



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 16 SEPTEMBER 2007

WORSHIPPING GOD

Every Lord’s Day, we gather as one body in Christ to worship God. This is an important spiritual exercise that we ought to keep unto perpetuity. There are many ministries which the local church may be involved in such as evangelism, missions, work mercies, etc. However, all these will cease when we leave this earth. But the worship of God is something that we will still be doing when we are in heaven. When the apostle John was given a vision of heaven, he saw an order of worship being carried out (Rev 4: 1-11). Thus, worship will be our occupation in heaven. Because of its importance, it is necessary for us to have a right perspective in our worship of God on earth. Worshipping God is also made more important when we realize that the time left on earth is short. As believers, we must endeavour not to miss the worship of God on the Lord’s Day. Let it be made our foremost priority of all our ministries. The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews exhorted us, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Heb 10: 25).

In the early portions of the Holy Scriptures, worship has always been a family affair, where the patriarchs directed the manner of worship. When Israel became a nation, the worship of Jehovah was centralized in the temple worship at Jerusalem. The Jerusalem temple became the heartbeat of the worship of God for all the Jews. Also, the worship of Jehovah was systematized, with the various offerings and sacrifices, as governed by the Lord’s commandments. When the Kingdom of Israel was divided into two, Jeroboam, who reigned over the northern kingdom realized that the centrality of worship at the temple of Jerusalem, located in the southern kingdom, would eventually draw the people back to the southern kingdom. In order to have a grip over his people, Jeroboam corrupted the worship of God by introducing the golden calves as the representative of Jehovah for worship. He built one at Dan (the northernmost part of his kingdom) and another at Bethel (the southernmost part) to contain the people within his kingdom. The argument...

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he put forth was that there was no reason why the people should venture beyond the boundaries of the kingdom to worship when they had the golden calves within the kingdom. The Israelites embraced this corruption of worship eagerly out of pragmatism. This sin was so grievous and severe that it continued on even after the death of Jeroboam. In fact, the whole northern kingdom was plague with this sin throughout its existence and the kings who reigned in it were often described as walking in “*the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin.*” Eventually, Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom was destroyed. Instead of learning from the error of the northern kingdom, the southern kingdom also embraced this corruption of worship. This led inevitably to the destruction of southern kingdom. When the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem in 586 B.C., the temple worship was literally destroyed.

The Israelites were exiled to Babylon, a land filled with idolatry. Apparently this severe chastisement by God cured them of the sin of idol-worship. While in Babylon, the Jewish community congregated in synagogue for worship. Unlike the temple worship, the synagogue system was a decentralized system of worship. Synagogue worship included four elements: the reading of the Torah (God’s Word), teaching, singing, and prayers. However, offerings and sacrifices were excluded from the synagogue worship.

In the New Testament, the worship centre shifted from the synagogue to house churches in the infancy stage, and finally unto established churches, as they grew. The day of worship is shifted from the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) to the Christian Sabbath (Sunday). The meeting on the first day of the week (i.e. Sunday) is consistent with the practice of the early church (John 20:19; Acts 20:7) as a testimony of the Resurrection of Christ.

The word “*worship*” is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word *weorthscipe*; where it simply means ascribing worth to something / someone that is worthy of it. In the Old Testament, the idea of worship is to bow down (*shachah*) or to prostrate oneself (*cegidh*). Sometimes worship is an extension of the idea of service/serving (*abad*). The action of worshipping God is to serve God (that is why it is called a worship service). Thus, in the Hebrew mindset, to worship means to bow oneself down in reverence and in service unto God. In the New Testament, the same idea is portrayed, where the idea of worship is to revere (*sebomai*) or to give reverence, as in the kissing of hand (*proskuneo*). Again, there is also the idea of serving (*latrueo*) in the New Testament vocabulary which denotes worship. Thus, both the New Testament and the Old Testament are coherent in the idea of worship – it is an act of reverence towards the object of worship, implying a humble attitude in bowing oneself towards the object; with the extended idea of serving the object of worship.

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In a Christian worship service, the object of worship is almighty God. Biblical worship is theocentric. It is always directed toward God, and never toward men. There are other ministries which are directed toward men, such as fellowship, Sunday School classes, hospital visitation, evangelism, missions, etc. All these are means to minister unto fellow men. But worship is always directed toward God, about God and for God. This is the purpose of worship. As Christians, we must be clear of whom we are worshipping and why we are worshipping. Worshipping the living and true God is a service unto God and not unto men. Well, during the worshipping of God, there may be blessings of joy and thanksgiving, comfort and hope – but it must be noted that these are derivatives of worship, and not the main purpose of worship itself. To worship God, is to serve God: it is to give unto God what is owed to Him. Psalm 96: 9 is a call to worship: *“O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth”* (Ps 96: 9). But it is important to note that the two verses directly preceding it instructs on giving unto the Lord in worship, *“Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts”* (Ps 96: 7-8). Thus, in all our worship service, the purpose is to give to the Lord, or render unto the Lord what is due unto Him. It is all about God and not about ourselves.

Unfortunately, this purpose is sometimes not evident in our worshipping of God. Remarks such as “The worship service does not suit MY needs” or “The message does not minister to MY heart” show a lack of understanding of this purpose. Shouldn’t we learn to give unto God instead of receiving in worship service? Shouldn’t we put God ahead of even ourselves in worship? Sometimes, sad to say, even in a worship service, the Self is put on a higher pedestal than the Saviour. Let us learn to correct this notion, so that our worship God is biblical and theocentric and not egocentric. Let us learn to render our spirit unto God in such a spiritual exercise that our worship of God will be pleasing unto Him. Jesus says, *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him”* (John 4: 23). Let us worship God faithfully, and rightfully. To God be the glory, honour and majesty, worthy of all our praise and worship.

Pr Ho Chee Lai
(Adapted from Evangel BP Church weekly dated 26 August 2007)

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: 16/09/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 23/09/2007</i>	<p>We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We specially like to welcome Joseph Akinola to the morning worship service last Lord's Day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Worship: Those who would like to open up their homes for family worship for the months of September and October, please inform Pr Mok. • Areas of Service: For those who are interested to help in the any of the church ministries, please see Pr Mok or Daniel. • Result of the 2nd Quarter Memory Verse Review Exercise: Congratulations to those who have scored more than 90%. They are: Chin Kiong. • 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. • Parking Restrictions: Please take note of the parking restrictions implemented by Brent Council for the upcoming weeks: Zone "KQ" 13 Sep to 13 Oct (inclusive of Saturdays and Sundays) and Zone "KB" 27 Sep to 10 Oct (inclusive of Saturdays and Sundays). For those who are driving, please ensure that you are not parking within the restricted area.
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Promise of Salvation	The Divine Provision: The Incarnation	
<i>Text:</i>	Genesis 12:1-3	Galatians 4:4, 5	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The First Sacrifice	Light in Their Dwellings	
<i>Text:</i>	Genesis 3:21; 4:4	Exodus 10:23	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Yanning	Anthony	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 16/09/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 23/09/2007</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Chin Kiong/Sharon	Jee/Joyce	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Carol	Esmeralda	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	BBK	BBK	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 21 Sep	Young Adults Fellowship: No meeting		
Sat 22 Sep	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr: Pr Mok	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £302.55		Lunch: £48.50	
Memory Verse			
<p><i>Previous Week (September 07 Wk 2): Romans 5:18</i></p> <p>Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.</p> <p><i>This Week (September 07 Wk 3): Galatians 3:6-7</i></p> <p>Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.</p>			