



# ***NEW LIFE***

## ***BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

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

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Vol. 10 No. 42

**LORD'S DAY 22 OCTOBER 2006**

Dear Readers,

## **CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH**

### **Introduction**

We have celebrated New Life London's 10<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Anniversary. It was a time of joyous worship, glorifying and thanking God for His great faithfulness, enduring mercy, abounding grace and eternal love for us. As a family in Christ, we have been through times of tribulation and joys, but as we reflect on these experiences, we realize the immense love of Christ for our Church.

In Ephesians 5:25, although Paul was exhorting on spousal responsibilities and duties, every sermon of his would be characterized with the preaching of Christ (1 Cor 1:23). Here we see him expressing with delight the love of Christ for the church as a model that husbands should follow in the way they ought to behave toward their wives. The church is always the object of Christ's love.

### **The Focus of Christ's Love**

Our Lord Jesus loved the whole world (John 3:16). He was not willing that any should perish but He had a special love for those who have trusted and obeyed Him. We are bought with a price (1 Cor. 7:20) – the shedding of His own precious blood – to redeem us from eternal condemnation, thereby granting us the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23).

He sought after us not because we are good. On the contrary, we *"...were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another"* (Titus 3:3), *"dead in trespasses and sins"* (Ephesians 2:1) and *"fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). But the verity is, out of His immeasurable love, He has *"chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love"* (Ephesians 1:4).

We deserve nothing, but our Lord Jesus Christ loved us with a love of sympathy, confidence and mercy. He has inscribed us upon the palm of His hands (Isaiah 49:16). Nothing can sever us from His love for us, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."*

*Continued on Page 2...*

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35-39).*

Having tasted the benefits of His salvation and His love for us, dear readers, have we loved Christ as we ought, with all our heart, soul and might (Deuteronomy 6:5)? Have we yearned to reverentially fear him and yet come to him with child-like familiarity? Do we guard jealously His honour and glory in our lives that nothing in our conduct would bring shame to His Name? Do we show His love to others through us? Do we desire to let His Word mould us into His image?

### **The Greatness of Christ's Love**

Christ's love for the church is as deep as the ocean, and as high as the heaven because it is a matchless love. He gave Himself for the church (Ephesians 5:25). His love was not an idle emotion but it was a love that demands humiliation, suffering and self-sacrifice on His part that was demonstrated when He hung on the cruel cross. The Son of God became the Lamb of God to take away our sins. This was done willingly and obediently in accordance with the will of God the Father. He did not let anyone stop Him from fulfilling the will of His Father to drink this cup of suffering (Matthew 16:23 cf. Luke 22:42). Hence, through His righteousness and death, we are saved. As a result, to every believer who has trusted Christ, death is no more a menacing fear because He has removed the sting of death. *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"*(1 Corinthians 15:55-57)! This is the great extent of Christ's sacrificial love for the church. *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13).

Shall we not be so enthralled by Christ's sacrificial love for us, that we are compelled to give Him our love in return? Are we daily denying ourselves and carrying the cross to follow Him? Are we putting our hearts in submission to His will and commandments? Are we constrained by Christ's love to serve Him? Are we putting our hands to labour for Him in His vineyard? Can our hearts sing with conviction, *"So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown"*?

### **The Goal of Christ's Love**

Christ will nourish and cherish His church (Ephesians 5:29). He will make it glorious in the end. Through the sanctification of God's Word and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, the church will become without spot and wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27).

Satan however is determined to cripple any efforts toward this goal. Paul warned the Corinthian church to be aware of Satan's devices lest he should get an advantage of the church. (2 Corinthians 2:11).

Satan can weaken the church firstly, through the leaders of the church. As long as he can lure them to conform to worldliness, to commit moral impurity, discard spiritual integrity and be involved in sexual immorality, the church will inevitably be weakened.

Secondly, Satan can use members to sow seeds of discord among brethren in order that strife and discouragement will prevail among leaders and members.

Thirdly, he can persuade the church to slumber into spiritual apathy and shoot his fiery darts of pride, sloth, selfish ambition, judgemental attitude, busyness of work and discouragement into the heart of every believer. Then we may become BP Christians, ie. 'Back Pew' Christians.

Last but not least, Satan can weaken the will of the leaders by causing them to have a sense of purposelessness, resulting in the lack of spiritual and moral courage to lead the church. As he did to the priests in the days of Malachi (Malachi 2:1-9) so the ancient foe's strategies are the same even today. His desire is that every church will hang a sign at its door "Closed down for good. Didn't know what our business was."

New Life London must therefore not be ignorant of Satan's devices. It must continue to be a Bible-driven church. Every one of us must love His Word, read it and have a great desire to obey and practice what God wants us to do in our lives. In the end, we will be made holy and without blemish, a church that is glorifying to His name.

## **Conclusion**

Christ loves New Life London. He has been faithful to us. He will surely help us to prepare ourselves for the Lord's second coming. May we echo Isaac Watts' heartfelt cry, *"Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."*

*Preacher Quek Keng Khwang  
Life B-P Church, S'pore*

## **In Green Pastures Devotional Readings for Every Day of the Year**

**By J.R. Miller, D.D.**

**22 October 2006**

### **MORNING**

**LUKE 4:28 "And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,"**

SOME people are never willing to see the good there is in others, nor to give them the honour to which they are entitled.

This was the trouble with the people of Nazareth. Jesus had grown up among them.

In a village all of one's life is open to everybody. Some boys and young men commit indiscretions in their early years, which are remembered against them when they are older. But there was nothing in the young days of Jesus, which could be recalled to shame Him.

He had lived so beautifully, so sweetly, so lovingly, that no one could say anything against Him. By and by He came back to visit His old neighbours. Everybody was talking about Him, and the fame of His life and work had been heard in His old town. But His former neighbours would not see in Him the things others saw in Him. They would not believe that He was the Messiah.

Many people show the same spirit in these days. They refuse to see anything beautiful or good in others.

### **EVENING**

#### **LIVING OUT GOD'S THOUGHTS**

LET your highest ambition be to become what God has planned for you. Lay all your plans at His feet. Let God's will be your will, and He will lead you to just that life which will be for you the most beautiful, the most honourable and the most blessed. If you would have God's thoughts to live out in your life, you must go to God for them. You must sit down often with Him in the silence. You must look reverently into the divine Word and ponder deeply on its holy sentences. You must turn your steps habitually to the place of prayer. You will not have heavenly visions if you never look upward for them.

**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
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Today: 22/10/2006</b>	<b>Next Week: 29/10/2006</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Debbie Grant and Rachel Soon to our worship service last week.</li> </ul>
<i>Chairman:</i>	Seetoh Yoong Chiang	John Poh	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Rev Allan McGregor	
<i>Message:</i>	The Passion of Christ	Tbd	
<i>Text:</i>	John 18:1-19:16	Tbd	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<b>Evening</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Evening Service:</b> Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC)</li> <li><b>Q134. What is the sixth commandment?</b></li> <li><b>Q135. What are the duties required in the sixth commandment?</b></li> <li><b>Q136. What are the sins forbidden in the sixth commandment?</b></li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Do stay back and find out the answers from the Word of God.</li> <li>• <b>New Life BPC Resource Centre:</b> For those who have borrowed books, etc. from the library, please return them by the end of Oct. The Centre will be undergoing updating of records. Borrowing of books, etc. will be suspended until further notice.</li> <li>• <b>Family Worship:</b> For those who would like to open up their homes as well as those who would like to participate in this ministry, please see Mok or Carol.</li> <li>• <b>Meet the Task Force:</b> If you have any private matter that requires prayer, the Task Force members will be available to meet you between 2:30 to 3:00 pm every Sunday. This is on a first come, first serve basis.</li> <li>• <b>Areas of Service:</b> For those who are interested to help in the kitchen ministry or post lunch washing-up, please see Jonathan.</li> <li>• <b>Daylight Savings:</b> Please take note on 29 Oct, the clocks would be going back by 1 hour.</li> <li>• <b>Office Telephone Number:</b> Please take note the church office telephone line has been terminated. If you would like to contact the church, please dial the manse number.</li> </ul>
<i>Chairman:</i>	Alvin Chow	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Sixth Commandment	The Seventh Commandment	
<i>Text:</i>	WLC Questions 134-136	WLC Questions 137-139	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Anthony	Feng Qian	
Other Duties			
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Week</b>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel/Sharon	Jonathan/Rebecca	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Joyce	Joyce	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Lyn	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	YAF Group 2	Yetta/Prema	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	DHW – Genesis 27	DHW – Genesis 28	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 27 Oct	7.00 pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b> Spkr: Pr Mok	
Sat 28 Oct	4.00 pm	<b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b> Spkr/C'man: Pr Mok	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
<b>Offering:</b>	£183.86	<b>Hospitality:</b> £20.00	
<b>Love Gift:</b>	£100.00	<b>Lunch:</b> £27.00	
<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>The Lord's Prayer</u></h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><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>			