



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 08 JUN 2008

A TEST OF ASSURANCE:

HOW MAY WE KNOW WHETHER WE LOVE GOD?

Do you know if you REALLY love God or not?

He who loves God desires his presence. Lovers cannot be long apart; they soon have their fainting fits, for want of a sight of the object of their love. A soul deeply in love with God desires the enjoyment of Him in His ordinances, in word, prayer, and sacraments. David was ready to faint away and die when he had not a sight of God. "My soul fainteth for God" (Psalm 84:2). Such as care not for ordinances, but say, "When will the Sabbath be over?" plainly reveal their lack of love to God.

He who loves God does not love sin. "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil" (Psalm 97:10). The love of God, and the love of sin, can no more mix together than iron and clay. Every sin loved, strikes at the being of God; but he who loves God, has a hatred of sin. He who would part two lovers is a hateful person. God and the believing soul are two lovers; sin parts between them, therefore the soul is implacably set against it. By this try your love to God. How could Delilah say she loved Samson, when she entertained correspondence with the Philistines, who were his mortal enemy?

He who loves God is not much in love with anything else. His love is very cool to worldly things. His love to God moves swiftly, as the sun in the firmament; to the world it moves slowly, as the sun on the dial. The love of the world eats out the heart of religion; it chokes good affections, as earth puts out fire. The world was a dead thing to Paul. "I am crucified to the world, and the world is crucified to me" (Gal. 6:14). In Paul we may see both the picture and pattern of a mortified man. He that loves God, uses the world but chooses God. The world engages him, but God delights and satisfies him. He says as David, "God my exceeding joy," the gladness or...

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cream of my joy (Psalm 43:4).

He who loves God cannot live without him. Things we love we cannot be without. A man can do without music or flowers, but not food; so a soul deeply in love with God looks upon himself as undone without Him. "Hide not thy face from me, lest I be like them that go down into the pit" (Psalm 143:7). He says to Job, "I went mourning without the sun" (Job 30:28). I have starlight, I want the Sun of Righteousness; I enjoy the sweet presence of my God. Is God our chief good, and we cannot live without Him? Alas! how do they show they have no love to God who can do well enough without Him! Let them have corn and oil, and you shall never hear them complain of the lack of God.

He who loves God will be at any pains to get him. What pains the merchant takes, what hazards he runs, to have a rich return from the Indies! Jacob loved Rachel, and he could endure the heat by day, and the frost by night, that he might enjoy her. A soul that loves God will take any pains for the fruition of Him. "My soul follows hard after God" (Psalm 63:8). Love is *pondus animae* (Augustine). It is the weight which sets the clock going. It is much in prayer, weeping, fasting; it strives as in agony that he may obtain Him whom his soul loves. Plutarch reports of the Gauls, an ancient people of France, that after they had tasted the sweet wine of Italy, they never rested till they had arrived at that country.

He who is in love with God, never rests till he has a part in Him. "I sought him whom my soul loveth" (Song of Sol. 3:2). How can they say they love God, who are not industrious in the use of means to obtain Him? "A slothful man hides his hand in his bosom" (Pro. 19:24). He is not in agony, but lethargy. If Christ and salvation would drop as a ripe fig into his mouth, he would be content to have them; but he is loath to put himself to too much trouble. Does he love his friend, who will not undertake a journey to see him?

He who loves God prefers him before estate and life. (1) **Before estate**—"For whom I have suffered the loss of all things" (Phil. 3:8). Who that loves a rich jewel would not part with a flower for it? Galeacius, marcus of Vico, parted with a fair estate to enjoy God in His pure ordinances. When a Jesuit persuaded him to return to his popish religion in Italy, promising him a large sum of money, he said: "Let their money perish with them who esteem all the gold in the world worth one day's communion with Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit." (2) **Before life**—"They loved not their lives to the death" (Rev. 12:11). Love to God carries the soul above the love of life and the fear of death.

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He who loves God loves his favourites, the saints (I John 5:1). To love a man for his grace and the more we see of God in him, the more we love him, that is an infallible sign of love to God. The wicked pretend to love God, but hate and persecute His image. Does he love his prince who abuses his statue, or tears his picture? They seem indeed to show great reverence to saints departed; they have great reverence for Saint Paul, and Saint Stephen, and Saint Luke; they canonize dead saints, but persecute living saints; and do they love God? Can it be imagined that he loves God who hates His children because they are like God? If Christ were alive again, He would not escape a second persecution.

If we love God we cannot but be fearful of dishonoring him, as the more a child loves his father the more he is afraid to displease him, and we weep and mourn when we have offended him. "Peter went out and wept bitterly" (Matt. 26:75). Peter might well think that Christ dearly loved him when He took him up to the mount where He was transfigured, and showed him the glory of heaven in a vision. That Peter should deny Christ after he had received such signal tokens of His love, this broke his heart with grief. "He wept bitterly." Are our eyes dropping tears of grief for sin against God? It is a blessed evidence of our love to God; and such shall find mercy. "He shows mercy to thousands of them that love Him."

Use. Let us be lovers of God. We love our food and shall we not love Him that gives it? All the joy we hope for in heaven is in God; and shall not He who shall be our joy then, be our love now? It is a saying of Augustine, Annon pana satis magna est non amare te? Is it not punishment enough Lord, not to love thee? And again, Animam meam in odia haberem. I would hate my own soul if I did not find it loving God.

(This was first published in his classic work A Body of Divinity in 1692.)

Dr. Thomas Watson

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	<i>Today: 08/06/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 15/06/2008</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mark Chen	
<i>Message:</i>	Be a Shining Testimony for Christ!	Seeking the Things of Christ, Not of Self	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Text:</i>	Philippians 2:14-18	Philippians 2:19-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Year Service at London Theological Seminary: It will be held at 2pm on 14th June 2008 followed by a special Thanksgiving Service at 4.30pm. The speakers for both Services are Dr. Michael Haykin and Rev. Geoffrey Thomas respectively. All are cordially invited. • 12th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service: There will be a carry-in lunch on 22nd June 2008. Those who would like to contribute, please inform Daniel Poh. • School of Theology at Metropolitan Tabernacle: The theme for this year programme is "Stand Fast in the Faith". It will be held from 8th – 10th Jul 2008. For further details, please help yourself to the application form available at the Book Table. • 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. • YAF Meeting: Please note that the meeting on 13th June 2008 will be held at John and Sharon's place. For more information, please approach Grace.
<i>Organist:</i>	Grace	Anthony	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mark Chen	
<i>Message:</i>	For He who finds Me finds Life	A Biblical Attitude Toward Wealth	
<i>Text:</i>	Proverbs 8:32-36	Proverbs 19:22; 22:1	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Joy	Hubert	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 08/06/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 15/06/2008</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	John / Yetta	Chin Kiong / Evelyn	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Hui Min	Hui Min	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Catechism Class	Catechism Class	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 13 Jun	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Led by Pr Mark Chen	
Sat 14 Jun	4.00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Pr Mark Chen	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £544.60		Lunch: £38.85	
<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>Memory Verse</u></h2>			
<i>Last Week (June 08 Wk 1): Psalm 139:5</i>			
Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.			
<i>This Week (June 08 Wk 2): Psalm 139:6</i>			
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.			