



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 18 FEBRUARY 2007

My dear readers,

1. Ushering in the "Pig Year"

From all indications, the outlook for the rest of 2007 should be good, barring some unexpected mishap. But our security does not depend on "*indicators*" and men's forecasts; rather we look, as always, to the Lord for clear direction. On earth, men's projected "*peace and prosperity*" are transient commodities which cannot ensure lasting security.

To all our readers, I say, "*Trust in the LORD ... delight thyself also in the LORD ... Commit thy way unto the LORD ... Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him...*" (Ps 37:3-7). Our assurance is that He will lead us to a secure future, as our Good Shepherd "*... to lie down in green pastures ...beside still waters and paths of righteousness for his name's sake*" (Ps 23:2,3).

Trust not in pig or any other creature; our security is in the Lord our God, for He hath said, "*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*" (Heb 13:5), and "*I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye*" (Ps 32:8).

Our article from the Bible League of America continues this week.

2. Prayer

Prayer is a precious privilege. Through prayer you may find relief from anxiety and fear. Through prayer you may find fellowship with God and enjoy a blessed peace. But sometimes you may be too sick to pray, or too tired. Or it may seem that God isn't listening. Or you hardly know what to pray for. What then? Then it's good to know that many others are praying for you. Loved ones, family, friends are lifting you up in prayer before God. And Jesus Himself continues to pray for you in Heaven itself. And the Holy Spirit, too, who knows all your needs, presents them perfectly before you Father in heaven.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6-7).

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3. Patience

For many people life is so terribly busy. Perhaps it is for you too. There simply isn't enough time to do everything you would like to do. Then sickness or setback comes. And with it come frustration and irritation, because you are no longer the master of your own affairs. You are simply no longer in control. You need help. Sickness or setback therefore gives you an opportunity to learn patience. God Himself sometimes lovingly slows you down a bit from the frenzied pace of your normal life. He gives you the opportunity to look up, to look up to Him, to start talking with Him again, to take a new look into His Word. Patience! Don't be so restless! Try to make the most of this interruption in your life. Learn to wait on the Lord!

"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.: And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD" (Psa 40:1-3).

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil 4:12-13).

4. Loneliness

Some people are very lonely. They do not have to learn patience. Nothing ever seems to happen, so they are never in a hurry. They always wait and no one ever seems to come. Maybe you are like that. Or maybe you are like that now. You expected a lot of visitors, but hardly anyone comes. Or even if some do come, there are still so many hours when you are alone. And it hurts to be lonely. It can hurt as much as the sickness does, and even a lot more! God understands those hurts, and He cares about them. He wants to help you in your loneliness. He wants you to know Him as a Friend. There may still be times of loneliness for you. But if God is truly your Friend, you will never be alone.

"And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed" (Deut 31:8).

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Jos 1:9).

"He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him" (Psalm 91:15).

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isa 41:10).

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“And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you” (Isa 46:4).

5. Learning

Being sick is rarely enjoyable. But it may give you an opportunity to learn some precious new truths, or to re-learn some old ones. For example, you may have forgotten just how much you depend on God – for everything! Or perhaps you were starting to take your health and strength for granted. You just assumed that you would always be well, that sickness would always be for others. Or you may have been neglecting some very important things in your life – your relationship to your family, or to your friends, or to your God. Or you may simply not have taken enough time to think about the meaning and purpose of your life. And now you have the opportunity to think. Illness is a time for learning!

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (Jas 1:2-4).

“For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.: Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” (Heb 12:10-11).

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 1:6-7).

*Lovingly in the Lord
Dr SH Tow, Senior Pastor*

IS GOD FAIR? by Preacher Ho Chee Lai

(sourced from Evangel B-P church bulletin dated 11 February 2007)

Many times we have heard this question muttered, “Is God fair?” A person who contracted a terminal illness often questioned, “Is God fair to make my life more miserable than others?” Others question, “Is God fair to predestinate some to heaven while some to hell?” Or even some faithful Christians, upon seeing the prosperity of unbelievers, may query, “Is God fair that these unbelievers ought to prosper seeing their wickedness and corrupt practices?”

Is God fair? Search the whole Bible, you will never find the word “fair” to describe the characteristic of God. Surprised? Don’t be. Rather, the more appropriate term to describe God is “just.” The Westminster Shorter Catechism describes: “God is a Spirit; infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness,...

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justice, goodness, and truth.” Moses testified, *“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he”* (Deuteronomy 32: 4). He is also called the Just One (Acts 3: 14; 7: 52; 22: 14). While the words fair and just have a common meaning, yet there is a distinction between them. Fair commonly conveys a broader idea, with the basic meaning of “being equal to all.” Meanwhile, just is fairness constrained strictly in relation to the law.

With this understanding, we can say that God is not fair but is just. Before I may be misquoted, allow me to illustrate what I meant. Take for example, the Parable of the Talents found in the Bible. As the parable goes, one man was given five talents, another two talents, and the third one talent. Now, is God fair to give to the first person more talents than the last? If we see fairness in terms of equal distribution, the answer is obviously “No”. But, consider what God required of them? Did God chide the second man, who returned an additional two talents only, as compared to the first who returned five additional talents? No. Why? Because God is just. Although, He gave an unequal distribution, He did not expect each to return their talents equally. He is a just God.

God never meant to create any of us equally. If He had desired to create us equally – why would He want to create so many of us instead of just one, since all of us would be exactly the same? Therefore, it is this reason that some were born with better features, while some were handicapped. Some were born as princes, while some as paupers. Again, is it unfair? No. Why? Remember, the question was raised by the disciples as to the reason why a man was born blind? (Read John 9) They asked Jesus if it was the man’s sin or his parents’ sin that resulted in his condition. What was Jesus’ answer to them? *“Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him”* (John 9: 3). We were born such so that the works of God may be manifested in us, that all glory and honour may be given to Christ. The inequality in life was designed by God for one sole purpose – that the works of God may be made manifest, and that the name of Christ be praised and glorified. When we go through trials and testing in life, we must remember to allow God to work in us and through us that the glory of God may be revealed to all. A person, who trusts God even in his illness, praises and glorifies the name of Christ. Another, who faces persecution but still continue to possess joy and peace in his heart, magnifies the name of Christ. Thus, in all adversity, we are to glorify Christ. Have you been glorifying the name of Christ?

Apply this understanding into the context of salvation, “Is God fair to predestinate some to heaven and some to hell?” Some find this offensive. In order to see this in another perspective, let me ask you: “Is God fair to predestinate the wicked to heaven then?” Though God is sovereign, let us also remember that we are also responsible for our own action too. God’s sovereignty must always be balanced by human’s responsibilities. God’s Word clearly states that *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6: 23). When we sinned against God, by the justice of God, we ought to get what we...

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deserved – death! *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8). Yes, though we deserve death, yet God chooses to save us through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He died on the cross for your sins and mine. He came not to condemn us for we are already condemned by our own sins. He came to save us and to give us eternal life. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God”* (John 3: 16-18). Now this gift of eternal life is offered to us. And if we reject this offer and then in the same breath blame God for not being fair – then in reality, we are the ones who are not fair! Although God had decreed all things in heaven, we, mortal creatures, would not be able to know precisely this decree of God. What we could see is the free offer of the love of God who died on the cross for our sins, to save us from condemnation. Have you believed in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour? If not, delay no longer, my friends. Confess your sins unto God and put your trust in Him today!

Finally, God is also just even when the ungodly seems to prosper more than the godly. How can God allow unbelievers to prosper more than a faithful Christian? Read Psalm 73 and you would get the picture. The psalmist cried over this issue, *“For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked”* (Psalm 73: 3). He was in the bitterness of his soul as he lamented, *“Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency”* (Psalm 73: 12-13). Do you feel like psalmist at times when you see the success of the wicked and ponder over fairness of God? Is God fair? The psalmist found his answer, *“When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end”* (Psalm 73: 16-17). The psalmist understood that the prosperity of the wicked is only temporal, for the time will come when they will be judged accordingly. All the so-called prosperity will perish together with them. But unto the godly, he understood clearly that they have an everlasting portion of the Lord’s inheritance. They will have a better end. God is just in rewarding those who trust Him completely – with blessings which are not merely temporal but eternal. Hence, let us continue to put our trust in God and conclude like the psalmist *“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works”* (Psalm 73: 28). Is God fair? Well, God is just. Justice is the characteristic of God such that if God failed to be just, He would have failed to be God. What He requires of us is to trust Him and to glorify Him in all that we do. My friends, are you willing to live your life for Christ who has died for you?

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: 18/02/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 25/02/2007</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Paul Stephen Prior to our morning worship service last week.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Seetoh Yoong Chiang	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Rev Kenneth Harris	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Danger of Drifting	Doubtful Actions Are Sinful	
<i>Text:</i>	Hebrews 2:1-4	Romans 14:23	
<i>Organist:</i>	Yanning	Anthony	
Evening			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Worship: Family worship will be held at the home of Evelyn on the 22 February 07 at 8:00 AM. For those who interested to come, please see Pr Mok. Also, for those who like to open their homes for family worship for the months of March and April, please contact Pr. Mok. • Church Easter Camp: This will take place between 6 to 9 April. The speaker will be Rev Jack Sin (Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore). More details will be provided at a later date. • Areas of Service: For those who are interested to help in the kitchen ministry or post lunch washing-up, please see Daniel or Jonathan. • Tracting: Those who are interested to do 15-20 minutes of distributing of tracts on the Lord's Day, outside the main entrance of the church, please see Sis Esmeralda for details.
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Names of God – Jehovah Sabaoth	The Names of God – Jehovah-Shalom	
<i>Text:</i>	Jeremiah 11:20	Judges 6:24	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Feng Qian	Yanning	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 18/02/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 25/02/2007</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel/Constance	Jonathan/Sharon	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Esmeralda	Yanning	
<i>Lunch:</i>	CNY Carry-In	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	No Class Today	BBK	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 23 Feb	7.00 pm	Young Adults Fellowship Tbd	
Sat 24 Feb	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr/C'man: Jonathan	
<u>Last Week's Worship Service Collections</u>			
Offering:	£227.85	Lunch: £36.47	
YAF:	£55.60		
<u>Memory Verse</u>			
<i>Previous Week (Feb07 Wk 2): Romans 5:1</i>			
Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.			
<i>This Week (Feb07 Wk 3): Hebrews 4:12</i>			
For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.			
<i>The Task Force</i> wish our Chinese members and worshippers a very prosperous and fruitful Lunar New Year in the Lord.			