



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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THE IMPORTANCE OF DILIGENT READING OF THE WORD AND EDIFYING BOOKS

4 Reasons why diligent reading of the Word is important:

1. It is because God, our Creator, by His Spirit has written a book about Himself, given it to us, His creatures, and **commanded** that we read it (Deut 6:6, 11:18-21; Joh 5:39; Col 3:16; 2 Tim 2:15).
2. It is no ordinary book, for the Word of God is **divinely inspired** (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:21; Heb 1:1-2).
3. The diligent study of the Word of God will bring **blessings and reward** (Jos 1:8; Psa 19:7-11; Matt 7:24; 2 Tim 3:15; Rev 1:3).
4. The **neglect and rejection** of the Word of God will lead to **eternal condemnation** (2 Chr 36:16; Prov 21:16; Hos 4:6; Zech 7:12; Matt 22:29; John 12:48).

What are the benefits and rewards for the diligent reading of God’s Word?

1. It is Food for the soul (Deut 8:3; Job 23:12; Isa 55:2; Jer 15:16; Psa 119:103).
2. It has power to SAVE unto eternal life (Rom 1:16; 1 John 5:13).
3. It is a MIRROR for self-examination (Jam 1:23-25).
4. It is a DISCERNER of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb 4:12).
5. It is a generative and life-giving SEED (Psa 126:6; 1 Pet 1:23; Mark 4:14-20; 2 Cor 9:10).
6. It is WATER with the power to purify (Eph 5:26; Psa 119:9; John 17:17; 1 Pet 1:22).
7. It is a LAMP that illuminates and guides us (Psa 119:105, 130; Prov 6:23; 2 Pet 1:19).
8. It is a consuming FIRE (Jer 5:14; 20:9; Luke 24:32).
9. It is a HAMMER to break the hardened heart (Jer 23:29)
10. It is a SWORD; a weapon against the devil (Matt 4:10; Eph 6:17; Rev 2:6).
11. It is the SOURCE OF FAITH (Rom 10:17; Heb 11:3)

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12. It has like LIFE-GIVING power (Psa 119:92-93; Eze 16:6-7, 37:3-10; John 5:24, 6:68, 20:31, 8:51).

The value of reading edifying Christian Literature

Following close behind the diligent reading of God's Word is the reading of edifying Christian books and literature. Much benefit can be derived when reading is done with discernment and careful analysis. Paul's instruction to Timothy is, "...**give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine**" (1 Tim 4:13). The values of such reading are:

1. It is for our spiritual and mental development (Phil 4:8)
2. It provides an opportunity to learn from others through their writings.
3. It can inspire, motivate and influence our walk with the Lord.
4. It can challenge our view and understanding which we may hold prejudicially.
5. It supplies us with resource materials for our reference in our study and writing.
6. It encourages our treasury of knowledge and contributes to our memory powers.

Conclusion

Since God has given us "*a sound mind*" (2 Tim 1:7), it is our responsibility as God's redeemed people to develop this God-given faculty to the improvement of our bodily, mental and spiritual well-being. No one should think that they have already attained all that can be attained of the knowledge of God and His creation.

This is especially so for those who are minister of the Word whose life and service for the Lord thrive or wither, is largely dependent upon whether he is the man of the Book and man of much reading. If he is to be spiritually prosperous and greatly used of the Master than reading of God's Word and books and literatures that edify must follow him till he is call home to glory.

Mok Chee Cheong

YOUTH CONTEMPORARY ISSUES BY DR JACK SIN Q&A – TRANSCRIBED BY KEENE CHEN (PART 1)

1. As a youth, is it alright to dye my hair, keep long nails and put coloured nail polish on my fingers and toe nails?

A: Interesting question, but why would you want to do this? Are you enslaved and obsessed with it in keeping them polished? And is it a good example and good use of your precious time? I heard it takes much time and effort as well to maintain it as well. Is it worth the time, money and effort? If someone says I want to look good in front of people, is it wrong?

The question is, what constitutes looking good from God's point of view? 1 Pet 3:3-4 "*Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*" Are you interested how you look in the sight of God? I would presume that you are. I'm interested in how God sees me and how God assesses me, because ultimately, He is the person whom I want to please. This example describes what constitutes godly...

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demeanour, good disposition and apparel of women. In a few words, while it's not wrong for us to look moderately well, for example, going for an interview, work or graduation day, surely we want to look appropriate and not appear in shorts and slippers. You will want to appear presentable and dignified.

However it's not the doing of the hair, wearing of gold and all kinds of expensive clothes that are important to us. It is about the character behind those clothes. Ask yourself, why do I need to do all these external things? Am I following a trend? Following my friends because I don't look as good as them (or so I think)? A lot of times we try so hard to impress, but it may do well only for the first impression but after that it doesn't matter very much. I'm not saying that you look sloppy, but present yourself carefully, speak properly and carry yourself well. Most importantly, after a while when people talk to you and get to know you, what shines out is who you really are in your character and conduct and not just your physical looks. You don't have to impress people with all these external facade, and after a while you'll realise that it doesn't matter very much. You should look your best, clean, kempt, distinguished, carry yourself with a certain disposition, be courteous, respectful and communicate well and you will be. A good testimony for Christ even without the externals that you mentioned. Read Prov 31;30.

2. Parties and gatherings with friends and schoolmates. What are the limits to it?

It does not mean that if you're a Christian, you cannot have good times with friends, for example, having a birthday celebration. But it is how we celebrate (i.e. with liquor, dancing or with joy in clean fun and games and good food and fellowship). It is not wrong for a Christian to have a celebration. Maybe you had good results for your A levels and want to go out and celebrate with friends.

Nowadays even Primary 6s are having prom nights. Some of the dresses are quite expensive, up to \$300-400. I was talking to a parent; she was saying that her daughter went for PSLE prom night. When I graduated, I didn't even have one. Only when I was commissioned as an officer was there a commissioning ball, but I didn't go for it because I had to pay \$200 for it and I had a better use for that amount of money. The point is, the limits are very important. What do they normally do at parties? The initial part of eating is fine. However, it is after that when we enjoy ourselves after putting aside the tables and bringing up the loud jarring rock music. That's when the teachers have all gone home. The prom night will really start after 11.30pm after the formal programme is over and ends at 2-3am, often with many unedifying activities. Do you want be part of it and join in the motley gang?

It's not wrong to celebrate somebody's birthday, have food, good fellowship and games. That's perfectly legitimate. What's wrong with celebrating with non-Christians? It is a means by which you can reach out to people. However, if that activity goes into something else, then we better be careful. I remember in Junior College, I was invited by a friend to a birthday party, and after all the eating, somebody 'pop' a champagne. Then later they'll turn up the disco music and move onto the floor and everyone did their thing. So I told myself, "This is not for me, it's time to go home". The event was turning into something I didn't ask for. I did not go for another one after that.

Yes, there's a good time for Christian people to come together, but it's the content of the activity that matters. What do you do? Do you do something that is not edifying, expedient and enslaving? Is it glorifying to God and profitable to men? We have to answer that honestly.

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON
CHURCH THEME: WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR
AND TREMBLING. (Philippians 2:12)

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	Today: 03/08/2008	Next Week: 10/08/2008	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Lyn Harris-Hogin to our morning worship service last Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Pr Mark Chen	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Coping with Every Situation in Life	Living by Faith in God's Supply	
<i>Text:</i>	Philippians 4:1-13	Philippians 4:15-19	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Anthony	
Evening			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those serving on the Lord's Day for both morning and evening worship services: Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer. • Book Table: Please feel free to browse the book table for materials that are of interest to you, especially some new books that have just been displayed. Please note that materials without price tags are free. • Family Worship: For those who would like to open up their homes for family worship, please contact Pr Mok. • Pray for Journey Mercies: Jonathan (Jul/Aug, US), Josh & Hannah (Jul/Aug, UK & Europe), Evelyn (Jul/Aug, Ghana), Sophia & Grace (Jul-Sep, Singapore), Rachel (Singapore & China), Constance (Aug, US), Daniel & Maureen & Anthony & Helen (Aug/Sep, Malaysia & Singapore), Chin Kiong (Aug, Singapore), Esmeralda (Aug, Singapore), Mok & Carol (Aug/Sep, Israel & Singapore). • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas (knee pain), Maria (ankle and joint pain), Constance (shoulder pain), Josh's grandma (stroke), Hazel (wrist injury), Ming Yann (broken rib).
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Wounds from a Friend	Diary of a Wise Old Man	
<i>Text:</i>	Proverbs 27:5, 6	Proverbs 30	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Joy	Pr Mark Chen	
Other Duties			
	Today: 03/08/2008	Next Week: 10/08/2008	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel / Yetta	Chin Kiong / Hui Min	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Carol	Hui Min	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Catechism Class	Catechism Class	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 08 Aug	7.30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Led by Pr Mark Chen	
Sat 09 Aug	4.00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Pr Mok	
<u>Last Week's Worship Service Collections</u>			
Offering: £503.20		Lunch: £25.81	
<u>Memory Verse</u>			
<i>Last Week (July 08 Wk 4): Psalm 139:13</i>			
For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.			
<i>This Week (August 08 Wk 1): Psalm 139:14</i>			
I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.			