



# 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. 46

**LORD’S DAY 13 NOVEMBER 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>	Psalm 96:1-3	Psalm 106:1-5
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 24 – “Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”	RHC 110 – “Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 96	Psalm 23
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 96 verses 1-3, 6-13</i> (to the tune of Vox Dilecti, RHC 298)	RHC 345 – “The Lord Is My Shepherd”
<i>Announcements &amp; Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings &amp; Doxology *</i>	RHC 326 – “Like a River Glorious”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 13:1-23	Joshua 3:1-17
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Eld George Chew
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>The Parable of the Sower - Part 3</i>	<i>River Crossing</i>
<i>Lord’s Supper</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	---
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 183 – “Jesus Paid It All”	RHC 348 – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
<i>Benediction / 3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	<i>Lord Dismiss Us (stanzas 1 &amp; 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**

# MORE THAN CHURCH-GOING

By Eld Lim Yew Cheng, adapted from Maranatha Messenger dated 13 March 2011

Church-going is to be lauded and we have been clearly and constantly reminded not to forget the assembling of ourselves, as we see the day approaching. Yet, in diligently, observing this means of grace, we can fall short of God's requirements and even to the point, when God calls it 'sinful'.

*"Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years: And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord GOD."* Amos 4: 4-5

How can that be? We are so used to the rhetoric that we need to be regular at church functions for they are but the hallmarks of spiritual excellence. Unawaringly, we drift into that kind of illusion that our maturing into the faith is inextricably tied in with these externals. (Please I do not want to be misunderstood that these activities are to be shunned away from. Far from it. They are to be encouraged. Please read it in the right context).

Amos in his days was ironical in his message to a wayward people. He invited people to go to church so that their sinfulness will become more manifest! What a prophet? Please understand that he did for the expressed purpose of showing the Israelites, where they have gone amiss in their worship. Likewise, the modern Church of Jesus Christ needs to be aware of the potential pitfalls of merely existing as a Church.

What then are these pitfalls? I name a few of them. Failure to address them puts the church in great danger.

## **Form versus Substance**

Ritualism was the order of the day during the days of Prophet. God was angered by what offered to Him. During the prophet's time, the worship places were ablaze with activities. There was pomp and ceremony and outward outpouring of sacrifices but God was not pleased because the house of Israel was guilty of worshipping in form and not in substance. They had replaced true fellowship with God and moral obedience with mere form and ceremony! It is a wonder that they were even preserved. They were as a firebrand but God, in His grace, "plucked (them) out of the burning" (v11) but, sadly, they returned not. God does not delight in the blood of bullocks that they offer and is revolted by the vain oblations they bring. Their sacrifices smacked of the hypocrisies that was railed by our Lord Jesus - *"These people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."* Luke 15:8

Is our worship any different? Be reminded that hypocritical worship is unedifying and exasperating, to say the least, and because it does not eventuate in a purifying experience with God. It is far better to offer to God the worship of the sincere publican than the ostentatious prayer of the Pharisee.

## **Partial versus the Whole**

Our commitment to God should be whole and not in part. Why should it not be when God's commitment to us is the whole? This is well expressed by Spafford:

"My sin-O the bliss of this glorious tho't –  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:  
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord my soul!"

Why make only partial payment, when our sin, not in part but the whole is nailed to the cross? Why should He deserve only part of us when He has given us His entirety, when He spared not His only Begotten Son? Anything less is short-changing God or in the words of Malachi, it is robbing God! *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings..."* Malachi 3:8.

Tithing and offering are biblically sound and they are but only tokens of our love. Some of us do not even give to that level. Even if we did tithe, it is but only a part of the whole of commitment of the redeemed child of God. I am reminded of the poor widow who gave all she had, which was two mites. Our Lord said, *“And he said, of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all”* (Luke 21:3).

Equally poignant is the scene of the poor boy that during the offertory had nothing to offer! So he symbolically stepped into the scales and offered himself. Even if we did give of ourselves, we still cannot out give God. The error of our thinking is that only one seventh of our time and one tenth of our treasure belongs to God and the rest ours. Many, I am afraid, have forgotten the source of all good and perfect gifts.

### **Quantity versus Quality**

Are we discouraged by a small assembly? Do we have a crowd or a congregation mentality? It is better to be in the congregation of the righteous than to be in crowd of hypocrites. We must not be carried away with the idea that crowd and size will infuse into us the oomph of worship that is denied to a small assembly, who worship in their inner sanctum with meaningful contemplation and with quiet adoring hearts. Let us not be primarily focused with the size of the crowd. Rather let us corporately, regardless of size, “draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil; conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” for an experience with God.

### **Church Work versus the Work of the Church**

Another danger facing the church is to isolate herself. She becomes an institution that jealously guards its own well-being. She is inwardly orientated, priding herself with activities milling around herself, whom she defines as church work, observed on the Sabbath day. Such church work comes in the form of Bible Study, Sunday School, Choir practice, Youth Fellowship and the likes. Since when has such Church Work become undesirable? It becomes so when the church functions as an ivory tower or a shrine unto her own, conveniently forgetting her primary role as a force, through which the people of God come together and, in concert, do the work of the Church, ministering to a dead lost world of today.

Please be reminded that we are just a repository into which God bestows His blessings and upon which His people would bestow affection and energy. Rather, we are His mouthpieces, His hands and feet, through which Christ’s redemptive work and God’s oracles are proclaimed and propagated.

We are commissioned to go into all the world to preach the gospel, knowing that all power is given unto us. This piece of the work of the church is ongoing and it is not affected in the sanctuary on a Sunday but in the marketplace every day. We are more than Sunday Christians, donned with our Sunday best but everyday Christians and, regardless of our wares or wears, we are to be in season and out of season for the Master.

It is evident that God was not pleased with the worshippers during the time of the prophet - *“Though, ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols”* Amos 5:22-23.

I pose the question: Is God pleased with our worship then? We need examine ourselves. Dearly beloved, we need to steer us away from non-God honouring and unChrist-like worship. We must positively work towards a worship that requires us to make a moral and spiritual response on our part to the moral will of God. For this we need, lay aside all pretensions and hypocrisies, and come to Him just as we are, in Spirit and in Truth for He seeketh such to worship Him. Only then, will our worship be a fragrant rare, ascending unto Him as a sweet savour sacrifice, well-pleasing and acceptable unto Him.

God help us.

# 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 18 Nov	7:30pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship</b> Bible Study on Philippians	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
Sat 19 Nov	4:00pm	<b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study</b>	
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>		<i>Morning Service</i> <i>Evening Service</i>	
<i>Preacher</i>		Rev Timothy Ki                      Rev Timothy Ki	<b>LORD'S DAY DUTIES</b>
<i>Message</i>		The Parable of Wheat and Tares                      The Seventh Commandment	
<i>Text</i>		Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43                      Exodus 20:14	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<b><u>TODAY: 13/11/2011</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Remembrance Sunday:</b> Please note that we will be observing a 2 minutes silence at 11am.</li> <li>• <b>Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study:</b> Pastor Ki will continue the series of studies on "The Doctrine of the Church."</li> <li>• <b>Saturday Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b> Come and join us to pray and to study God's Word.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Eld Ford, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah Sherwood, Jonathan's father, Avi, Mrs Ki, Lai Kheng.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are/will be on travel:</b> Sonia, Nana, Mrs Ki, John, Sharon &amp; Tobias, Hannah.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Rachael.</li> </ul>			<b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan <b>Organist:</b> Anthony <b>Pianist:</b> Joy <b>Ushers:</b> Daniel / Constance <b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Joy <b>Lunch:</b> Maureen <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Lee Wei
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £793, Lunch: £54 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 29 (A) 3 (C), Evening: 18 (A) 1 (C)			<b><u>NEXT WEEK: 20/11/2011</u></b>
			<b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan <b>Organist:</b> Joy <b>Pianist:</b> Anthony <b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Yetta <b>Sunday School:</b> Jonathan / Joy <b>Lunch:</b> Volunteers <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Lee Wei
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 98			MEMORY VERSE
<p><b>Q: What is prayer?</b></p> <p><i>A: Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of CHRIST, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.</i></p> <p><u>Comments:</u> Prayer means asking of God; and we are here told the following three things respecting it: 1. As to its form, it should be offered to God in the name of Christ; 2. As to its substance, it should be for things agreeable to God's will; 3. As to its manner, it should be made with humble acknowledgement of our sins, and grateful acknowledgement of God's mercy.</p> <p><u>Proofs:</u> Matthew 7:7, John 16:23, Philippians 4:6</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Last Week</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Psalm 46:8</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Week</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Psalm 46:9</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next Week</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Psalm 46:10</b></p>