



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. 39

LORD’S DAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2010

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Evening Service – 4pm</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Isaiah 40:28-31	Psalm 113:1-3
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 47 – “Great is Thy Faithfulness”	RHC 61 – “O For A Thousand Tongues”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 38	Psalm 31:1-24
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 38 verses 1-4, 21-22</i> (to the tune of St Peter, RHC 456)	RHC 352 – “All the Way My Saviour Leads Me”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 245 – “Channels Only”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 6:19-34	Jonah 1:1-17
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Devoted Heart to God</i>	<i>God Who is in Control</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 395 – “A Heart Like Thine”	RHC 353 – “God Will Take Care of You”
<i>Benediction / 3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	<i>RHC 13 (stanzas 1 & 4)</i>

* 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”

ARE YOU REALLY RESPONSIBLE?

Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God.' (James 1:13)

Charles Templeton, a newspaper reporter from Toronto, after a night of carousing and drunkenness, says that he had a conversion experience. By 1945 he was preaching with Billy Graham at *Youth for Christ* rallies around the U.S. and Europe. He began, however, to have doubts about the authority of Scripture and even began questioning God's existence because of the suffering he saw from World War II. The last I heard he was ill, near death, and still an atheist. The sordid details of Roman Catholic priests who plied their paedophilia on young boys rightly incites anger and disgust, but are the victims of paedophilia justified in living ungodly lives and practicing atheism? And the alcoholic who blames his problems on his spouse or upbringing is failing to take responsibility for his sin. And what about your sinful propensities and practices? Who are you blaming?

In a culture that sues McDonalds for our own obesity we should not then be surprised that many blame God for their problems. James, the half-brother of Jesus, is moving us back to the holiness and powerful Christian living of Pentecost, a height from which the church had already fallen; and he does so by promoting the pathway to holiness, telling us to rejoice in every circumstance, to see God in every trial, but also to see the devil in every temptation. James tells us three important things in this verse.

First, *temptation happens*. No doubt about it! Adam was tempted (*Gen. 3*). So was David (*2 Sam. 11*). So was Jesus (*Matt. 4*). And so are all of us (*1 Cor. 10:13*). And these temptations come from the outside.

Second, when we face these temptations *we must never say that God is the one tempting us*, moving us, inciting, inducing, or seducing us to sin. God is never the culprit. By this I am not saying that he does not test us. He certainly put a severe test before Abraham (*Gen. 22*). Nor am I saying that evil is not part of his sovereign plan. He is the author of calamity (*Isa. 45:6-7, Amos 3:6*) and he raises up people and nations to do their evil and to bring judgment, all the while holding them responsible for their sinful actions (*Jer. 51:20-26*). Nor am I saying that God does not stir up people to do what they desire to do. Joseph came to see that while his brothers meant evil, God used it powerfully for good (*Gen. 45:5-8*). Nor am I saying that God does not give people over to their own wickedness so that they may be judged (*Rom. 1:24ff*).

And third, James tells us *why we must never lay our sin on God*. Why not? Because he is perfectly holy and therefore incapable of doing evil, including tempting or seducing anyone against his own will to sin. The three-fold declaration by the seraphim ought to make clear this truth (*Isa. 6:1ff*).

What does this mean, then? Quite emphatically, James is saying that you alone, not God or anyone else for that matter, are totally responsible for your sin. Adam tried to pass the buck to Eve and we have been trying to do the same thing ever since (*Gen. 3:10-12*). Understand this vital principle — *you will never grow in gospel holiness until you acknowledge you alone, not God or anyone else, are responsible for your own sinful behaviour*. This may be easy to say but it is very hard to practice daily.

Until the alcoholic, for example, stops blaming his wife, friends, childhood trauma, or the devil's tempting influence, then he will never make progress in holiness. Until the man given to outbursts of anger with his wife or children acknowledges that he is the culprit, not the tense circumstances of living with too little money, too little time; then he will make little progress in biblical holiness. Until the man addicted to porn quits blaming his miserable marriage or job, saying he only wants relief and a little pleasure; will he make progress in 'casting out the demon' of decadent passion. This is fundamental to gospel holiness. Quit passing the buck. Quit blaming God, your past, your circumstances, or the devil. I am not saying that these are not present, but you alone are responsible for your sinful actions.

So, what must you do? After the transfiguration of Jesus (*Mark 9:2-8*), when he came down from the mountain with Peter, James, and John, Mark tells us that they came upon a dispute between religious leaders and Jesus' followers (*Mark 9:14-29*). A man had brought his demon-possessed son to Jesus and his disciples were unable to heal the boy. This boy had serious problems — the demons threw him to the ground, he foamed at the mouth, ground his teeth, stiffened out, and was periodically hurled by the demons into the fire or water. The desperate father no doubt lived in perpetual fear and vigilance, waiting for the day when the demons finally succeeded in killing his son and taking him to hell. What anguish, fear, and sorrow! When Jesus addressed the father he responded by saying, 'If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us!' Jesus responds with a question of incredulity, 'If you can!' In essence he is saying, 'What do you mean, "If I can." Of course I can. All things are possible for him who believes.' The father then uttered those famous words, 'I do believe; help me in my unbelief.' Jesus displayed his authority and power by casting out the demons, rendering the son completely healthy and fit.

You are like the man who says, 'I do believe. Help me in my belief.' On the one hand, you do believe you have a new heart that loves God and hates sin, that you have the righteousness of Jesus which cleanses you of all your filth, and that you have the holiness of Jesus by the Holy Spirit so that you may obey his commands (*Ezek. 36:25-27*). On the one hand you know you have the divine nature within you (*2 Pet. 1:3-4*) which means you have all you need pertaining to life and godliness. And on the one hand, you know God is faithful to finish the good work he began in you (*Phil. 1:6*). But on the other hand, you look at your own sinful thoughts, values, motives, attitudes, speech, and behaviour and know no good thing dwells in your flesh, that the wishing to do good is present in you but the doing of the good is not, that when you do the very thing you do not want to do, then it is no longer you doing it, but sin that dwells in you (*Rom. 7:18-20*).

What must you do with your sin? I am speaking in general terms; here's what you need to do — just as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him (*Col. 2:6*). You received Jesus' righteousness by faith, being cleansed of all your sin. You simply believed, trusted in him, in what he did on the cross, to satisfy the Father's wrath, to take away your sin and guilt. Like one who trusts his parachute completely to save him when he jumps from the plane, so you trusted in Christ's redeeming death and resurrection. You put all your trust and confidence in Jesus' redemptive work. Likewise, do the same with your holiness and sanctification. Simply ask Jesus for his holiness and watch him fill you with his presence and power that very moment.

Rev. Allen M Baker is Pastor of Christ Community Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Adapted from Banner of Truth dated 13th August 2010

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 01 October	7:30pm	No Young Adults Fellowship	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
Sat 02 October	4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: (led by Pastor Ki)	
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	<u>Today: 26/09/2010</u>
Message	Lessons About Judging	God Who is Love	Chairman: John Poh
Text	Matthew 7:1-6	Jonah 2	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 Chew, Jonathan, Daniel, Maureen, Mrs Ki, Sonia. Thank God for Brian completing his radiotherapy sessions. • Remember to pray for those who are/will be travelling: Eka & family (Nigeria), Nick (Belgium), Lydia (Paris) • Thank God for journey mercies: Pastor & Mrs Ki (Australia to UK), Brian (M'sia to UK), Sharon (Norway) 			Ushers: Jonathan / Daniel
			Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy
			Lunch: Constance
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Brian / Joshua
<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Service Collections Last Sunday: £423.10, Lunch: £32.50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attendance - Morning: 20 (A) 2 (C), Evening: 9 (A) Prayer Meeting (25/09): 9 (A)</p>			<u>Next Week: 03/10/2010</u>
			Chairman: Jonathan
			Organist: Joy
			Pianist: Anthony
			Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 39			MEMORY VERSE
			Last Week
			<i>"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."</i>
			Romans 8:15
			This Week
<p>Q: What is the duty which God requireth of man?</p> <p><i>A: The duty which God requireth of man, is OBEDIENCE TO HIS REVEALED WILL.</i></p> <p><u>Comments:</u> Having just learned what God has done, is doing, and means to do for us, we are now to be told what he requires us to do <i>for him</i>. What he requires of us is <i>obedience</i> to all that he reveals. This is our <i>duty</i>, or <i>what we ought to do</i>.</p> <p><u>Proofs:</u> Ecclesiastes 12:13, Micah 6:8</p>			<i>"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"</i>
			Romans 8:16
			Next Week
			<i>"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."</i>
			Romans 8:17