



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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THE MANY FACES OF SIN

Many people today seek for pleasure and indulge in this world's temporary joys without realising (or refusing to realize) that they are heading for an eternity in the fires of Hell. Oftentimes they do not perceive their need for salvation, because they do not understand the extent, the seriousness and the results of sin in their lives.

Dear Reader, the greatest problem in the world today is SIN. We need to face it squarely and talk about it because it is the most crucial issue affecting the life of every man, woman and child. Unless every person comes to a true understanding of what sin is and what it does to our lives, we would be living in delusion and not in reality. There are three basic facts about sin we all need to know:

We need to know how sinful we really are in God's sight.

In Romans 3:10-12 God tells us, *"There is none righteous, no not one: there is none that understandeth; there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one."* As we behold the things that are going on in the world today we realize how true this is. The whole human race is a sea of iniquity. The effects of sin are found in every aspect of human life: broken homes and families caused by unfaithfulness and divorce; broken lives caused by vice, alcoholism and drug-addiction; broken relationships caused by envy and strife; a broken society caused by perversion and ambition; suicides, depression, wars, fighting, deceit, scandals, injustice, exploitation, apathy and indifference.

All these and so much more are familiar to us. But they are merely symptoms of the spiritual cancer that works insidiously and invisibly within the heart of every man, woman and child. God says in Ecclesiastes 7:20 that *"there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not."* In Jeremiah 17:9 He says *"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* God's verdict is clear: *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)

God takes a very serious view of sin because it is essentially a rebellion against Him. He is deeply grieved by the torrents of sin being poured forth by millions of people living in the world today. He was even moved to judge the world with a great flood that destroyed all except 8 people, because of the sin that had multiplied and filled the whole world. Today sin has multiplied even more, and it is only by God's...

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longsuffering mercy alone that judgment has not yet descended again on the world. But a time is coming soon when God's final judgment will descend. Revelation 20:15 tells us that when it comes, those who are guilty of sin will be cast into the Lake of Fire which is eternal death.

Dear Reader, do you regard sin the same way that God does? Are you amazed and disturbed in your heart when you consider the greatness of the sin problem in the world? Do you understand how serious it is? Most people do not fully understand the seriousness of their own sins. We do not realise it because we have become insensitive to sin. We can easily see the sinfulness of the world around us, and oftentimes we can recognise sin when it is found in the lives of others. But when it comes to our own selves and our own sinfulness we tend to be lenient, excusing ourselves because of the circumstances we are in. We do not take our own sins seriously enough.

One of the most godly and devoted men described in the Bible was King David, the man after God's own heart. Even though he was godly, he fell into the sin of adultery. But for many months he did not realise just how sinful he was and how serious the offence was in God's sight until God sent a prophet to expose his sin. And this prophet, Nathan, did not tell David directly that he had sinned. He first presented a scenario of a rich man who had unscrupulously taken the only lamb of a poor man and slaughtered it to feed his guests. This immediately incurred David's anger and he demanded that the rich man be punished for his sinful deed. Little did he realise that Nathan was referring to him! He had to be told "You are the man!"

We are probably no better than David. How quick we are to take sin seriously in the lives of others, but how slow we are to do the same in our own. This should not be the case. God wants us to view sin seriously – in our own lives first, and then in the lives of others. Let us feel the way that God feels about sin.

We need to know the different forms that sin can take in our lives.

Romans 3:14-18 associates sin with various parts of the body – *"Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: their feet are swift to shed blood: destruction and misery are in their ways: and the way of peace have they not known: there is no fear of God before their eyes."* (vv. 14-18)

There are so many ways a person can sin, and all of them are equally hateful to God. Take, for example, the first of the Ten Commandments that God gave to man. It states: *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."* Some think that as long as they do not bow down to idols, they have safely kept this commandment. Here now is a paragraph taken from the Westminster Larger Catechism that provides the most comprehensive answer to the question, "What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?"

"The sins forbidden in the first commandment are: atheism, in denying, or not having a God; idolatry, in having or worshipping more gods than one, or any with or instead of the true God; the not having and avouching Him for God, and our God; the...

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omission or neglect of any thing due to Him, required in this commandment; ignorance, forgetfulness, misapprehensions, false opinions, unworthy and wicked

thoughts of Him, bold and curious searching into His secrets; all profaneness, hatred of God; self-love, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will or affections upon other things, and taking them off from Him in whole or in part, vain credulity, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments, hardness of heart, pride, presumption, carnal security, tempting God, using unlawful means, and trusting in lawful means; carnal delights and joys; corrupt, blind and indiscreet zeal; lukewarmness, and deadness in the things of God, estranging ourselves, and apostatising from God, praying or giving any religious worship to saints, angels or any other creatures, all agreements and consulting with the devil. And hearkening to his suggestions; making men the lords of our faith and conscience, slighting and despising God and His commands, resisting and grieving of His Spirit, discontent and impatience at His dispensations, charging Him foolishly for the evils He inflicts on us, and ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have or can do to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature."

Anyone of the above things would constitute a sin against the first commandment "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." And each of the Ten Commandments has a similar long list of sins!

Most people tend to narrow down the scope of sin to things that we do or say. In our courts of law people can only be prosecuted for what they have committed in word or deed, and not for what they intended to do, or for what they thought. We tend to think that God's court of law is like this too. But the Bible says otherwise. Proverbs 24:9a - *"The thought of foolishness is sin."* Genesis 6:5 - *"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."* This verse reveals that it was the attitude of wickedness and the sinful imaginations people had in their hearts that brought the great flood upon them. In God's sight, thinking evil thoughts is no less sinful and deserving of judgment as committing heinous crimes!

One passage of Scripture that can help us understand sin better is Matthew 5:22,28 - *"But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."* It is evident from this that we commit sins not only with our actions or words but also with our thoughts and attitudes.

Most people also tend to regard certain sins as bring trivial and negligible. In God's sight such distinctions do not exist. In James 2:9-11 where the sin of giving unfair preferential treatment to different kinds of people is addressed, God's Word says, *"But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and re convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill."*

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Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law." Thus, a person who commits a seemingly small sin like treating people unfairly is as guilty as one who has violated the prohibitions against murder and adultery!

What then shall we do? We should not excuse any sin we do, no matter how small it is. We should seek God's forgiveness for them and treat no sin lightly. Even our attitudes and thoughts should be open to God. We must be conscious of the fact that He continually regards not only our actions but our thoughts and intentions as well.

We need to act on our responsibility to deal with sin.

It is not enough just to know how sinful you are in God's sight and all the different forms that sin can take. You must now act upon what you know. The Lord wants you to be holy as He is holy. He has done something about the sins of man – He died to pay for them. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is God's only provision for our sins.

If you are not saved yet, you must avail yourself of this provision by repenting of your sins and turning to Christ alone to take all your sins away. This means trusting Him from now on to be your only Lord and Saviour. Dear Reader, if the Lord has spoken to your heart through this article, please don't put off doing this. He is willing to save you if you turn to Him with all your heart (John 6:37; 1 John 1:9).

If you are already saved, God wants you to keep yourself from committing more sins. Even though this is sometimes hard and difficult, you must maintain vigilance, and not give up. For this warfare God has made provisions for us. In Galatians 5:16, He commands, *"Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."* In Romans 6:13 He says, *"neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead..."*

Dear Reader, perhaps you have been a Christian for many years and have grown weary in guarding yourself against sin. Perhaps you are not taking sin as seriously as you used to. Perhaps there are some secret sins which you have allowed to remain in your life because you thought that they are "small sins" and nobody knows about them. Perhaps you have mistakenly thought that the Lord does not mind the way you are now, because everything seems to be going quite well for you.

Please do not deceive yourselves. God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7) He takes the most serious view of every sin in your life. He desires truth and purity in your inward parts (Psalm 51:6). But He will forgive you when you repent of those sins and confess them to Him (1 John 1:9). He has even provided the means for you to guard against them and He will help you if you seriously desire to do His will.

*Rev Charles Seet
Life B-P Church, S'pore
(Adapted from Life Church weekly dated 29 July 2007)*

Testimony

by Bro Seah Geok Leng

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am not one that is given to melodrama but I am not over stating here when I say that Audrey, Faith and I would have gone home to the Lord this morning if not for the protection of our loving heavenly Father.

Faith returned to us last weekend after 3 months in Singapore and this morning (Monday) is the first day of school. Audrey and I were concerned that she may not be ready to drive to school on her own on the very busy I-10 highway. So I took leave to accompany her and Audrey came along as she will accompany Faith for the rest of the week. What happened this morning was something we have always feared and asked that God will spare us. While driving during this morning peak hour, Faith had to avoid a mini Van or SUV that cut into our lane at the very last minute, a few feet to our right side. We are not sure what type of vehicle it was other than it is red color! We were traveling at 70 mph, that is about 112 kph and this is the speed limit for the interstate / highway. This evasive action of Faith to avoid a collision caused our car to spin in the middle of a very very busy 5 lane highway at high speed. In the midst of the spin, I thought we will be hit from all sides or flipped but it did not happen. By the time Faith and I got the vehicle under control and stopped the spin, we were face to face with on coming traffic. By the power and grace of God, there was no traffic around us when we went into the spin. Maybe there was traffic but we did not notice how they stayed away from us. Again, this is definitely the protection of God.

Looking at what happened, how other similar accidents would have caused a multiple car collision, we can only conclude that God is assuring us we are safe in Him. This is important to Audrey and me as we are now going through a phase in our lives where we realize that only God can watch over the hearts and soul of our children. We prayed for their salvation, their consecration and future only to be reminded that the Lord is the one that can really care for them. As parents, we made a covenant with God to raise them in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Yet, many times, we do not see the children exhibiting the fruits of this heritage and we worry. We want to control only to be reminded that we need to release them into the arms of God. Maybe this is the only way we will learn that they are equal partners with us in the Lord and not just our children.

The other strange thing that happened this morning was that we had no sense of fear in the middle of the chaos. There was peace while we were in a spin. Even when we were facing the on coming traffic, we did not panic and just look for ways to get back into the right traffic flow. There was also no anger with the red vehicle that caused us to go into the spin. Deep in our hearts, we were assured that God has a reason even though we do not know what it is.

So, after we got back into the right traffic flow, I wanted Faith to pull to the side and take over but she says she was fine and we continued the remaining 17 miles to campus with sporadic thanks to God for His protection and trying to remember the details. We also thank God that Faith can see God's hands in all these. Indeed, saved by the grace of God has a new meaning to us.

Background: Bro Seah Geok Leng (GL) and family are members of Life B-P Church in Singapore. He is currently working in the Singapore Air Force based in Arizona, United States.

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

CHURCH THEME: WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (Romans 6:4)

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 | <i>Today: 02/09/2007</i> | <i>Next Week: 09/09/2007</i> | We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We specially like to welcome Catherine Tan and her mother to the morning worship service last Lord's Day. |
| <i>Chairman:</i> | John Poh | John Poh | |
| <i>Preacher:</i> | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | |
| <i>Message:</i> | What is Salvation? | The Human Problem | |
| <i>Text:</i> | Luke 19:10 | Romans 5:12 | |
| <i>Organist:</i> | Yanning | Anthony | |
| Evening | | | NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS |
| <i>Chairman:</i> | Jonathan Kim | Jonathan Kim | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Worship: Thank God for a blessed family worship at Christopher's home on 29 Aug 2007 (Wed). For those who are interested to open up their homes in September and October, please inform Pr Mok. • Memory Verse for 2nd Quarter: Those who would like to carry out the memory verse review, please see Pr Mok. Please note that the deadline is 9 Sept 2007. • Sabbath School: The Sunday School is catered for children of ages 6-12. This will be held at the Library after the morning worship service. Children are encouraged to sit with their parents during morning service. • Those serving on the Lord's Day: Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer. • Gentle Reminder: Please switch off your mobile phone or put it in silent mode during worship services. To keep the sanctity of worship, please refrain from bring food and beverages into the sanctuary. • Church Website: Please take note that the new church website is www.newlifebpc.org.uk |
| <i>Preacher:</i> | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | |
| <i>Message:</i> | The Seed of the Woman | The Last Adam | |
| <i>Text:</i> | Genesis 3:15 | Genesis 2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:22 | |
| <i>Pianist:</i> | Yanning | Yanning | |
| Other Duties | | | |
| | <i>Today: 02/09/2007</i> | <i>Next Week: 09/09/2007</i> | |
| <i>Ushers</i> | Jee/Constance | Wah Soon/Evelyn | |
| <i>Sunday Sch:</i> | Esmeralda | Carol | |
| <i>Lunch:</i> | Maureen | Constance | |
| <i>Washing-up:</i> | Volunteers | Volunteers | |
| <i>Bible Study:</i> | BBK | BBK | |
| Appointments of the Week | | | |
| Fri 7 Sep | Young Adults Fellowship: No meeting | | |
| Sat 8 Sep | 4.00 pm | Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr: Pr Mok | |
| Last Week's Worship Service Collections | | | |
| Offering: £431.28 Lunch: £23.50 | | | |
| Memory Verse | | | |
| <p><i>Previous Week (August 07 Wk 4): Colossians 3:12-14</i></p> <p>Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.</p> <p><i>This Week (September 07 Wk 1): Luke 19:10</i></p> <p>For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.</p> | | | |