



# **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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**LORD’S DAY 11 NOVEMBER 2007**

*From the Preacher’s Heart*

## **HOW TO GLEAN FROM THE BIBLE AND REAP ITS FRUIT (PART 1)**

### **Introduction**

There is no other book ever written that has such a wide readership across the different ethnic groups in the world today than the Word of God, the Bible. Since the era of Moses 3,500 years ago, the Bible has survived persecution and ridicule as has no other book, yet it prospers!

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, - *“The Bible continues to be the most translated book in the world. The following numbers are approximations. As of 2005, at least one book of the Bible has been translated into 2,400 of the 6,900 languages listed by SIL, including 680 languages in Africa, followed by 590 in Asia, 420 in Oceania, 420 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 210 in Europe, and 75 in North America. The United Bible Societies are presently assisting in over 600 Bible translation projects. The Bible is available in whole or in part to some 98 percent of the world’s population in a language in which they are fluent.”*

Hence, it is no overstatement to declare that the Bible has been and remains peerless as the supreme book. Therefore, the crucial question for any person today is this: Have I been so utterly foolish as to ignore the most important book of human history?

It follows that we should ask the next question especially for those who have the Bible in their hands and in their vernacular language, “What have I done what it?” It is no use to possess the greatest book ever written, and do not know anything about it, why was it written, to who or for who it was written and does the writings has any benefit to me. Therefore we should begin firstly to look at the:

### **Benefits for gleaning the Bible**

There are seven great benefits that the study of the Bible will do for us:

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### **1. The Bible uncovers sin and convicts us.**

Paul says in Rom 3:20 *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”* He emphasised this subject again and added an example in Rom 7:7 *“I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”* The law of God can also be said to be the Word of God and so it is through the Word of God that we come to know of sin in our hearts because the Holy Spirit, who is the author of the Word, will convicts us of our sin.

### **2. The Bible helps cleanse us from the pollutions and guilt of sin.**

The Psalmist says *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word”* (Psalm 119:9). The Word of God has the power to reform and the purging of the soul when its instructions are heeded.

### **3. The Bible imparts strength to the weak.**

The apostle Paul in his weakness seeks the Lord’s help to remove the thorn in his flesh, and the good Lord replied him with these words, *“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”* (2 Corinthians 12:9).

### **4. The Bible instructs us in the way we should go.**

The Psalmist brought out again yet another benefit, he says, *“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.”* (Psalm 119:1), and he furthermore tells us that God’s Word *“is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”* (Psalm 119:105).

### **5. The Bible provides us a sword for victory over sin.**

The apostle Paul in his famous exhortation for spiritual warfare put the *“sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Ephesians 6:10-17) as the final piece of offensive weapon for overcoming the Evil One and his fiery darts.

### **6. The Bible makes our lives fruitful.**

We look once again to the book of Psalms to prove the 6<sup>th</sup> benefit – *“His delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”* (Psalm 1:2-3). So those who meditate upon the law of the Lord and practise it will be blessed and his life will bring forth spiritual fruit to the glory of God.

### **7. The Bible gives us power to pray.**

The Holy Spirit is not only the author of the Bible, for we are told in Romans 8:26-27 that *“the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we...”*

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*should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*

## **Various ways to glean the Bible**

There are various ways to glean the Bible to reap its fruit and so here are several important and practical suggestions:

### **1. Devotional Bible Study**

This is the most common method of Bible study. Devotional study of the Bible involves reading and studying of God’s Word in order to how to do His will and to live a better Christian life.

- a. Begin your Bible reading with prayer (Psalm 119:18; John16:13-15).
- b. Take brief notes on what you read.
- c. Read attentively through one chapter, or perhaps two or three chapters, or just one paragraph at a time depending on your study plan and time allocation.
- d. It is helpful in understanding the true meaning of a chapter or passage by asking yourself the follow questions and then writing down the answers in your personal notebook.
  - What is the main subject of this passage?
  - Who are the persons revealed in this passage, who is speaking, and who is he speaking about?
  - Which is the key verse of the passage?
  - What does this passage teach me about the Lord Jesus Christ?
  - Does the passage portray any sin for me to confess and forsake?
  - Does this passage contain any command for me to obey?
  - Is there any promise for me to claim?
  - Is there any instruction for me to follow?

Note that not all of these questions may be answered in every passage.

- e. Keep a spiritual diary for noting down daily what God has taught you to do and whether you have or have not fulfil and obey His commands.
- f. Memorise passages or verses of the Bible. No one is ever too old to memorise the Word of God. Write verses on cards, if you like, with the reference on one side and the text on the other. Carry these cards...

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with you and review them while you are waiting for a train, standing in a lunch queue or whenever you can. Alternatively, you can do it electronically, like a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant).

- g. Meditate on the passage you have read and studied. To mediate means to reflect, to ponder, to consider, to dwell in thought. Through meditation, the Word of God will become meaningful and real to you, and the Holy Spirit will use this time to apply the Word to your own life and the problems you face.
- h. Obey the Word of God. Paul said in **2 Timothy 3:16** that *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”* The Bible has been given to us so that we may live a holy life, well-pleasing to God. Therefore we ought to *“be doers of the word, and not hearers only”* (James 1:22).

Please note that the above suggested methods are not to be adopted wholesale. Each one of us should find an appropriate time, place and method that best suit your need. The key is to be disciplined and keep at it with much prayer and help from the Holy Spirit.

In next week’s bulletin we will continue to look at the other methods of Bible study which would help to glean further into the Word of God so as to reap more fruit from it. Remember our goal is, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15).

*In His Service*  
*Mok*



YAF cum family worship at Grace and Joy’s apartment.

## Testimony from Bro Josiah Tan

I thank God for the experience in seeing me through my one-hour computer science lab practical test on 29 Oct 2007 (Mon). It was indeed by His providence that He granted me peace to go through this challenging one hour. This was my first test in my masters studies after being in the work force for a number of years.

I have spent the previous week mainly on the preparation for this test. It is one key component of my master studies. If I did not perform well in this test, my masters studies will be jeopardised. This test required me to answer two questions by programming on the lab computer within a short 1 hour. For the first 30 minutes, I was quite stressed up as I tried with my own strength to program in answering the first question but to no avail. With another 30 minutes left, I was quite desperate for a solution and my hands were trembling on the keyboard.

I looked around the lab, other students were rattling frantically away on their keyboards. The only help was by looking upwards. I just closed my eyes and prayed to God for peace in calming down my fears and wisdom for answering these two questions. After a few minutes of prayers, my composure has been regained and I tried to look at the first problem again. The solution for the first question just came in a sudden flash. I tried again and this time the program worked accordingly to the question requirements. The solution of the second question was a slight modification to the solution of the first question. Praise the Lord that for answering these 2 questions within 15 minutes, with 10 more minutes to spare.

The key lesson that I learnt from this incident was that prayer is always very important in any circumstances. Jer 33:3 says "*Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*" The main emphasis here was not that God helped me with the solution to these 2 questions, but God has granted me peace and He was with me in undergoing through this tough incident so that I can learn spiritual lessons from it.



Home visitation to Maria and Johnny's home.  
Please pray for their salvation.

# 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   |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Morning</b>  | <i>Today: 11/11/2007</i> | <i>Next Week: 18/11/2007</i>                              | We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.  |
| <i>Chairman:</i>  | John Poh                 | Jonathan Kim  |   |
| <i>Preacher:</i>  | Pr Mok Chee Cheong       | Pr Mok Chee Cheong  |   |
| <i>Message:</i>   | What Shall I Do?         | What Am I Told to Do?                                     | NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS  |
| <i>Text:</i>  | Acts 2:37                | Mark 5:19-20  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Family Worship:</b> Those who would like to open up their homes for family worship in December, please contact Pr Mok.</li> <li>• <b>Memory Verse for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:</b> Please note that the deadline for the review is next Lord's Day, 18 Nov 2007.</li> <li>• <b>DHW Lessons:</b> Please note that DHW lessons are held at the fellowship hall immediately after every morning worship service.</li> <li>• <b>Road Closure:</b> Please take note that the road along Summerfield Avenue will be closed between 29 Oct 07 and 17 Nov 07 due to water works.</li> <li>• <b>Those serving on the Lord's Day for both morning and evening worship services:</b> Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer.</li> <li>• <b>Sabbath School:</b> Please note that class is held at the Library after the morning worship. You are encouraged to bring children of ages 6-12 for the lessons. Children of age 6 onwards are encouraged to sit with their parents during the main service.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Organist:</i>  | Yanning                  | Hubert  |   |
| <b>Evening</b>  |                          |   |   |
| <i>Chairman:</i>  | Jonathan Kim             | John Poh  |   |
| <i>Preacher:</i>  | Pr Mok Chee Cheong       | Pr Mok Chee Cheong  |   |
| <i>Message:</i>   | Servant of the LORD      | The Angel of the LORD                                     |   |
| <i>Text:</i>  | Exodus 14:31             | Genesis 16:7  |   |
| <i>Pianist:</i>   | Joy                      | Grace   |   |
| Other Duties  |                          |   |   |
|   | <i>Today: 11/11/2007</i> | <i>Next Week: 18/11/2007</i>                              |   |
| <i>Ushers</i>   | Daniel/Joyce             | John/Esmeralda  |   |
| <i>Sunday Sch:</i>  | Esmeralda                | Joyce   |   |
| <i>Lunch:</i>   | Daniel                   | Constance   |   |
| <i>Washing-up:</i>  | Volunteers               | Volunteers  |   |
| <i>Bible Study:</i>   | DHW - Genesis            | DHW - Genesis   |   |
| Appointments of the Week  |                          |   |   |
| Fri 16 Nov  | 7:30 pm                  | <b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b><br>YAF Meeting            |   |
| Sat 17 Nov  | 4.00 pm                  | <b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b><br>Led by Pr Mok |   |
| Last Week's Worship Service Collections   |                          |   |   |
| <b>Offering:</b> £264.04  |                          | <b>Lunch:</b> £36.50                                      |   |
| <u>Memory Verse</u>   |                          |   |   |
| <i>Previous Week (Nov 07 Wk 1): John 14:1-3</i>   |                          |   |   |
| Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. |                          |   |   |
| <i>This Week (Nov 07 Wk 2): Acts 2:38</i>   |                          |   |   |
| Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.   |                          |   |   |