

**Truth B-P Church**  
**Combined Youth Conference 2023**  
**(20 to 23 June 2023)**  
*Reported by Raynor Fong*

Psalm 27:4: *“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.”*

We thank God this year, we can once again have a physical Combined Youth Conference (CYC). For this 19<sup>th</sup> CYC, the conference theme was “Beholding the Beauty of the LORD” (taken from Psalm 27:4 and Psalm 90:17), with Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew as the main speaker. It was held from 20 to 23 June 2023 (Tuesday to Friday), 9:30am to 5pm daily. We thank God for True Life BPC, as they graciously allowed us to use their premises at Goldhill Plaza, a new yet well-loved location for the conference. The daily attendance was about 40 youths.

Before the conference, a promotional video was sent to the churches to interest youths in attending the conference. It was also for the youths to start reflecting on our initial thoughts towards the theme of the conference and what we consider as “beautiful.”

During this conference, we considered Psalm 27 and 90 to see what it means exactly when David and Moses, by the inspiration of God, beheld the beauty of the Lord. Rev Quek preached on the following eight messages on how we can behold the beauty of the Lord:

1. Behold Through Salvation (Ps 27:1-3)
2. Behold Through Prayer (Ps 27:4-5)
3. Behold is to Draw Near (Ps 27:6-10)
4. Behold is to Grow (Ps 27:11-14)
5. Behold the Presence of God (Ps 90:1-3)
6. Behold the Judgment of God (Ps 90:4-8)
7. Behold by Numbering our Days (Ps 90:9-12)
8. Behold by Others (Ps 90:13-17)

I believe many of us often think of “beholding” to refer to something that we can see. For example, we often seek after beautiful things such as God’s creation or we create our own beautiful art pieces. But, when it comes to beholding the beauty of the Lord, how do we behold Him who is a spirit? Rev Quek laid down the foundation for us that beholding is to perceive with our mind and relationship, and how we can behold the beauty of God only after we have been born-again, as we have experienced the salvation and guidance of God. Only then, can we begin to behold the beauty of God, and others can behold the beauty of God in us.

Daily after the main messages, we broke up into smaller groups for discussion. The discussion questions helped us reflect on the messages preached. Questions like sharing of testimony of salvation, whether we have been leaning more on self or on Christ and

seeing the presence of God in our studies were answered during discussion. These caused us to reflect on our current spiritual life in our schools or at work. I thank God also for my group members who were willing to share about the struggles that they currently faced, and to encourage one another through our sharing and from God's Word.

The main messages ended off with a round-up of the discussion questions and a Question-and-Answer (Q&A) session on the fourth day, when Rev Quek straightened our misunderstandings and applications of the message.

After lunch on the first day, we had an outing to Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. The whole outing was centred around the conference theme. We had to plan routes and draw something beautiful, take photos of beautiful things from different perspectives and sing a hymn that displayed the beauty of the Lord. It ended off with Dn Emerson Ang (the conference coordinator from Truth BPC) exhorting us to experience the beauty of the Lord in our lives and to see it from God's perspective, how He sees the overall plan and guides us each step of the way.



On the second day, Rev Ko Linggang conducted a forum on “Neo-Calvinism and its Dangers.” He began and ended the forum with 2 Timothy 4:1-5. We learnt how dangerous Neo-Calvinism is, although it is based on Calvinistic soteriology; and many of us unknowingly used their materials and learned from them through social media. Dangers include its use of modern English bible versions, styles of worship, unbiblical contextualisation of the gospel, etc. It also embraces worldliness, Charismatism and Ecumenism.

On the third day, we had a time of handiwork, where we made acrylic boards, designing it based on what we have learnt from the messages and the reminders from God's Word.



The session ended off with Pr Samuel Joseph (of Truth Life BPC) reminding us to remember the presence of God in our lives and our accountability to Him, that it is not so much what God is doing in my presence, but what we are doing in God's presence.



On the fourth day, we ended the CYC with a testimony time when we shared within our groups and then on a conference level in an interesting way. We individually filled up a slide (projected for all to see) with our pictures and reflected on how what we once perceived to be beautiful has now changed in light of the messages.

A few days after the conference, Shih Min (from True Life BPC) created a video montage that encapsulated what we did during the whole conference. Thank God for the video that stirred everyone to reflect on the lessons learnt and the activities done throughout the whole conference.

I thank God for CYC 2023: for granting the counsellors and committee wisdom and strength in labouring to plan and execute this CYC; for the speakers in being convicted by God's Word and preaching to and teaching us, and for everyone who attended this conference. May God continue to bless this CYC ministry, and to bless everyone who hears the Word of God preached faithfully through recordings and future conferences. All glory be given to God alone!

Psalm 90:17:  
*“And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.”*



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**Links to the:**

-- CYC 2023 Photo Album:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O1K3QQ1YClGdGESWjqTU9EcIF4dRAMlFz?usp=sharing>

-- CYC 2023 Promotional video:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/16KPrhXK6\\_iOu5kY174ESh3jfeVVa-2Oi/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16KPrhXK6_iOu5kY174ESh3jfeVVa-2Oi/view?usp=drivesdk)

-- CYC 2023 Summary Video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16JlIoF94fwtmgpiKKyBWQWRRr0qpRuUq/view?usp=drivesdk>