



NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 14 No. 49

LORD’S DAY 05 DECEMBER 2010

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 117

Psalm 100

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 4 – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

RHC 20 – “All People That on Earth do Dwell”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 48

Genesis 11

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 48 - verses 1-2, 7-14
(to the tune of Forest Green, RHC 172)

RHC 246 – “Open My Eyes,
That I May See”

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 558 – “We Plough the Fields”

Scriptural Text

Matthew 8:1-4

Genesis 11-12

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Timothy Ki

Rev Timothy Ki

Sermon Message

Christ’s Cleansing of a Leper
RHC 292 – “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

God’s Covenantal Blessings
RHC 552 – “God of Our Fathers”

*Closing Hymn **

Rev Timothy Ki

Rev Timothy Ki

*Benediction / 3-Fold Amen **

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

RHC 13 (stanzas 1 & 4)

* Congregation Stands

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

Church Theme 2010 – “Believers Built in Christ”

BIBLICAL PRAYER – PART 4

Eighth, Solomon prayed at the time of the Temple dedication to the Lord. (1) 1 Kings 8:30, “And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.” (cf. 1 Kings 8:29, “That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, *even* toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place”; 2 Chronicles 6:19, 20, 29, 35, 39, 40). There are a few things we need to consider. (a) We need to know that prayer needs to be specific for specific events or occasions, especially if it is a public prayer. 1 Kings 8:22, “And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven.” As far as his prayer posture is concerned, he stood and lifted up his hands. It is clearly a public prayer because he was in the presence of all the congregation of Israel. In a small scale, during our worship services, we have public prayers by the chairman and the preacher. It is not their personal prayer time when they address their personal and private issues. Instead it is a public prayer that must focus on issues related to the body of Christ, general concerns, or particular prayer items the congregation needs to pray together. Examples are plenteous. We may pray for the sick, the travelers, the discouraged, ministries, church affairs, and many others. In the meanwhile, let me inject a few of my pastoral thoughts into this talk. The public prayer is an important part of worship. It is for the glory of God and the edification of the believers. Thus, unspoken prayer requests should not be brought into the public prayer. If someone asked us to pray for him/her privately, then confidentiality must be kept. Public prayer is not a time to expose everybody’s problems. It is a proper act for individuals to approach the people who pray a public prayer, asking them not to mention their private matters. Private prayers can be made in private. The public prayer must be focused on the reason why this prayer needs to be made in public. Solomon was dedicating the Temple to the Lord, and his prayer was not just his personal prayer, but a public prayer for the sake of his people. Thus, every part of his prayer is related to the Temple dedication or Temple related issues. There are times to pray for the sick; if, then, we focus on the sick, their illnesses, and God’s grace of healing. When we need to pray for church ministries, then we pray for them primarily. If we pray for the worship service, then we pray for the worship service. I must confess here my weaknesses and deviate a bit from the primary focus of the talk. There was a time when my wife and I had a barbeque dinner with some friends. The fire was strong, and the meat was ready for cooking. I put the barbeque meat on the grill and asked one friend to say grace. He started from the fall of man in the book of Genesis, expounded the work of redemption throughout the Old Testament, and finally ended in the new heaven and new earth in the book of Revelation. It was a solid preaching. I must confess that I was taking care of my barbeque meat while he earnestly prayed. I wanted to save the meat. The only thing I can say is that he prayed for a while. I do not remember if he prayed for the meal, by the way. I also remember that one person in one particular church (many years ago somewhere) prayed a public prayer during Sunday morning worship service. That prayer went on and on, and my memory is not clear by now, but I am sure that it was more than forty minutes. That person sincerely prayed, and that prayer included every name of the pastor’s family and the pianist’s hands. What I vividly remember is that I heard someone snoring while the prayer was going on. When we pray a public prayer, we need to remember that we are praying on behalf of the whole congregation for particular reasons that concern everyone in the congregation. Thus, our public prayer has to be focused, focused on particular issues or matters. That was the way Solomon prayed during the Temple dedication service.

(b) As David prayed, so Solomon focused on God in his prayer. It is very obvious throughout this prayer. 1 Kings 8:23-24, "And he said, LORD God of Israel, *there is* no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart: ²⁴ Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled *it* with thine hand, as *it is* this day." He calls Him, LORD God (*Jehovah Elohim*) of Israel in verse 23. There are a few uniqueness of God mentioned in the verse, and every one of them is also Solomon's confession of faith in God. (i) There is no God like our God. The uniqueness of God must be found in His oneness. (ii) The uniqueness of God is also found in His attributes. He keeps His covenant. It refers to His faithfulness, truthfulness, and also His immutability. If He promises, He keeps it. (iii) The uniqueness of God also indicates that He is the living God, not a dead idol. Unless He is the living Lord, He cannot keep His covenant. For example, Solomon talks about God's faithfulness in keeping His covenant with David. (iv) The uniqueness of God also indicates that He is near to His creatures. He is not a remote god, who does not care about the affairs of His creatures. He watches over them and knows about them, too. Thus, He can be of help in times of troubles. (v) The uniqueness of God also extends to His wisdom and might. If God promises, He fulfills them without failure. He is able, and nothing is impossible to Him. Based on all these notions, Solomon prayed to God.

(c) Solomon prayed in the presence of God. Prayer is not a repetition of magic formulas. It is a conversation and fellowship with God before His presence. In 1 Kings 8:30, Solomon asked the Lord to hear the people's prayers toward the Temple. It was not because the Temple itself had magical powers to generate some sort of mystical event to provide answers to our prayers. 1 Kings 8:29 says, "That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, *even* toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place." The Temple was the place God met His people in the Old Testament. His name was there. God allowed His people to build a sanctuary for Him. It was not because He did not have a place to rest. It was not because He needed a place to stay or He was bound to be in one place. The sinful mankind could not access the holy God. He graciously provided an access for them to come to His presence through the Temple (or Tabernacle) services. Exodus 25:8 says, "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." We may see its New Testament version in John 14:23, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Solomon prayed in the presence of the Lord. There was an awareness of the presence of God. I hope and pray that we all are aware of it and experience it by the grace of God.

(d) Solomon recognized the authority and glory of God. He said in 1 Kings 8:30, "And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive." Though Solomon was dedicating the Temple to God for His abode, he knew that God is not that small to be contained in a building. God's abode is in heaven. He is glorious and majestic, and there is no way to limit Him by any means. Solomon acknowledged the glory of God in heaven. There was no bragging on Solomon's part. Though the Temple must be beautiful, and the building project was a very expensive exercise, nothing was worthy of God. In his prayer, there is a humble admission that his best gift, the Temple, to the Lord, was nothing in comparison to the glory God had in heaven. Prayer truly begins with the glory of God and also ends with it. To God be the glory is the under tone of our prayers. I'll continue on this.

Lovingly,

Your Pastor

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.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK			WELCOME	
Fri 10 December	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.	
Sat 11 December	4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study		
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES	
Preacher	Rev Timothy Ki	Eld George Chew	Today: 05/12/2010	
Message	Christ's Healing Ministry 1	The Pre-eminence of Jesus Christ	Chairman:	Jonathan
Text	Matthew 8:5-17	Colossians 1:15-23	Organist:	Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist:	Joy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Come and join us every Saturday to pray and study God's Word. • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Today, Pastor Ki will continue on the series of studies based on "The Doctrine of Church." • Remember to pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Eld Ford, Lydia, Margaret, May, Mrs Ki, Jonathan. • Thank God for the safe delivery of a baby boy to John & Sharon. • Remember to pray for those who are/will be travelling: Yetta (S. Africa), Ps Ki & Samuel (Germany), Joey & Family (Florida) • Thank God for journey mercies: Brian (Germany to UK), Samuel & Daniel Ki (S'pore to UK) • Christmas Service (25/12 @ 11am): Please take note of the Christmas Service. Do invite family and friends to join us. • Lord's Supper: Please note that we will be observing the Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. 			Ushers:	Daniel / Evelyn
			Sunday School:	Jonathan / Joy
			Lunch:	Maureen
			Washing Up:	Volunteers
			PA Crew:	Lee-Wei / Joshua
			Next Week: 12/12/2010	
			Chairman:	Jonathan
			Organist:	Anthony
			Pianist:	Joy
			Ushers:	Daniel / John
			Sunday School:	Jonathan / Joy
			Lunch:	Mrs Ki
			Washing Up:	Volunteers
			PA Crew:	Brian / Joshua
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1010.67, Lunch: £51.50			MEMORY VERSE	
Attendance - Morning: 31 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 17 (A)			Last Week	
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 49			<i>"But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."</i>	
Q: Which is the Second Commandment?			Romans 8:25	
<i>A: The Second Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth, THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM, NOR SERVE THEM: for I the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.</i>			This Week	
Comments:			<i>"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."</i>	
The First Commandment tells us whom we are to worship. The Second tells us how we are to worship him. It tells us we must not think to represent God to our minds by any image visible or even conceivable, or that he will accept such worship at our hands. We must worship God, who is a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. We are here likewise told that God visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children; but this does not mean that the children have to bear the <i>guilt</i> of the fathers. It means only that bad fathers are punished by seeing the evils of their misconduct entailed upon their children, while good fathers are cheered and rewarded by the opposite.			Romans 8:26	
			Next Week	
			<i>"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."</i>	
			Romans 8:27	