



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. 47

LORD’S DAY 21 NOVEMBER 2010

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 122:1-4

Romans 5:12, 17-19

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 31 – “Blessed Be the Name”

RHC 121 – “My Redeemer”

*Opening Prayer **

Joey Seow

Joey Seow

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 46

Genesis 4

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 46, verses 1-5 & 11
(to the tune of St Anne, RHC 21)

RHC 288 – “Are You Washed in the Blood”

Announcements & Memory Verse

Joey Seow

Joey Seow

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 420 – “I Surrender All”

Scriptural Text

Matthew 7:15-20

Genesis 6:1-8

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Timothy Ki

Rev Timothy Ki

Sermon Message

Duties to Discern

The Power of Sin

*Closing Hymn **

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

RHC 281 – “There Is Power in the Blood”

*Benediction / 3-Fold Amen **

Rev Timothy Ki

Rev Timothy Ki

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 2

God's answer to Moses' prayer in Numbers 21 is unique. It is unique because His answer is probably very much different from our expectations. When Moses prayed to the Lord, the situation was very desperate. There were fiery serpents among the people, and many people were bitten by them and died. The people's request to Moses was very clear in verse 7, "Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people." The people wanted the Lord to remove the serpents. We need to pay attention to their repentance. They confessed their sins and then made a prayer request. God's response was positive but different from the people's expectation. (1) God delivered the people from the effects of the serpents' bites, which was death. (2) However, the fiery serpents were still around the people. (3) The people were continually exposed to be afflicted by the serpents' biting. (4) God commanded Moses to make a fiery serpent of brass. (5) Whosoever looked at the serpent of brass did not die, though they were bitten. I believe that there are a couple of lessons we need to learn in terms of God's answers to our prayers. (1) We need to expect that God's answers may not be given in the same forms or ways that we expect. (2) God's answers often challenge us to find His will and providence. God's ways are different from our ways. Therefore, though we may find that God's answers are not exactly the same as we have hoped for, we must know that God answers our prayers according to His ways. Remember that the fiery serpents did not disappear, but the people could be spared from the power of death, which was an answer to their prayers. (3) God's answers also encouraged them to take a step of faith. Instead of removing the serpents completely, the Lord required them to look at the brazen serpent, which was an act of faith. (4) God's answers urged them to take an act of obedience. Though deliverance was provided for them, if they had not looked at the brazen serpent, they would not have been delivered. (5) God answered their prayers in such a way that they would still have to face the dangers of the fiery serpents. Maybe it served dual purposes. One, it was a means to encourage them to rely and trust in God by faith continually. Two, it was also a reminder that God was displeased with their sinfulness and that there was a consequence of sin. Having said all the points above, we must be reminded that God answers our prayers in His own terms and ways. Thus, we are once again reminded that prayer is a way to find His will and that prayer is also a way of showing our obedience to Him.

Fifth, Samuel offered his prayer service for the children of Israel in 1 Samuel 7:5, "And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD." We must know that the children of Israel were going through spiritual darkness at the time of the beginning of Samuel's formal ministry. His predecessors, Eli and his two sons, were under God's punishment. There was no revelation from the Lord for some time. The ark of the covenant was taken by their enemies, but by God's intervention it was finally returned. It was a spiritually dark age. 1 Samuel 7:2b says that all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord. Probably it is an expression that they desired the Lord. Samuel preached to the house of Israel in 7:3. "And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, *then* put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." There are a few elements of precondition before Samuel's prayer. (1) They should return unto the Lord with all their hearts. (2) They had to put away all the idols. (3) They should prepare their hearts to the Lord. (4) They should serve God only. We cannot miss an important fact from this verse that Israel was under the oppression of the Philistines. It is possible that the afflictions by their enemies were the very reason for their mourning. When we are under the pressures of suffering and pain, we desire God's help. We are seeking after His presence. However, from Samuel's point of view, the afflictions his people had suffered with offered them opportunities to return to God.

That return must be accompanied with true repentance by giving their hearts to the Lord and forsaking all idols. In response to Samuel's challenging message, people put away all idols and served the Lord only in 7:4 and fasted in 7:6.

Samuel promised them his prayers in 7:5. They requested him to pray for them in particular in 7:8, "And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines." This verse clarifies the reason for Samuel's prayer. The people requested him to pray that the Lord might deliver them from the hands of the Philistines. The reason for prayer was their afflictions by the hands of their enemies. We have seen that Abraham and Moses prayed because of afflictions. Now, Samuel was asked to pray for afflictions again. It appears that afflictions encourage and stir up the hearts of people to pray. Though there is suffering and pain in affliction, it is good for our souls. They lead us to consider God and return our hearts to Him. God answered Samuel's prayers and smote the Philistines. 7:11 says that the children of Israel pursued the Philistines and smote them even more. In this case, God's answer was very clear because He intervened for Israel by sending them great thunder upon the Philistines (7:10). However, the children of Israel had to be actively involved in the battle and smite them. Thus, God answered Samuel's prayers by offering opportunities to the children of Israel to fight and smite their enemies.

Briefly consider the ways that God answered these prayers, (1) God intervened in the situation directly and removed His punishment from Abimelech and his household for Abraham; (2) God required the faith of the children of Israel by looking up at the brazen serpent, while He did not remove the fiery serpents and their dangers from the midst of the people, and (3) God opened the doors for the children of Israel so that they could help themselves. Notice that God dealt with His people differently at different times for different occasions. Thus, any attempt to standardize the acts of God in relation to our prayers is neither biblical nor wise. It also reminds us that we need to carefully consider what God has allowed us to have while we are praying and to find His will and providence from them.

Sixth, the children of Israel requested Samuel to pray for them. 1 Samuel 12:19, "And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins *this* evil, to ask us a king." The children of Israel asked Samuel for a king. This request was a sign of their rejection of God as their king (8:7). One of their spiritual traits was their forgetfulness. They forgot God very often and followed idols (cf. 12:10). Such spiritual corruption resulted in afflictions. God dealt with them according to His justice. However, whenever they cried to Him and confessed their sins, He forgave them and delivered them from their afflictions. Now again, all the people requested Samuel to pray for them. They confessed their sins again in 12:19. Behind their confession and humility, there was a demonstration of the power of God in 12:17. The people were afraid of the Lord and Samuel in 12:18. Then, Samuel said in 12:23, "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way." Before he promised them that he would not cease to pray for them, he spoke to them to turn away from idol worship and wickedness. He also said that not to pray for them was a sin. However, his prayer did not come without giving them lessons first. They are to (1) Fear the Lord; (2) Serve Him in truth with all their heart; (3) Consider how great things He has done for them in 12:24; and (4) If they will do wickedly, God will punish them in 12:25. Prayer did not exonerate them from their sins as if they had not sinned against God. Then, how did God answer to the prayer this time? There are two things. (1) He did not bring them into afflictions this time. There was no immediate divine punishment. And (2) though prayer was made, their repeated sins would not be automatically pardoned. There would be consequences of sins. Prayer does not grant automatic pardon.

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 26 November	7:00pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony Psalm 124 to 126 – Mr Brian Green	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Jonas Woo to our worship services last Lord's Day.	
Sat 27 November	4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study		
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES	
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	Today: 21/11/2010	
<i>Message</i>	Signs of the Kingdom Citizens	The Progress of Sin	Chairman: Joey	
<i>Text</i>	Matthew 7:21-29	Genesis 6:8-11:32	Organist: Joy	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Anthony	
<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. • Remember to pray for those who are/will be travelling: Brian (Germany) • Thank God for journey mercies: Helen (UK), Simon (Australia) • Christmas Service (25/12 @ 11am): Please take note of the Christmas Service. Do invite family and friends to join us. 			Ushers: Jonathan / John	
			Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy	
			Lunch: Mrs Ki	
			Washing Up: Volunteers	
			PA Crew: Lee-Wei / Joshua	
			Next Week: 28/11/2010	
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £364.94, Lunch: £64.00 Attendance - Morning: 29 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 20 (A) 2 (C)			Chairman: John	
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 47			Organist: Anthony	
Q: What is forbidden in the First Commandment?			Pianist: Joy	
<i>A: The First Commandment forbiddeth the <u>denying</u>, or <u>not worshipping and glorifying the true God, as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to him alone.</u></i>			Ushers: Daniel / Constance	
Comments:			Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy	
The First Commandment forbids us: 1. To deny God, which is <i>atheism</i> ; 2. To worship any other God, which is <i>idolatry</i> ; 3. To glorify any other God, which is <i>profanity</i> .			Lunch: Mrs Ki	
Proofs:			Washing Up: Volunteers	
Psalm 14:1, Matthew 4:10, Romans 1:25			PA Crew: Jonathan / Joshua	
			MEMORY VERSE	
			Last Week	
			<i>"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."</i>	
			Romans 8:23	
			This Week	
			<i>"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?"</i>	
			Romans 8:24	
			Next Week	
			<i>"But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."</i>	
			Romans 8:25	