



# 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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## A Christian Perspective of Today's World

*By Rev Jack Sin, Pastor of Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore*

*Adapted from Maranatha Messenger dated 4th October 2009*

### Introduction

Firstly, Christians have a different paradigm of life and calling and we need to recognise that we live in a spiritually depraved, fallen and confused world, which has its depraved programme and godless agenda under the power and influence of the evil one (2 Cor4:4).

It is an immoral and corrupt world. It is a world of fleshly temptations, overt and covert sin. We are exposed daily to seductive pictures, suggestive articles and messages from magazines, TV, music, newspapers, billboards, internet web portals and other mass media. There are many teenagers in Singapore who are experimenting with premarital sex at ages as young as 14. It is not uncommon for youths in Singapore to frequent pubs and night spots for a dance or alcohol drink. We need therefore to beware of forming a secret, illicit love affair with the world as the Word of God has warned us (Jas 4:4).

### It is a Supernatural World

The post modern era is one of spiritual deception and confusion. We are living in a time of great spiritual compromise and delusion. Many are enamored with New Age practices like yoga and tarot cards which gain more adherents everyday. The ecumenical spirit that preaches that all religion leads to God is on the ascendance. Cults of all sorts (JWs, Mormons, Christian Science, Freemason etc.) and the occult are making inroads into the church. Occult practices and horror are on the increase in both the east and the west through the mass media; via films and videos (Aliens in the Attic, Phobia, Where Got ghost? Star Wars, Corpse Bride, Harry Potter etc.), music, books and the avenue of the Internet. Many gullible people are confused and some are sincerely deluded into following some of the aberrant groups with their unbiblical teachings and practices. How do we guard ourselves against the false doctrines of the day? We need to be informed, vigilant, alert and watchful, and the following writing is tailored to help us discern truth from error, light from darkness.

New Age started in reaction to mainstream Judeo-Christianity, which was regarded as too "patriarchal" with little concern for the environment, and became an exploration of Eastern faiths and mysticism. It soon evolved into an umbrella concept that covered a wide spectrum of beliefs and practices, including alternative medicine, the environmental movement, feminism and pagan nature worship. And also included are assorted mind-development courses based on unconventional research as well as alternative medicine; all of which promise to unleash the mind's untapped potential.

The 21st century is flooded with a new threat to Protestant Christianity and it is a kind of spiritual movement called the New Age. It is actually hard to define what it actually is in one word or one sentence. It is a religious philosophical orientation of pantheistic, syncretistic, humanistic and superstitious belief in an impersonal spiritual force of the universe and how it affects our lives. It manifests itself in different ways like yoga, transcendental meditation, saving mother earth, new age music, geomancy, vegetarianism, holistic healing, secular psychology; the worship of self and other spiritual forces outside or within us called ancient spirit guides. It has infiltrated the health service, entertainment world, corporate and marketing sphere, government, church and other organisations. It is a practice of seeking to know about the unknown and the future, not from the Bible or God, but from other sources. It is as old as the Garden of Eden when the...

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serpent said to Eve, 'ye shall be as gods' (Gen 3:5). This lie continues to deceive and mislead many gullible youths today.

God through Moses forewarned the people of God in Deut 18:9-14 of the coming of the malevolent New Age movement which was hatched by Satan in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:5,6). He gave names like enchanter, necromancer, who casts spells or uses palmistry, or seeks supernatural help from the dead rather than God, like the witch or wizard (i.e. Harry Potter). New Age practices are prevalent in Singapore in the health, education, business and entertainment services. So-called holistic therapy involving visualisation into the past or future, tarot cards, hypnosis, reiki, feng shui, looking at crystals and stars, (i.e. horoscopes) and other cosmic natural forces, even New Age music and aromatherapy, are used for healing these days. Beware of all these tantalising and attractive demonic manifestations (Lev 19:26-31) that mislead us with false promises and spiritual ideals that is contrary to the Word of God.

It is a compromised world of not distinguishing between right and wrong. For example, homosexuality is considered as an alternate lifestyle and not sin as defined in the Bible (Rom 1:26-28). Abortion of a baby is acceptable in many countries and divorce is an easy and quick way out of an unhappy or inconvenient marriage. Human cloning is also approved in some European countries already in the name of science and research. We have lost our moral bearings when the Word of God is not taken seriously as an authoritative and infallible standard of truth and morality; as shown even by some Christians and churches.

It is a fallen and depraved world destined one day for serious eternal judgment by God. Christ is coming again to judge the world and the signs of the end times are evident before us (2 Cor 5:10, 2 Pet 3:9-14).

## **Our Response**

What then should the Christian demeanour and proper response be? We shall consider the following:

### **Duty of a Warning and Watching Ministry**

This is a knowledge based world with global communication made easily over the internet through various electronic avenues. We have a duty to use knowledge in a constructive manner and to minister to others in an edifying way. Whether it is via a SMS, email, web site or blog or even Facebook or Twitter to inform, direct, warn, admonish and reach out to others with the truth of God's Word, and guide them in the straight and narrow way. There may be others who have backslided or swayed from the Lord and we are to be mouthpieces to guide and lead them back to the straight and narrow way. We must remember to "watch and pray" and not be caught up with the excesses of life (Lk 21:34-36). We are always to be alert and vigilant to the soon coming of our Lord. Like Noah of old, we are to share Christ with others and win souls with the everlasting gospel of life before it is too late, warning them of the serious consequences to come.

### **Duty of a Separated and Consecrated Life**

Christians have a sober calling to live a holy and sanctified life that is separated from sin and depravity, unto God. 2 Cor 6:14-18 says, *'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.'*

We must be careful that we be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom 12:1-2). The mind is the main battleground today. There must be a constant process of learning from God's Word and to let it influence our thinking and mindset; instead of the corrupt and unedifying worldly paradigms. Perverse thinking and immorality have made havoc of many youths, Christian homes and churches today. Materialism, evil thoughts and the inordinate quest for wealth have drawn many Christians away from their service to the Lord. There are Christians who are hindered in their witness and rendered fruitless by an obsession with worldliness and covetousness. We need therefore to watch against all these diabolical stratagems of the evil one. (Lk 12:15).

One of the attributes of a Christian is that of holiness; one who is set apart or consecrated to his God or...

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sanctified. We are not to be corrupted or contaminated by this world; as we strive to keep ourselves clean or pure, spiritually and physically, sanctified before the Lord.

We are not to like or act as if to like the world and take on unedifying practices or activities. When our worldly friends want to go to a nightclub to party and get drunk; as a Christian, we do not want to join them. The world rejects God and His ways and seeks its own pleasures but we are different because of our calling. In these last days, what we see in the mass media in the form of videos, Internet websites or television, will affect the way we see the world. It primarily glorifies, horror, adultery, violence, the occult and promotes sexual immorality and promiscuity between people who are both married and not married (2 Tim 3:1-5). Beware of immoral, suggestive and questionable websites or web portals that encourage a flippant and frivolous lifestyle that is contrary to the teachings of the bible. We are to reject them; all these being unedifying practices and mores of the depraved world and be set apart for the glory of God (2 Cor 6:14-18). As James in 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.'*

There are unedifying and worldly sitcoms, dramas, worldly games and shows that are full of coarse jesting and dirty jokes; ghost movies with horror themes; promiscuous sexual connotations, the teaching or practices of the occult (Diablo, World of Warcraft, Halo 3, Counterstrike, Harry Potter etc). It is either the Holy Word or Hollywood. It is the Word vs. the World, God vs. Gold and they do not get along very well. As Christians we are to avoid these and not to participate in them.

To be effective for God. remember what Paul in 2 Tim 2:20-22 says, *'But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.'*

To live a dynamic Christian life pleasing to Christ, we must understand and live up to the calling of a Christian as a faithful steward, alert soldier, strong athlete, patient farmer, good ambassador, mindful stranger and pilgrim. *'This world is not our home, we are just passing'* through as the hymn writer says. So let us not to be enthralled with the world and its possessions and allurements for tomorrow we may break camp and leave it totally. We are not to invest too much time and energy and resources into this ephemeral world that will be destroyed one day. Someday, we will have to leave all things behind (1 Tim 6:6-10) and we are all accountable to God one day. Rather, as Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:11-12, *'But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.'*

## **Conclusion**

We need a spiritual examination or audit of our lives (Psa 139:23-24). The discipline of your thought life is important. Think of the Lord and read His Word and of all the consequences that what will happen if you continue in worldly compromise. Philippians 4:8 says, *'Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.'*

God can give us the victory over sinful lusts, worldly compromises and immoral addictions when we consciously fight against them with the strength He provides (Col 3:5-12). Remember what Paul says in 1 Cor 6:12, *'All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.'*

Finally, we need to put on at all times the whole armour of God (Eph 6:10-18) and rely fully on the Lord in fervent prayer and not on our own strength. It is a spiritual warfare lest Satan takes advantage of us. He is the father of lies, the accuser of the brethren and he is a roaring lion seeking any that he may devour (1 Pet 5:8). However, we need not fear the evil one and his wiles, let the Lord be our refuge and strength and let him defend, transform and work within us towards sanctification and let us grow daily in the word and the fear of God. We can have victory over Satan, and the temptations of worldliness. If we first submit to the Lord for the former will finally flee from us finally (Jas 4:7-8). On our own, we are powerless. There is no other way, for without Him we can do nothing and we will not be able to survive in this wicked and perverse generation. Be kept pure unto the Lord till he comes.

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

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
<b>Morning</b>	<i>Today: 01/11/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 08/11/2009</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Terence Tan to our worship services last Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Joey Seow	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	
<i>Message:</i>	Christian Faith is True – Part 1	Christian Faith is True - Part 2	
<i>Text:</i>	Acts 28:23-24	Psalm 73:24-26	
<i>Organist:</i>	Grace	Anthony	
<b>Evening</b>			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Joey Seow	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	
<i>Message:</i>	Faith in Good Report	Faith in God's Creation	
<i>Text:</i>	Hebrews 11:2	Hebrews 11:3	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Joy	Sophia	
Other Duties			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
	<i>Today: 01/11/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 08/11/2009</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Church Resident Minister:</b> Thank God for the safe arrival of Pastor Ki. He will be ministering to us for 2 weeks. Continue to pray for Pastor and Mrs Ki's preparation to return to London in December.</li> <li>• <b>Bible Study:</b> Pastor Ki will be giving a bible study on Psalm 1. Please spend the upcoming week preparing for DHW Lesson 24 (Gen 31).</li> <li>• <b>Lord's Supper:</b> Next week, we will be observing the Lord's Supper. Please come with your hearts prepared.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> - Yetta's mum (recovery from stroke &amp; cancer), Constance (flu &amp; ankle), Douglas (knee pain), Barbara (Alzheimer's), Prema (thyroid &amp; skin condition), Eld Jack Ford (old age and knees), Margaret (asthma), Mrs Ki's father (lung cancer), John (ankle, wisdom tooth check-up), Eld Chew (recovery from shoulder injury), Sophia (cough), Mrs Ki (back pain)</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are away or on travel:</b> Mrs Ki (Australia), Nicolas (Belgium), Joey &amp; family (UK)</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment/new opportunities:</b> Joy, Brian, Yetta</li> <li>• <b>Pray for the Church repair works needed:</b> Electrics, roof, taps and notice boards.</li> </ul>
	<i>Today: 01/11/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 08/11/2009</i>	
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jonathan / Joy	Jonathan / Sharon	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Tbd	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Joshua	John	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Psalm 1	Lesson 24 (Gen 31)	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 06 Nov	7:30pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b> Old Testament Messages	
Sat 07 Nov	4:00pm	<b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b> Led by Jonathan	
Worship Service Collections			
<b>Offering:</b> £466.74		<b>Lunch:</b> £40.90	
<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>God Needs Our Faithfulness</u></h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 40px;"><i>Adapted from "In Green Pastures" by J.R. Miller, D.D.</i></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 40px;">God's providence is always good, but he needs our faithfulness, our truest and best work always, to give full expression and result to the good that he plans. It is possible for us to mar the good that God intends, and to turn his work into disaster that he never intended. God never does his work unfaithfully, and we dare not charge to his providence the preventable accidents of life, those which come through men's carelessness or dishonesty or greed of gain or fault of any sort. We must remember that even the providence of God cannot work completely or perfectly without our little work, each and every one's little work, well done.</p>			