



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 16 NOVEMBER 2008

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; John 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 rewards (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).
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).

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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 views 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 ministers of the Word; whereupon whose life and service for the Lord thrive or wither, are largely dependent upon whether he is the man of the Book and of much reading. If he is to be spiritually prosperous and greatly used of the Master, then reading of God's Word and books and literatures that edify must follow him till he is called home to glory.

*Pr Mok Chee Cheong, Singapore
(adapted from Maranatha B-P Church bulletin dated 9 November 2008)*

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How should we view and spend The Lord's Day as a Christian?

Psalm 24 says, '*The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof.*' In these words we noted God's universal claim on all of creation. He owned everything and everyone by right of His sovereign creation. This also the basic reason for Sabbath worship and stewardship like tithing, service and giving back to Him as part of our worship and responsible stewardship (it is all by God's mercies that we enjoy these things and we acknowledge that by giving Him a portion of what He has first given to us). All of our time was God's too and that we acknowledge that by giving Him some of it. What does He want from us? One WHOLE day out of every seven belonged to Him. God through His Word show us that not only our substance but also our time and our talents. All that we have belongs to Him and He asks that we honour Him first with just a portion of it, the rest He graciously gives us to use for lawful pursuits, work, rest, etc.

The prophet in Isaiah 58:13,14 says, '*If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine...*

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own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.'

The proper motivation for Sabbath worship is the acknowledgment of the glory of God and obedience to His word. It is a great blessing and pleasure to observe it to the spiritual benefit of our souls. When we began to live according to this pattern (one whole day out of every seven given to the Lord), and call the Sabbath a delight and you will find great delight and joy in Him! Do not miss the Lord's Day service (and do not come late) when we exalt and magnify the Lord together with His redeemed people. Do not exchange it for leisure or extra work (even if the pay is good) or worldly activities that is not fit for the Lord's Day at the expense of our spiritual well-being. It is keeping the Lord's day wholly as well as holy. Do not think that just by giving 1 – 2 hours for a worship service, we have fulfilled the Lord's Day when the rest of it we spent in other unedifying activities that do not promote our spiritual growth nor advance the kingdom of God. Going for evangelism or visitation of other believers, fellowship, having a time of quiet meditation of His word and prayers, resting or family worship will be appropriate edifying moments on the Lord's Day. Give your domestic help a rest and bring her along for the service as well. Come early and study the word in the Sunday School classes and be grounded and rooted in the most holy faith. You will want to anticipate and look forward to the Lord's Day and be in the presence of the most high God.

Our loving and gracious God give us one entire day out of every seven to worship and serve Him. The question comes down to what does God's Word say (the Sabbath is rooted in creation and in the 10 Commandments) and what does God promise (joy and delight in Him). The Sabbath, rather than being a burden, is a blessing. God knows our bodies and our hearts, that if He did not command me to rest or to set aside a given amount of time, all distractions would intrude our lives and keep us from Him who should be the delight of our souls! God has graciously given us a refuge and strength, to leave behind our regular chaotic lives and come apart to seek and enjoy Him uninterrupted. J.C. Ryle, the Calvinistic 20th century bishop of Liverpool said,

'I am no admirer of a gloomy religion. Let no one suppose that I want Sunday to be a day of sadness and unhappiness. I want every Christian to be a happy man: I wish him to have "joy and peace in believing," and to "rejoice in hope of the glory of God." I want everyone to regard Sunday as the brightest, cheerfulest day of all the seven; and I tell everyone who finds such a Sunday as I advocate a wearisome day, that there is something sadly wrong in the state of his heart. I tell him plainly that if he cannot enjoy a "holy" Sunday, the fault is not in the day, but in his own soul.'

Consider also what Robert Murray M'Cheyne, the Scottish saint said,

'A well-spent Sabbath we feel to be a day of heaven upon earth. For this reason we wish our Sabbaths to be wholly given to God. We love to spend the whole time in the public and private exercises of the worship of God, prayer, reading his word and fellowship with saints except so much as is taken up in the works of necessity and mercy. We want to rise early on that morning, and to seek the Lord, that we may have a blessed day with God.'

Heaven is described in the Bible as a never ending Sabbath with God at the center of eternal worship and praise. If we take no delight in the earthly Sabbath, what makes us think we will enjoy Heaven? Every Sunday is a rehearsal of the everlasting Sabbath one day and it will not be too long. Remember the words of the hymn "O Day of Rest and Gladness" by Christopher Wordsworth.

Hope this helps.

*Rev Jack Sin, Singapore
(adapted from Maranatha B-P Church bulletin dated 9 November 2008)*

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: 16/11/2008	Next Week: 23/11/2008	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Jack Lakey, Wendy Wong, Ying Wu and LiXia Liu to our worship services last Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Joey Seow	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	
<i>Message:</i>	Wisdom Not Of This World	Are You A Carnal Christian?	
<i>Text:</i>	1 Corinthians 2:6-16	1 Corinthians 3:1-4	
<i>Organist:</i>	Mark	Joy	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Characteristics of False Teachers – Part 2	They Are Willingly Ignorant	
<i>Text:</i>	2 Peter 2:10-19	2 Peter 3:5-10	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Grace	Sophia	
Other Duties			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
	Today: 16/11/2008	Next Week: 23/11/2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling of Resident Minister: Continue to pray for the Lord's calling for a resident minister. The church leaders are praying about calling Rev Timothy Ki. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas (knee pain), Maria (ankle and joint pain), Constance (left heel pain), Maureen (knee pain), Anthony (recovery from collarbone fracture), Mark (sprained back), Jonathan (sprained ankle) • Pray for those who are seeking employment: John (interview this week), Constance (waiting for feedback from interview) • Pray for Journey Mercies: Mark & Hui Min (USA), Jasmine (Australia), Douglas (Ghana), Hubert (S'pore), Jiak Eng (S'pore) • Those serving on the Lord's Day: Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer.
<i>Ushers</i>	John / Evelyn	Josh / Sharon	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Hannah	Hannah	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Volunteers	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Josh	Nicholas	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 21 Nov	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Bible Study	
Sat 22 Nov	4.00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Rev Yeo Seow Phong	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £457.19		Lunch: £42.50	
<u>Memory Verse</u>			
<p><i>Last Week (November 08 Wk 2): 1 Corinthians 13:4</i></p> <p>Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,</p> <p><i>This Week (November 08 Wk 3): 1 Corinthians 13:5</i></p> <p>Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;</p>			