray that BCCC will **grow from strength to strength, glorifying God as we continue to build up as one body of Christ.** May God **grant His vision, wisdom and strength to pastors and leaders in building His own Church.**
9. Please pray for the **3/2/2019 Chinese New Year Celebration**. Pray for **wisdom in planning** and for the **smooth running** of the event. Pray also that God will lead **non-believers to come** and may the good news of the **Gospel be spread.**
10. **May God continue to keep Ho Wang, the son of Tak Hing and Mui Tsang.**
11. **More waves of demonstration** are planned in **Paris, France** to show **dissatisfaction of their leader**. Pray that God would **put a stop to the violence**. May **His peace calm down the protestors and stop further losses to the country.**
12. The **Sunda Strait in Indonesia** was hit by a **tsunami** on **22nd December 2018**. The **death toll is 437 and over 14,000 people were injured**. Pray for them, may God send **more relief personnel to help with the cleaning up, to aid the sick, and to comfort the hurt**. May the **families of the dead and injured receive appropriate help and be comforted.**

## Church Life

Life within the church is much more than just a Sunday service. God's community is a great place to build lifelong relationships with friends and with God. We encourage and invite you to be a part of the many fellowships that take place within the life of BCCC each week.

<b>English Ministry</b>	2:00pm - 3:30pm	<b>EM Worship Hall</b>
<b>Combined</b>	Every 1st Sunday	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Sunday School (LIFE)</b> Primary School Group & Toddler's Group	<b>Nursery Room</b> 2:00pm - 3:30pm	Mrs Judy Ho 07917 619061
<b>Rooted</b> (Youth)	<b>Church Attic</b> 2:00pm - 3:30pm	Anna Leung 07511 081977
<b>Lighthouse</b> (Young adults)	Every 1st and 3rd Sunday 4.30pm - 6pm	<b>Carpet Room</b> bristolccc.em@gmail.com
<b>Family Group</b> (Families with young children)	Every 1st Saturday	<b>Various locations</b> bristolccc.uk@gmail.com
<b>Connect</b> (Students)	Wednesday Evening	<b>Various locations</b> bristolccc.connect@gmail.com

### Last Week's Attendance and Offering:

EM+CM+MM: 109                      SS: 28  
 Church Offering: £1349.07        Building Fund: £10.00  
*Offering via Standing Order: Bristol Chinese Christian Church*  
*Sort Code: 20-13-34 / Account: 80202576*

### Upcoming events (2018):

- 20/01/2019                      SGM
- 03/02/2019                      CNY Celebration