



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. 15 No. 37

LORD’S DAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2011

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>	Deuteronomy 31:7-13	Psalm 100
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 45 – “We Gather Together”	RHC 41 – “Before Jehovah’s Aweful Throne”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 87	Psalm 27
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 87 verses 1-5</i> (to the tune of Wiltshire, RHC 345)	RHC 39 – “Thee Will I Love”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 336 – “Only Believe”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Psalm 121	Ephesians 2:18
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Dr David Allen	Dr David Allen
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>The Lord is Thy Keeper</i>	<i>Access Unto the Father</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 370 – “Nearer, My God, to Thee”	RHC 292 – “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”
<i>Benediction / 3-Fold Amen *</i>	Dr David Allen	Dr David Allen
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	<i>Lord Dismiss Us (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 2011 – “Continue in the Word” – 2 Timothy 3:14

MARKS OF A FAITHFUL CHURCH MEMBER – PART 2

By Dr. Joel Beeke... Adapted from Banner of Truth dated 10 December 2010

Last week, the article gave us the introduction to the marks of a faithful church member. Also, we covered 3 marks: Mark One: Receiving Christ's Word, Mark Two: Union with Christ's Person and Mark Three: Connected to Christ's People. This week, we will conclude the article.

Mark Four: Serving Others for Christ

Ephesians 4:16 describes the next mark of a healthy church as the '*effectual working in the measure of every part.*' Every part of the church must do its job. Amazingly, we experience the Trinity through the work of every member of Christ's body. First Corinthians 12:4–7 says, '*Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are different ministries, but the same Lord. And there are different results, but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all.*' We all have different gifts, and we all need each other. Some people are gifted in helping the hurting; others are good at teaching. One Christian can give much money to help the poor and spread the gospel. Another is anointed with the spirit of prayer. Each member has a role to play in the advancement of God's kingdom. To be the body of Christ, we must be Christ's hands and feet on earth and cooperate with each other in the Holy Spirit to accomplish the Father's will.

10. We personally serve with zeal. Serving Christ must arise from the zeal of our hearts. Paul exhorts us in Romans 12:1 to present our bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord because of his mercies to us. The sacrifice of Christ's cross should propel us to sacrifice ourselves to do his will. Paul says shortly after that verse that this living sacrifice takes shape according to a believer's particular gifts (vv. 3–8).

Later in the same chapter, the apostle also warns us against laziness in serving the Lord (v. 11). We must be fervent in serving the Lord. Fervent literally means burning hot, like water heated to boiling or metal heated to the point of glowing. Are you burning hot for the Lord? If you are zealous, you don't need a title or personal invitation to serve at a meeting or ministry. This does not mean you should thrust yourself into positions of leadership or teaching. Rather, be zealous to serve others, not to draw attention to yourself. Offer to happily take on the difficult and mundane jobs of the church for Jesus Christ's sake.

11. We publicly witness for Christ. In Ephesians 4:15, Paul says we should speak the truth in love. In this context truth is the knowledge of the Son of God (v. 13), or Bible doctrine (v. 14). Your neighbours, co-workers, friends, and family members might not come to your church to listen to a preacher, but you can be their gospel friend by speaking a good word for Jesus in your backyard, in the lunch room, or in an aeroplane. The gospel is so simple that even a child can explain it, and so deep that we will spend eternity trying to fathom it. At its heart the gospel is the good news that God saves sinners through his Son.

Paul offers a brief sketch of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3–5a: '*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen.*' With that good news comes Christ's call to repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15). Be confident that the gospel is the power of God for salvation. Behind its words stands the infinite power of God and the finished work of Christ. When you speak the gospel, you are unleashing a lion! It is God's instrument on earth to advance his kingdom. So seek first his kingdom by being a public witness for Christ.

12. We practice good stewardship We make our commitment to Christ's cause practical by giving money. Jesus says in Matthew 6:19–21, *'Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'* Our money is a temporary gift to us, like Monopoly money which is useless when the game is over. Our life is also over quickly. A wise church member gives as much money as he can to advance the kingdom of Jesus Christ. After tithing to your local church, give to missionaries and ministries that are spreading the gospel. How delighted God is when his children give for the sake of his kingdom!

The fourth mark of a faithful church member is serving others in Christ's name, and for Christ's sake. May God enable us to be servants of the church, like the Christians Paul names in Romans 16: Phebe ('a succourer of many'), Priscilla and Aquila ('who have for my life laid down their own necks'), Mary ('who bestowed much labour upon us'), Urbane ('our helper in Christ'), Timothy ('my workfellow), and many others.

Mark Five: Growing into Christ's Image

Christ *'maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love,'* Ephesians 4:16 says. God wants the body of Christ to grow in him. Ephesians 4:13b says the goal of this growth is *'unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.'* Our growth will not be complete until we, the church of Jesus Christ, reflect our Lord in his splendid holiness and righteousness. What a glorious destiny we have, to be conformed to the glorious image of God's Son!

As advanced in the faith as the apostle Paul was, he still longed to grow. His yearning for growth came from his insatiable desire for Christ. In Philippians 3:8a, 13–14, he says, *'I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.... Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.'*

13. We are personally humble. In Ephesians 4:1–2a, Paul says, *'I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation [or calling] wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness.'* The first quality of a worthy walk with Christ is *'all lowliness,'* that is, humility. We were once spiritually dead in our sins and trespasses, but in his great love, God made us alive with the miraculous power of Christ's resurrection from the dead (Eph. 2:1–5). That truly makes us humble.

Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) said gospel humility comes not only from fear of judgment, but also from 'a discovery of God's holy beauty' which breaks our heart because of our rebellion against him. By this gospel humility, we are 'brought sweetly to yield, and freely and with delight to prostrate themselves at the feet of God.' Scripture tells us, *'God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble'* (James 4:6; see also 1 Pet. 5:5). If you want to grow in the grace of Jesus Christ, you must humble yourself before him. Alongside faith in Christ, humility before God is a primary qualification for spiritual growth into the image of Christ, for it is the essence of the One who humbled himself by being obedient even unto death on the cross.

14. We faithfully attend prayer meetings. In addition to private intercessory prayer, we reveal our quest for spiritual growth by participating in prayer meetings of the church. Acts 2:42 says of the first Christ followers, *'They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.'* The early church gathered often for prayer. They prayed while waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14, 24). They continued to pray together as more were added to the church and persecution arose (Acts 3:1; 4:23–31; 12:5, 12).

Charles Spurgeon (1834–1892) recognized prayer as the mark that preceded his own ministry. He wrote,

When I came to New Park Street Chapel, it was a mere handful of people to whom I first preached, yet I could never forget how earnestly they prayed. Sometimes they seemed to plead as though they could really see the Angel of the Covenant [that is, Christ] present with them, and as if they must have a blessing from him. More than once we were so awe-struck with the solemnity of the meeting that we sat silent for some moments while the Lord's Power appeared to overshadow us.

God sends or withholds revival as he deems best. Yet God also answers prayer. If faithful membership in the church means anything, it means devotion to prayer and to gathering for prayer. Christ was known as a man of prayer, and he taught his disciples to pray. In prayer, we come together in Jesus' name and Christ is present among us; we come to the Father, seeking his Spirit like hungry children asking for bread. Our good Father will not turn us away. So attend prayer meetings. They will transform you into Christ's image more than you know.

15. We engage in meditation. One practical dimension of growing in Christ is meditation. This does not mean emptying your mind of rational thought by repeating a syllable or contemplating a conundrum such as, 'What is the sound of one hand clapping?' In Christian meditation, your mind hovers over a biblical truth like a bee over a flower to draw out its sweetness. Meditation is taking time mentally and emotionally to digest what you learn from listening to and reading God's Word. Without proper digestion, you will not benefit from the nutrition you have received.

Thomas Manton (1620–1677) said, *'Faith is lean and ready to starve unless it be fed with continual meditation on the promises.'* Meditation is crucial for growing in Christ's image. The Book of Psalms begins:

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper (Psa. 1:1–3).

Disciplined meditation, which the Puritans described as a 'halfway house' between Scripture reading and prayer, offers numerous benefits. It helps us focus on God and view worship as a discipline. Since it involves our mind and understanding as well as our heart and affections, it works Scripture through the texture of our soul. Meditation prevents vain and sinful thoughts (Matt. 12:35) and provides inner resources from which to draw (Psa. 77:10–12). It offers directions for daily life (Prov. 6:21–22), fights temptation (Psa. 119:11, 15), gives relief in affliction (Isa. 49:15–17), benefits others (Psa. 145:7), and glorifies God (Psa. 49:3).

Be Faithful to Christ and His Body

Ephesians 4:10–16 shows us five marks of be a faithful member of Christ's body. A faithful member receives Christ's Word, unites with Christ's Person, connects with Christ's people, serves others for Christ's sake, and grows into Christ's image. In every respect, church membership depends on the church's living Head, Jesus Christ.

Along with these marks we have included fifteen ways to exercise faithful church membership. Ask yourself the following questions to help you determine whether you are a healthy church member:

- Do I hunger for the Word?
- Do I faithfully attend worship services?
- Am I an active listener to the preached Word?
- Do I exercise faith in Christ?
- Do I partake of the sacraments?
- Does my relationship with Christ motivate me to obey God?
- Do I show love to fellow church members?
- Have I made public confession of faith?
- Do I exercise hospitality?
- Does Christ and His work stir me to love and obey Him?
- Am I a witness for Christ?
- Do I exercise good stewardship of the gifts God grants me?
- Do I exemplify humility?
- Do I pray and attend prayer meetings regularly?
- Do I engage in the practice of meditation?

Remember that how we treat the church is how we treat Jesus, for the church is his body. Therefore, the stakes are high. How dreadful were Christ's words to Saul in Acts 9:4, '*Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*' If you abuse Christ's body, you abuse Christ. If you neglect Christ's body, you neglect Christ. On the other hand, what unspeakable joy the faithful servant will experience when the King of kings comes with his holy angels, sits upon his throne, calls you by name, recounts your acts of service to his people, and says, '*In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me*' (Matt. 25:40). Strive therefore to be faithful members of the body of Christ!

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 16 Sept	No Young Adults Fellowship	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Edwin Pakh, Ivan Lim and Mrs Carreño to our worship services last Lord's Day.		
Sat 17 Sept 4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study			
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i> <i>Evening Service</i>			
Preacher	Rev Timothy Ki Eld George Chew	LORD'S DAY DUTIES		
Message	Thoughts About Signs Who am I?			
Text	Matthew 12:38-45 Matthew 16:13-20			
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS		<u>TODAY: 11/09/2011</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study Today: Eld George Chew will be giving a short study on "<i>Knowing God</i>". • Saturday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Come and join us to pray and to study God's Word. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Eld Ford, Lydia, Margaret, May Chew, Brian, Mrs Ki, Constance, Deborah Sherwood, Jonathan's father, Linda Teo, Jonathan, Pedro Carreño. • Pray for those who are/will be on travel: Jia Yun, Justin, Waiyee, Matthew, Pastor Ki. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. • Thank God for the safe arrival of Baby Pedro Carreño last Thursday. 		Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Joy Ushers: Daniel / Constance Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: John <b style="text-decoration: underline;">NEXT WEEK: 18/09/2011		
		Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Joy Ushers: Jonathan / Yetta Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy Lunch: Constance Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Lee Wei		
		Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1009, Lunch: £46.60 Attendance - Morning: 31 (A) 3 (C), Evening: 17 (A) 3 (C)		MEMORY VERSE
		SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 89		Last Week
		Q: How is the Word made effectual to salvation? <i>A: The Spirit of God maketh the <u>reading</u>, but especially the <u>preaching of the Word</u>, an effectual means of <u>convincing and converting sinners</u>, and of <u>building them up in holiness and comfort</u>, through faith, unto salvation.</i>		<i>"Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."</i> Ephesians 1:23
		Comments: In order that the Bible may make us wise unto salvation, two things are necessary: the Holy Spirit's influence on God's part, and a diligent study of it on ours. When these two things go together, men are convinced of their sin and brought to Christ. They are made holier in their lives, and happier in their hearts.		This Week
		Proofs: Psalm 19:7, 2 Timothy 3:16		<i>"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;"</i> 2 Timothy 3:14
Next Week <i>"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."</i> Psalm 46:1				