



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse); 020 7372 6858 (Office)

Email: newlifeplondon@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.newlifebpc.co.uk

Visiting Pastor: Rev Lim Chee Boon 07909 612215

Administrator: Mok Chee Cheong 07921 929515

"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

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LORD'S DAY 20 AUGUST 2006

Dear Readers,

"I LOVE THE LORD'S DAY"

AN ADAPTATION OF ROBERT MURRAY M'CHEYNE'S MOST EXCELLENT AND DEVOTIONAL ARTICLE

Reasons Why We Love the Lord's Day

Because It Is the Lord's Day

He Delights In It – By example, He rested from His amazing work of creation and redemption. Just as God rested on the seventh day, blessed and hallowed it; so Christ rested this day from all His agony, and pain, and humiliation by His resurrecting. And so, by His resurrection, it gives us hope that *"there remaineth therefore [the keeping of a Sabbath] to the people of God"* (Hebrews 4:9).

He Owns It – The day is all about Him, just as the Lord's Supper is all about Him – it is His table, He is the bread, He is the cup, He invites the guests, and He fills them with joy and the Holy Ghost. Though all days are Christ's, yet the Sabbath is peculiarly His own. "He hath made it" – He has marked it out. This is the reason why we love it, and would wholly keep it. We love everything that is Christ's! We love His Word – it's better to us than gold and silver. "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." We love His House – it's where He meets with us and communes with us from His mercy-seat. We love His Table – it's His banqueting-house, where His banner over us is love! It's there where our bonds are loosed, our eyes anointed, and our hearts burn with holy joy. We love His people – they are His, members of His body, washed in His blood, filled with His Spirit, our brothers and sisters for eternity.

Every hour of His day is dear to us – sweeter than honey, more precious than gold. It reminds us of His justification, His love, His finished work, and His rest. And we may boldly say that a man who does not love the entire Lord's Day does not love the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, Sabbath-breaker, whoever you be, you are a robber of religious things! When you steal the hours of the Lord's Day for business or for pleasure, you are robbing Christ of the precious hours which He claims as His own. If the Lord's Supper were turned into a drunken meal, would we not be shocked? If the communion cup were used to make drunken toasts, would our feelings not be shaken? Christopher Love once said, "Cursed is that gain, cursed is that recreation, cursed is that health, which is gained by criminal encroachments on this sacred day."

Because It Is a Reminder of Paradise and a Taste of Heaven

It Reminds Us Of Paradise – When Adam was created in God's image, he was put into the garden to dress it and to keep it. This was hard work – no doubt he had to tend to the vine, gather the fruits, and water the fruit-trees and flowers (man was never made to be idle). But when the Sabbath came around, his tools were to be laid aside as the garden was no longer his care. His mind would have looked beyond temporal things into the world of eternal realities. He walked with God, seeking deeper knowledge of God and His ways; his heart burning more and more with holy love, and his lips overflowing with praise. Even in Paradise, man needed the Sabbath! Eden was incomplete without it!

It Is Also A Taste of Heaven – When we lay aside our pens and brush aside our worldly cares, ...

Continued on Page 2...

Leaving them behind with our week-day clothes, and go to the house of God; it is like the resurrection morning.

It is like coming out of great tribulation into the presence of God and the Lamb. When we sit under the Word and hear the voice of Christ and are fed by Him, it reminds us of the Day when the enthroned Lamb shall feed us and lead us to living waters. When we praise Him, it reminds us of the Day when our hands shall play the harps to God – when congregations shall never split, and Sabbaths shall never end.

After public worship, when we meet God in secret or retire to some quiet corner, we are reminded that one day we will be permanent pillars in God's house, going out no more. This is the reason why we love the Lord's Day. This is why we "call the Sabbath a delight." A well-spent Sabbath is to be like heaven on earth. Therefore, we wish our Sabbaths to be wholly given to God. We love to spend the whole time in public and private worship, except when doing necessary things like eating and works of mercy like nursing someone. We love to rise early and to sit up late, that we may have a long day with God.

From this description of true Christian affection, what think you of your salvation? You can tell which way the stream is flowing from a straw on its surface. Do you hate a holy Sabbath? Is it a kind of hell to you to be with those who are strict in keeping the Lord's Day? The author of these lines once felt as you do. You are restless and uneasy. You say, "Behold what a weariness it is! When will the Sabbath be over?" Will it be said of you, "Ah! Soon, very soon, and you will be in hell. Hell is the only place for you."? Heaven is one long, never-ending, holy Sabbath-day. There are no Sabbaths in hell.

Because It Is a Day of Blessing

When God instituted the Sabbath in paradise, it was said, "*And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it*" (Genesis 2:3). It is a day of blessing! Jesus rose on the Lord's Day. He revealed Himself to two disciples and caused their hearts to burn within them on the Lord's Day. He came and stood in the midst of the disciples, gave them peace, and breathed on them the Holy Ghost on the Lord's Day. He revealed Himself with unspeakable grace to unbelieving Thomas on the Lord's Day. The Spirit was poured out on the Lord's Day – the first revival of the Christian Church at Pentecost. Beloved John, an exile on Patmos, was filled with the Holy Spirit and received his revelation on the Lord's Day.

So from the beginning of the world and in every place, the Sabbath has been a day of double blessing. But it is also a day and will be that Day where all of God's enemies should gnash their teeth at it. Saints, who love the Lord's Day, will enjoy their calmest, deepest views into the eternal world.

Unhappy men, who do not enjoy this day of double blessing and seek to downplay it, "ye know not what you do." Would you wrest from others the day when God opens the windows of heaven and pours down a blessing? Would you make the heavens over us like brass, and the hearts of our people like iron? What is your motivation? Do you dislike the church bells? Does true revival bring revulsion to you? Do not your own withered souls need a drop from heaven?

A Word of Exhortation

To those who are God's children, I would now, in the name of our common Saviour, who is the Lord of the Sabbath, address a word of exhortation.

Prize the Lord's Day

The more others despise and trample on it, love it all the more! The louder the storm of blasphemy howls around you, sit closer to the feet of Jesus. "*He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.*" Diligently improve your keeping of the Sabbath. It should be the busiest day of the seven; but only in the business of eternity. Avoid sin on that holy day. God's children should avoid sin every day, but most of all on the Lord's Day. It is a day of double cursing as well as of double blessing. The world will have to answer dreadfully for their sins in time. Spend the Lord's Day in the Lord's presence. Spend it as a day in heaven. Spend much of it in praise and in works of mercy, as Jesus did.

Defend the Lord's Day

Lift up a calm, undaunted testimony against all profaning of the Lord's Day. Use all your influence, whether as a statesman, a magistrate, a master, a father, or a friend, both publicly and privately, to defend the entire Lord's Day. This duty is laid upon you in the Fourth Commandment. Never see the...

Sabbath broken without reproving the breaker of it. Even worldly men, with all their pride and contempt for us, cannot endure to be convicted of Sabbath-breaking. Always remember God and the Bible are on your side, and that you will soon see these men cursing their own sin and folly when too late. Let all God's children lift up a united testimony.

Trends We Too Often Excuse

[At this point, Robert Murray M'Cheyne writes about the Sabbath-breaking trends in his own Scotland; how the following places are kept open on the Lord's Day: the reading rooms (where people would go to read newspapers and magazines for entertainment), the public houses (where people would go to socialize), and the railway system (which would keep trade alive and promote the running of businesses). The writer of this adaptation, with trembling, seeks to contemporize them into relevant application to today's Christian, while maintaining most of M'Cheyne's flavor and words.]

Careless Use of Entertainment

Too often, in Christian homes, you will find the television on at all hours of the Lord's Day; and especially on Sabbath evenings, you might even find the television preaching to a small congregation of its own. Ah, guilty men! how plainly you show that you may be on the broad road that leadeth to destruction. If you were a murderer or an adulterer, perhaps you would not dare to deny this. Do you not know – and all the sophistry of hell cannot disprove it – that the same God who said, "*Thou shalt not kill*," said also, "*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy?*" The murderer who is dragged to the gallows, and the polished Sabbath-breaker are no different in the sight of God.

Unnecessary Acts of Acquisition

In spending quality time together, we may pass certain signs that scream, "Discount Sale! Don't Wait Another Day!" We find ourselves drawn in, silencing the whisper, "Don't Discount Your Soul... Wait Another Day..." These are avenues to spiritual poverty. Do God's people just tamely accept these booths of Vanity Fair or see them as truly empty cisterns for thirsty souls? And what of the unbelieving merchant? Many declare that they cannot keep up their shop if it were not for the Sabbath market-day. Surely we may well say, "Cursed is the gain made on that day." Poor wretched men! Do they not know that every penny that rings upon their counter on that day will yet eat their flesh as if it were fire – that every watt of power used in their establishments will only serve to power the generator of "the fire that is not quenched"?

Blatant Display of Willfulness

Too often we carry out our worldly vocation on the Lord's Day – working or studying – forgetting the holiness of the day. And we wonder why worldliness prevails. The willfulness of our hearts, fear of failure, and conformity to the world cause infidelity in us, and we continue to do so, as if there was no eye in heaven, no King on Zion Hill, no day of reckoning. There is an infidelity and enmity to the Sabbath. You are robbers. You rob God of His holy day. You are murderers. You murder your souls and those under your charge. God said, "*Thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant...*" Do you compel them to break God's law, and to sell their souls for gain? Was it not Sabbath-breaking that made God cast away Israel? It is moral suicide, stabbing of your own souls, proclaiming to the world that you are not the Lord's people, and hurrying on your souls to meet the Sabbath-breaker's doom.

Praying that these words of truth and soberness may be owned of God, and carried home to your hearts with divine power – I remain, dear fellow-countrymen, your soul's well-wisher, etc.

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON
CHURCH THEME: STRIVING TO LIVE ABOVE OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:3)

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	Today: 20/08/2006	Next Week: 27/08/2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day morning.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	John Poh	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon	<p style="text-align: center;">NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for those who are sick: Continue to pray for Rev Lim that he will receive the TIA check-up results as soon as possible. • Pray for journey mercies: Continue to pray for those who are on travel. Mok and Carol will be in Cambodia this week, Mok will be giving talks at the bible school. • Areas of Service: For those who are interested to serve (as ushers, Sunday school teachers, pianists, organists, kitchen, ...), please see Jonathan or Daniel. • Maasai Mission: Continue to pray for the settlement of the land issues. Pray for Sis Pui Meng – for God's protection and blessing in her clinic ministry to the Maasai. <p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hold Thou my hand, and closer, closer draw me</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>To Thy dear self—my hope, my joy, my all;</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hold Thou my hand, lest haply I should wander,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>And, missing Thee, my trembling feet should fall.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hold Thou my hand; the way is dark before me</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Without the sunlight of Thy face divine;</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>But when by faith I catch its radiant glory,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What heights of joy, what rapturous songs are mine!</i></p>
<i>Message:</i>	Christ's Assurance To Believers	Christ's Promises the Comforter	
<i>Text:</i>	John 14:1-14	John 14:15-31	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jeff Pun	Seetoh Yoong Chiang	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon	
<i>Message:</i>	The Sufficiency of Grace	The Special People	
<i>Text:</i>	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Titus 2:11-15	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Ming Yann	Anthony	
Other Duties			
	Today	Next Week	
<i>Ushers</i>	Jeff/Ming Yann	Yoong Chiang/Jonathan	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Esmeralda	Joyce	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Jasmin Chua	Maureen Poh	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	YAF Group 2	Yetta/Prema	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	DHW – Genesis 26	DHW – Genesis 27	
Appointments of the Week			
Wed 23 Aug	7:30 pm	Mid Week Prayer Meeting: C'man: Rev Lim	
Fri 25 Aug	7.00 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Led by Rev Lim (Book of Daniel)	
Sat 26 Aug	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr/C'man: John	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £239.78		Lunch: £22.84	
YAF: £51.51			
<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>The Lord's Prayer</u></h2>			
<p><i>Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen</i></p>			