



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 GRAVE DANGER OF AVARICE IN THE BELIEVERS' WALK

Introduction

We live in a seductive world of attractive gains in the commercial, financial, property and secular business. The Christian is often tempted to acquire wealth and to amass physical possessions in the earthly sojourn. Euro 2004 is here and some are hoping to make a financial gain by cashing in on bets on the outcome of the matches. Soon a casino may just be in the heart of our city or nearby island, alluring many to make a quick fortune overnight. **Avarice is the love of money and excessive greed for gain**, the opposite of Christian contentment stated by Paul in 1 Tim 6:6 which is great gain (with godliness). It is a sinful and inordinate quest for more, a clear violation of the 10th Commandment that dishonours God and undermines the testimony of the believer before others. Jesus says in Luke 12:15, *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

Contentment in God

The author of Hebrews speaks of the Christian contentment where the provision and presence of Christ alone are sufficient for us (Heb 13:5). The Psalmist in Ps 23:1 speaks of total contentment when he says, *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.* Greed in the Bible is often linked to all forms of idolatry, strife and immorality. Because of greed, this can lead to spiritual and moral compromise in the workplace and **the displacement of God by our uncanny and selfish friendship with the world.** Jas 4:4 says, *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.* The Apostle John admonishes believers in 1 John 2:15,16, *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* We do not need the proverbial Singaporean 5Cs: car, condominium, career, country club and credit card. The fallacy of avarice lies in the fact that we live in a temporal and fleeting world that tangible things acquired do not last us forever and cannot satisfy. On the contrary, it can rob us of our joy and contentment as God alone can truly...

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satisfy and fill our souls with all spiritual blessings from above. Many have been ensnared with a burning quest for riches and are drowned in sinful perdition with dire consequences. Beware of the devil's lure and diabolical traps that has seduced many today. We only need 3 Cs; namely (1 John 2:15-17), **the contempt of the world, our consecration to Christ and our contentment in God.**

Craving for Heaven

Our true view of wealth is the setting up of our affections in the heavens and not on the world (Col 3:1) and temporal wealth can give a man a false assurance of his well being when he is actually bankrupt and spiritually poor before the Lord Almighty. **Our spiritual wealth lies in our pardon from sin wrought by Christ, our righteousness imputed on us by Christ who died for us (2 Cor 5:21).** Our heavenly inheritance is not of this world and for the justified sinner, it is in heaven which fadeth not away. **Avarice has its dire consequences but godliness with contentment is great gain.** If God ever blesses us with material wealth and much possessions, we thank God for it and also remember Paul's prudent advice in 1 Tim 6:10 *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* One of the **cures for covetousness is selfless giving.** Let us learn to be altruistic and be willing to share our resources with others (missions and Church outreach) and give our substance to the glory of God and the extension of his kingdom, for the saving of souls and enrichment of the saints (Prov 3:9,10). To have wealth and material blessings are not wrong in itself. David, Daniel, Job, Abraham and Joseph were richly endowed but were not caught in the spirit of covetousness but used their position and possessions for the advancement of God's name and His spiritual well-being of His people. It was said that William Burns, the 19th century Scottish Presbyterian missionary to China, was left with just a few coins before he died, where he truly gave his all to God. That was the testimony of total sacrifice and surrender of a disciple of Christ for our emulation today (Luke 9:23).

Christ our Supreme Example

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself is a supreme example for us to emulate. Though Christ is God Himself, He gave up the glories of heaven, even humbly to the cruel and excruciating death at the cross, dying for sinful man in this depraved world. He has no earthly crown but a crown of thorns, no throne but a cross of painful, particular atoning death on behalf of His people. Yet today we knew He is the victorious ascended Lord on the Throne with God, the Father and the Judge of the world today. Let us follow the Saviour's model and be a meek and lowly pilgrim in this worldly sojourn; look and yearn forward to that great spiritual and incorruptible wealth that is laid for the saints in heaven one day (Tit 2:14-15).

Conclusion

The world beckons us with its attractive allurements as in Vanity Fair that Bunyan depicted in "Pilgrim's Progress". Let us learn to be content and not covetous in our demeanour and testimony and walk wisely and circumspectly (to the glory of God) redeeming the time, for the days are evil (Eph 5:15,16).

*Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha B-P Church, S'pore*

THE ONE ANOTHERS' OF THE BIBLE

Introduction

The Word of God is replete with instruction on how believers can be a blessing to one another. We shall consider seven of them here.

Honour one another (John 5:44)

The Word here means to give **due deference and regard to another Christian**, not to put down or disparage one another in the Lord but have a courteous and kind regard to encourage and strengthen one another in the Lord always. The Apostle Peter says we are to love the brotherhood and honour the King (1 Pet 2:17). Do not gossip, bad mouth, criticise unduly, dampen or deride people but give due honour and respect to one another in the Lord is the admonition here.

Receive one another (Rom 15:7)

The word here has to do with a hearty and generous **acceptance of the other person** without suspicion or reservation. It is an enlarged heart, a sincere and open welcome to engage particularly with someone in fellowship or conversation. This should be the spirit of believers with regard especially with those in the household of faith. Let there be a benevolent and magnanimous spirit in Christian fellowship and inter personal relationships.

Admonish one another (Rom 15:14)

The word here means to correct, warn, counsel, rebuke or advise someone on a relevant matter. As fellow Christians, we are our brothers' keepers and we have the responsibility to **reach out and help one another** if one has gone the wrong way. So a gentle rebuke, without malice or acrimony is a great blessing when we care enough to communicate our genuine concern effectively **in the spirit of meekness and fear of God** (Gal 6:1,2). The whole objective in admonition is restoration, so that the brother may return to the Lord. For example, someone who has violated the moral laws of God (or err in point of doctrine) and is corrected gently (and firmly) by a caring brother is a case in point.

Pray for one another (Rom 15:30)

This may seem the most obvious thing to do but how many of us really take time to intercede for one another before the throne of grace? When was the last time you remembered someone who has shared with you his/her prayer needs and brought them before the mercy seat and asked God for divine assistance (Phil 4:6-7)? It is a great encouragement to someone to let him or her know that you are upholding him or her before the throne of grace (Heb 4:16). **Make a conscious effort to intercede fervently and frequently for one another (1 Thess 5:25).**

Bear ye one another's burden (Gal 6:2)

This is an exacting life that we are living today. There are heavy demands and...

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burdens placed on the shoulders of believers; be it at work, studies or the family. We have a duty and privilege to help strengthen and support one another. Many are **depressed, discouraged and downcast** here and a **helping hand** is often needed to **assist someone through the trying period** in his or her life (i.e. bereavement, sickness, loss of job, family woes, etc).

Caring for & Comforting one another (1 Thess 4:18)

These are seasons of despair and desperation, times of bereavement, failure, weariness and distress for every believer. There is a certain calling for Christian to be a solace and consolation to one another through the trials of this life (2 Cor 1:4). **Be there** when your brother needs a shoulder to cry on, a place to seek refuge and a time to unburden his woes in the office or home. We need it desperately from time to time. Be a strong supporter here for some troubled souls that they may find comfort and consolation in Christ in times of need. **Weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.**

Provoke one another to love and good works (Heb 10:24,25)

Some of us are provocative but often for the wrong cause of inciting anger, unhappiness or some unedifying emotions. But there is only one form of provocation that is acceptable to God; it is the constructive provocation or **stimulation of believers unto love and good works**. That means we are to be a good example or models (1 Tim 4:12) in what we say, do or dress and **have a positive influence to challenge and encourage others** to do things that are glorifying to God and edifying to man. Do not be a stumbling block to others but a springboard to greater faith, prayer, love, justice and holiness in the Lord. Remember, **one of the best gifts you can give another is a worthy example.**

Conclusion

There are many opportunities that we can be a blessing to others in the household of faith (Gal 6:10). The world is often self-centred, but those in Christ are to **be mindful of other brethren** and be a positive influence to their spiritual health and vitality. Let us remember to do something good for Jesus; by witnessing for Christ and being a helping hand and a positive influence to a brother or sister in Christ and even to the world at large, if possible, peradventure that some may be saved.

*Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha B-P Church, S'pore*

Rock of Ages

Words by Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

Music by Thomas Hastings (RHC Hymn 184)

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

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: 13/07/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 20/07/2008</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	No Confidence in the Flesh	Pressing Toward the Mark	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Text:</i>	Philippians 3:1-6	Philippians 3:12-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duties of Office Bearers: For those serving on Lord's Day, please refer to the notice board in the Fellowship Hall regarding your duties for the service unto the Lord. Please also refer to the rota on the same notice board for the schedule of duties. Those who are unavailable on their scheduled day of service, please swap with another person or approach Jonathan as early as possible. For those who want to render your service to the Lord, do approach Jonathan. • 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. • Sabbath School: Leaflets are placed on the book table to encourage children of ages 6-12 to attend Sunday School. Please feel free to distribute those leaflets to any child, especially yours, who may be interested in joining in. Please note that class will be held at the Library after the morning worship service.
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Pr Mark Chen	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Pr Mark Chen	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Why the Rod is Righteous?	To the Nation, A Message of Righteousness	
<i>Text:</i>	Proverbs 13:24; 23:13	Proverbs 14:34	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	Joy	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 13/07/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 20/07/2008</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	John / Yetta	Daniel / Sharon	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Hui Min	Carol	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Catechism Class	Catechism Class	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 18 Jul	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Led by Pr Mark Chen	
Sat 19 Jul	4.00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Pr Mok	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering:	£875.80	Lunch: £34.50	
Hospitality:	£9.50	Book Sale: £5.00	
Memory Verse			
<i>Last Week (July 08 Wk 1): Psalm 139:10</i>			
Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.			
<i>This Week (July 08 Wk 2): Psalm 139:11</i>			
If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.			