



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 11 No. 4

LORD'S DAY 21 JANUARY 2007

My dear readers,

In God We Trust

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God." (Psalm 20: 7)

In the book of Ecclesiastes, we have Solomon's written sermon, from which we draw precious insight into practical Christian living. Issues on life and death are real. Here in Ecclesiastes 9, Solomon turned from discussion of death to life.

Law of the Jungle

Since death is inevitable, for it is appointed unto man, once to die, man tends to focus on what is perceived as tangibly important. We major in strength, riches, health and beauty. Hence, we witness a struggle for political clout, a scramble for wealth and a desire for bodily preservation.

This behaviour is the product of the law of the jungle – the survival of the fittest. It is generally true that the fleetest foot wins the race, the powerful receives esteem and the brilliant mind is rewarded with academic accolades. In the light of such observation, it is understandable for man's emphasis on these tangible goals.

Realities of Life

Be that as it may, the realities of life tell us otherwise. Firstly, these material emphases have no lasting value. Pleasures and power are for a season. Empires wax and wane, kings and queens come and go; health ebbs and beauty fade away. "All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isaiah 40: 6 & 8).

Secondly, we cannot predict the turning point of our fortune – from riches to rags; from hero to villain and from public acclamation to irrevocable oblivion!

Continued on Page 2...

Perspective in life

Given these indisputable realities, God through Solomon gave us two inspiring thoughts – Ecclesiastes 9: 11,12.

Ecclesiastes 9: 11

“...The race is not to the swift, not the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.”

Is it not true that the same people who are talented and well endowed can fail miserably because of factors outside their control? We do not need to look very hard for such examples where the even best horse stumbles!

Ecclesiastes 9: 12

“For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.”

Just as fish are caught in net and birds in their traps, as they take the bait, man too can be thus ensnared. Who knows when trouble will rear its ugly head and thwart all the great plans he has envisaged.

Man proposes but God disposes. “The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord” (Proverbs 16: 33).

What Do We Do?

Remember only the Lord can control “time and chance” (Ecclesiastes 9: 11). Chance happens to all of us. The chance that we understand is not apart from God and not in competition with God, but rather, it is the providence of the good and gracious God.

The winning of a race, the victory in a battle, the success in any human enterprise, I emphasize, do not lie within the resources of man. They are, I humbly submit, outside the purview of man and fall within the providence of God.

As we enter into the year 2007, let us lean upon our Lord for strength and wisdom. He has said, “Without me you can do nothing” (John 15: 5).

As for EBPC, let us begin the year, humbled by these words of counsel – “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses but we will remember the name of the Lord our God” (Psalm 20: 7).

Amen.

*Lovingly in Lord,
Eld Lim Yew Cheng
Evangel B-P Church, Malaysia*

Our Daily Walk
Daily Meditations and a Prayer for Each Day
By F.B. Meyer
21 January 2007

REIGNING IN LIFE

Romans 5:17 "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."

IT would take a lifetime—nay, it will demand eternity—to explore the treasures of this paragraph from which our text is taken. Let us not, however, stand gazing into heaven, but avail ourselves of the privilege offered us during our earthly life of reigning through the One, even Jesus Christ. Do not postpone the fulfilment of this promise! We may have to wait for the future life to unfold depths of meaning which now transcend our thought; but any fair reading of this radiant verse compels us to appropriate it for here and now.

But, "how can these things be?" Ah, a master in Israel asked that question of Christ! This blessed life of victory is only possible to those who have been born from above. By nature we were born from below into the first Adam, who was "a living soul." We must be born from above, into the second Adam, who becomes to all who trust in Him a Life-giving spirit (1 Co 15:45). That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and cannot of itself rise into the Spirit; the Holy Spirit must stoop to lift it into union with Himself. But He will do this for you, if only you will lift your heart to Christ in simple faith and surrender.

The difference it will make! Each life has been planned by God with the intention of training it for high service here and beyond; and whatever happens in life, there is always an abundance of grace awaiting our use. But how often we are as blind to it as Balaam was to the Angel that stood on the wayside! We make our plans! We lie awake half the night in a fever of anxiety! We go to this friend or that! But we do not claim that abundance of grace which is intended to meet the need of the hour. It is only as we receive it by a childlike faith that we can reign in life. That word "abundance" in its Latin original speaks of ocean-waves. Stand on the shore and look out on that infinite expanse, and do not be content with scooping up enough to fill an oyster-shell!

What will result? A royal life! If a throne means power—we are strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. If it means victory—we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. If it means largess—we have always all sufficiency in all things, and abound to every good work.

PRAYER-Heavenly Father, I thank Thee for the trials and pains that are ever working for my good, and making me a partaker of Thy holiness. May I receive the abundance of Thy grace, and reign in life here and hereafter. AMEN.

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: 21/01/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 28/01/2007</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Rev Graham Harrison	
<i>Message:</i>	Love Does Not Seek Its Own	Tbd	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Text:</i>	1 Corinthians 13:5	Tbd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Bible Knowledge (BBK): The BBK classes will commence in Jan 07. These classes are meant to prepare those who wish to seek baptism, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of membership. For those interested, please see Pr Mok. • Family Worship: For those who like to open their homes for family worship for the month of February and March, please contact Pr. Mok. • Lord's Supper: Next week, we will be observing the Lord's Supper. Please come with your hearts prepared. • YAF Meeting: Please take note that this Friday's YAF meeting will be held at the home of Jeff and Rebecca. • Prayer Meetings: Please purpose in your heart to come every Wednesday and Saturday for a time of corporate prayer and bible study. Prayer is the spiritual power house of the church. We need more prayer warriors like you. • Lunch Collection 7/01/2007: Please take note that the lunch collection for 7/01/2007 was £32.48. This was accidentally omitted from last week's bulletin.
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Seetoh Yoong Chiang	John	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Names of God – El Elyon	The Names of God – El Shaddai	
<i>Text:</i>	Psalms 57:2	Genesis 17:1	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Feng Qian	Anthony	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 21/01/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 28/01/2007</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Wah Soon/Rebecca	Daniel/Chin Kiong	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Yanning	Joyce	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Yoong Chiang/Jonathan	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	YAF Group 2/Volunteers	Prema/Yetta	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Video Presentation	Video Presentation	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 26 Jan	7.00 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Led by Sharon	
Sat 27 Jan	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr/C'man: Jonathan	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering:	£299.93	Lunch: £30.00	
YAF:	£65.50		
Memory Verse			
<i>Last Week: 1 Corinthians 15:58</i>			
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.			
<i>This Week: Matthew 22:37-39</i>			
Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.			