



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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My dear readers,

SPIRITUAL PERILS FACING THE CHURCH TODAY

Introduction

The depraved culture of worldliness and growing compromise with other faiths, the diabolical teachings of the new age cults and occult have penetrated the church in the post-modern world. This is a bleak picture for the church unless there is true evangelical repentance and awakening and a serious return to the Word of God. We need an authentic spiritual revival in our days. What then are the main dangers confronting the church today?

The Peril of Spiritual Compromise

The church is under great pressure to compromise and accommodate the faith of other religions and participate in inter-faith movements. The World Council of Churches in the Ecumenical Movement is one such example of a great jeopardy facing evangelical churches today. The thrust of the liberals, RCs, and Neo-evangelicals is accommodation and dialogue with other major faiths. It is a syncretistic strategy to merge all religions together to form that one-world church organisation. This would be a perfect fulfilment of the one world church in these last days, ready for the Anti-Christ to use (2 Thes 3:3-5). **The malevolent New Age Movement and the questionable Charismatic Movement, together with the Ecumenical thrust of the WCC, are heading for the great ecclesiastical compromise of this millennium.**

The one world ecumenical movement is still alive and growing and its tentacles are reaching out even to conservative churches today. The Charismatic or Word of Faith Movement (with the unbiblical contemporary worship and healing and prophetic utterances) has done much harm, detracting from biblical truth and practices in these last perilous days with the latest craze of line and prophetic dancing during and after worship.

The Peril of Spiritual Complacency and Lethargy

One of the churches that was censured in the book of Revelation was Laodicea and the reason is spiritual nonchalance. It was a lukewarm church, neither hot nor cold as in Rev 3:16 *"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."* She was chided for her ignorance, inactivity and lack of zeal and love for the Lord. This is the malady of the church today; no fervent desire for evangelism, missions, Bible reading, prayer and proper God-honouring reverential worship. It has changed the biblical agenda into lukewarmness and spiritual lethargy. Even Christian leaders can be phlegmatic and they may not be interested in eternal matters but concentrate on temporal affairs of life. **Stewards can be rendered ineffective by spiritual stupor, slothfulness and nonchalance.** Unwittingly one can be hardened in our hearts to spiritual things and become resistant to...

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revival and awakening. Sin can eat into our lives as gangrene and infect us with worldliness, laziness and sin, rather than godliness, sanctification, spiritual and missionary zeal and love for the Word, prayer and the gospel. Do we not need a spiritual revival today? The answer is obvious.

Paul in Rom 12:11-12 says, *“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.”* Let us be like the ant in Prov 6:6-11 and labour fervently for the Lord in these last days. Pray for revival as what Peter says in Acts 3:19, *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”*

The Peril of False Teachings

Paul warned the Ephesian church elders, as he left them after three years of ministry, to beware of spiritual predators that would come in their midst in Acts 20:28-29, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.”*

We are concerned not only about covert and overt cults and the occult but also those from within who taught contrary doctrines or extremist views. It is a fearful thing to think that some can be contaminated with a zeal not according to knowledge (Rom 10:1,2 [ie prophecies, line dancing, tongue-speaking etc). ***Many have a tendency for novelties, itching ears that fall easy prey to spiritual predators who shall come and deceive and lead many astray.*** In Matt 24:24, Jesus warned, *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”* In 2 Pet 3:3, Peter warns, *“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,”* We need to heed 1 Tim 1:4, *“Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.”* We need to warn, admonish and teach sound doctrines to the churches in these days of spiritual confusion and declension.

The other danger facing the church ironically is material prosperity and physical comfort of the saints. During the first three centuries, the early church was persecuted by 10 Roman Emperors but ironically it had led to the spiritual and physical increase of the church. The church grew and thrived on persecution but when Christianity became a national religion, spiritual decline set in during the reign of Constantine the Great (AD 313-337) and heresies abound (ie Arianism, condemned at the Council of Nicea in AD 325). The church languished and the people of God backslided spiritually. Today we live in an affluent world with many who are self-sufficient and who feel that they do not need God. Material prosperity and self complacency can be both a curse and a blessing. If we are not careful, it can be to our spiritual detriment and the world and its riches can draw us away from God (1 Tim 6:6,10) and cause us to falter and compromise in our devotion and service for Him. Work, family and leisure have drawn many away from the love and service of God. For some, it can easily become the idol of their lives which Christians need to be aware of (Matt 6:24,33).

Worldliness is a real menace to the spiritual health and vitality of the Christian and the Church. A sister shared recently at a funeral service that she regretted not spending more time with God and her family and concentrated on just her secular career alone. Above all, we ought to put God first in our lives and like Col 3:1, *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”*

The Perils of Cults & the Occult

A few months ago, a Lifer called up to enquire about whether Reiki and Yoga can be...

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practised by believers. Reiki is a so-called energy transferring exercise or healing that has a spiritual or religious background. Others have been mesmerised with yoga, occultic books, games, crystals, tarot cards, feng shui and consultation with spirit guides. This age is characterised by an acute fascination with the supernatural power of the spiritual darkness. Even believers are not spared; witchcraft, sorcery and wizardry are presented with sinister glamour to our children. (Eg a new Harry Potter film will be out in 2007). The Freemasons had an Open House in the Masonic Lodge in Singapore to recruit members and for publicity purposes.

The Jehovah Witnesses (numbering more than five million worldwide) are making advances not only in USA and Europe, but also locally, in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand and Singapore. The Mormons (which has more than 10 million members) had increased their evangelistic activity in Asia and is a growing menace to true bible-believing churches, misleading and siphoning off disgruntled and disillusioned members of mainline denominational churches. **Cultic activities have not abated but have increased considerably according to some cult experts.** Over the past two years, some of our members and other BPCs have already been approached by some cults members (like Christian Science which held a talk last month) operating in Singapore and Malaysia as well.

The Peril of Families Under Siege

There is an assault on the basic building block of society. Divorce is on the increase in our country (about 22% each year), even among Christian families. One of the areas under attack by the evil one is the Christian Home. The temptations of the world and our depraved nature made us morally vulnerable to sin in a greivous way. Children and youths are also affected by worldliness (television, internet, fads and fashion, chatrooms, youtube) and are less teachable and less compliant to parental instruction coupled with stress and strain of the parents by both work and children in their studies; this has **adversely affected the covenant home**. Christian parents are finding it more difficult to nurture and admonish their children in the fear of the Lord and marital fidelity is not valued by some today. The very basic block of society has come under siege. Prov 127:1 says, *“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain”* and Prov 24:3,4 says, *“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”* **We need the fear of God and the knowledge of the Word to preserve the family today from the corrupting influence of this world.**

Conclusion

Finally, what ought we to do in the face of all these dangers? Remember Joshua’s advice in Josh 23:11, *“Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God.”* We need to be disciplined and vigilant, examining our lives at all times (2 Cor 13:5). Believers need to be alert and discerning, searching the Scriptures daily and applying it to our lives. We need to pray and ask the Lord to preach the gospel and defend the truth of the deity and resurrection of Christ and God’s sufficient and inerrant word and to keep away from the perils and diabolical temptations of this sinful world. One needs also to be aware of the prevailing false doctrines of this age and warn others not to fall easy prey to it. To be forewarned and to be forearmed and it is the duty of the Christians to want others and to be kept undefiled from all the spiritual hazards and to propagate the pure gospel and defend the reformed faith in this treacherous and decadent age.

*Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha B-P Church, S’pore*

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: 15/04/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 22/04/2007</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Nancy, Lynn, to our morning worship service last week.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Seetoh Yoong Chiang	John Poh	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Faith is The Victory	The Decay of Conscience	
<i>Text:</i>	1 John 5:4	1 Timothy 4:2	
<i>Organist:</i>	Yanning	Anthony	
Evening			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Camp: We thank God for the ministry of Rev Jack Sin and his wife, Angie and hope that camper have been much edified and encouraged by God's Word. The Task Force would like to thank the Camp Committee for their planning and organisation. • Pray for Mdm Van: Mdm Van (Esmeralda's grandma) suffered a stroke on 7 Apr. Pray for the Lord's mercy to be with her and her family. • Students Examination: Pray for the students that God will grant them good time management and wisdom as they prepare for their examinations. • Extraordinary Congregational Meeting: We thank God for the successful meeting held last week for the re-organisation of the Task Force and the updating of the membership roll. Please continue to pray for God's wisdom to be upon the church leaders. • New departure procedure after morning worship service: With effect from today, after the morning worship service, kindly adjourn to the Fellowship Hall through the church entrance and along the passage way.
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Names of God: Jehovah-Rophi	The Names of God: Jehovah-M'Kaddesh	
<i>Text:</i>	Exodus 15:26	Leviticus 20:8	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Anthony	Feng Qian	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 15/04/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 22/04/2007</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Wah Soon/Sharon	Jonathan/Constance	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Joyce	Esmeralda	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	BBK / DHW	BBK / DHW	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 20 Apr	7:30 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Led by: Tbd	
Sat 21 Apr	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr: Jonathan	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £421.09			
Memory Verse			
<i>Previous Week (Apr 07 Wk 2): 1 Corinthians 15:3-4</i>			
For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.			
<i>This Week (Apr07 Wk 3): John 16:33</i>			
These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.			



Church Easter Camp 6th-9th April 2007



Easter Sunday Morning Worship Service 2007

Easter Church Camp – Camper’s Testimonies Part I

Joy Blundell

Thank God for His abundant grace and rich mercy! This camp was such a wonderful experience to a spiritually immature person like me! Reading about Jonah helped me understand God's grace to all man, and especially to me! I have been running away from Him for most of my life and this camp could not have taken place at a better time for me. Learning about prayer, about the precepts of courtship and marriage, forgiveness and memorising His Words not only taught me how to become what God wanted me to be, but helped me understand His righteous character more, love Him more because of all that He is, and has done for me. Thank God for the edifying fellowship, too! It was such a blessing to discuss about what we have learnt and provoke each other in our walk with God!

Soon Hui

I am very thankful to have spent this Easter with God and His people, learning and growing in His Word as well as commemorating Christ's perfect and atoning sacrifice for our sins. The messages and devotions have really helped me refocus on my spiritual walk, and prepare my heart to seek the law of the Lord, and do it (Ezra 7:10).

Feng Qian

The camp was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about God's word with other like-minded Christians, both from Pastor Jack and wife and through fellowship with the rest of the campers. It really challenged me to examine how my walk with Christ has been so far, and think about the sort of testimony I would end up being for Him at the close of the day. In all, a truly fruitful experience - now the task is to bring this good news out into the world!

Chin Kiong

I feel that I was energised spiritually during the camp. Although I have not attended a Christian camp before, I can say that this camp is really well-organised and fruitful. Not only do the messages from Rev Jack Sin bring forth the meaning from the Holy Scriptures, the fellowship I had with the fellow brethren is so personal and encouraging. I truly enjoy the fellowship we had and I hope that this bonding will remain or even strengthen in the future. After hearing the messages from Rev Jack Sin, I believe that I have to push myself even further to understand the holy Scripture even more and that I believe my spiritual walk with Jesus Christ will be even closer with the encouragement from fellow brethren. I am looking forward to attend such camps in the future.

Zacky Choo

It was the third time I stepped into New Life London, and not to say Preacher Mok was inhospitable previously, but Easter camp was really a taste of home away from home. Apart from the prevailing equatorial accent and the most welcome superior cuisine, we had Rev. Jack Sin generously dishing out spiritual food. The other campers will attest that no fault lies with Preacher Mok, but the studies in Jonah have been refreshing. Salvation is of the Lord, be ye not angry like Jonah, Rev. Jack gleaned pertinent truths from but three pages in the old testament. I've been reminded that there is nothing like the word of God to revive a lazy soul. For the past week, for example, I've started QT with three pages of RPG instead of one. Thank God too for the many practical pointers with regard to relationships, and I think many fellow campers will agree with me that it could not have come at a better time.

John Poh

I was very much looking forward to the Easter camp as lately I had been very busy with work and found that my quiet time was becoming non-existent due to the long hours spent in the laboratory. I found that the Easter camp was a place where I could leave outside the secular things of the world and come together with like-minded brethren to worship God and study His Word, a place to recharge myself mentally and spiritually. From the studies we had on Jonah, I'm reminded that I sometimes take on the 'Jonah' mentality in that I'd rather do something else instead of what God wills for me. However, like Jonah, no matter how far I run or try to squirm out of doing things, God shows me the error of my ways and I learn the hard way. From the whole experience of the Easter Camp, I can bring up the following lessons: 1) Each one of us has been called by God for different things, we need to be like Samuel and say "Speak; for thy servant heareth" rather than be reluctant to do the things God calls us to do. 2) God is an all hearing God, just as He heard Jonah's prayer in the belly of the fish, evenso He will hear our prayer in our time of need. But why must we only wait till our time of need to turn to Him? In everything we do, commit it first to God in prayer. 3) God's ways are higher than our ways, although we may not understand why He wants us to do certain things, if it is His will, He will reveal them to us. So we should press-on rather than sit around asking why - let us show our Faith in Him by our works for Him. It is my prayer and wish that I will take what I have learnt from the studies and apply them to my life for His glory.