



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. 38

LORD’S DAY 18 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>	Psalm 90:1-2	Psalm 135:1-3
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 32 – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”	RHC 18 – “Come Thou Almighty King”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 88	Romans 12:1-21
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 88 verses 1-5, 10-11</i> (to the tune of Beatitudo, RHC 63)	RHC 261 – “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 420 – “I Surrender All”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 12:38-45	Matthew 16:13-20
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Eld George Chew
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Thoughts About Signs</i>	<i>Who Am I?</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 429 – “We Have Not Known Thee as We Ought”	RHC 317 – “The Solid Rock”
<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 & 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

WHO IS IN THE PLACE OF PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE?

*By Rev. Ian Hamilton, Pastor of the Cambridge Presbyterian Church.
Adapted from Banner of Truth dated 29 July 2011*

Some verses in the Bible are deeply disturbing, and unexpected. As Paul commends Timothy to the church in Philippi, he tells them, *'I have no one like him (of like soul), who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare'* (Phil. 2:20). So far, so good. But then Paul continues, *'For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ'* (v. 21). Are these not surprising and perplexing words? Even if Paul is generalising (he later warmly commends faithful, life-risking Epaphroditus to the Philippians), what he says is deeply disturbing.

Paul is in prison, probably in Rome. In chapter 1:15ff, he has told us that some in Rome (?) were preaching *'Christ from envy and rivalry'*, seeking to *'afflict me in my imprisonment'* (1:17). Now he tells us that *'they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.'* These are salutary words.

It is only too easy to deceive ourselves into thinking that, while we are not the Christians we should be, we would never sink so low as to put our own interests above and before those of our Lord Jesus. My brothers and sisters, it is only too easy to drift along in the Christian life, becoming increasingly conformed to the world around us, but hardly knowing it. In the context of Paul's words, the interests of Jesus Christ are equated with Timothy's genuine concern for the welfare of the Philippian believers. Like his Lord and Saviour, Timothy put the concerns and well-being of God's people before his own interests. The mind of Christ (see 2:5ff) was stamped on Timothy's mind and resulted in a selfless care and concern for others. This is what Paul hardly saw in anyone else: *'they all seek their own interests'!*

There is no escaping the teaching of our Lord Jesus that it will be, and is, costly to follow him. He invites us, indeed summons us, to take up our cross and follow him. He calls us to *'seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness.'* He tells us, *'by this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for the other'* (John 13:35). John must have drunk deeply of Jesus' teaching because he later wrote, *'We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers . . . Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and truth'* (1 John 3:14,18).

One of the pre-eminent interests of our Lord Jesus Christ is the care of his 'little flock'. He loves his lambs and gently leads those that have young. He seeks to show his care and compassion through the self-denying kindness and practical care of his people. But - and it is a huge 'but' - the truth is that we can become so wrapped up in ourselves, in our situations, in our own concerns and cares (legitimate), that we neglect the brotherhood (see 1 Pet. 2:17).

Whose interests do you and I live for? When did we last disturb our own comfort and go out of our way to minister the Saviour's kindness to our fellow struggling believers? Why not stop now and write a letter of encouragement, put on your coat and make a surprise visit, send flowers, pray, pick up the phone, or whatever, and make someone's day. A few days ago I received a letter from someone I have never met. From the writing (it was hand written, something of a rarity today) I assume it was from an older man. His letter was an out-of-the-blue encouragement to me. Wouldn't it be good and honouring to our Saviour if we could all do something that would minister his kindness and care to his 'little flock'? Timothy sought the interests of Jesus Christ.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF GODLINESS

By Rev. Ian Hamilton, Pastor of the Cambridge Presbyterian Church.
Adapted from Banner of Truth dated 4 February 2011

We live in a mad, as well as a bad, world. The pace of life is simply frenetic, and shows few if any signs of slowing down. One danger facing the Christian in this mad, bad world is that we become swept along in the rush and never really take, and make, the time to be still before God. Consequently, the rhythm of our lives lacks any poise, far less peace. We are never off the treadmill long enough to savour the surpassing joy and blessedness of being a Christian. And yet, are we not told *that 'those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength'*? (Isa. 40:31); or do we imagine that we can leave off waiting on the Lord and still maintain a vibrant, godly, Christian life? How spiritually deranged Christians can become!

In his great goodness, the Lord has anticipated our need for rest and recreation. In the fourth commandment, our kindly Lord has so structured the weekly rhythm of his creatures that we have a day in which to draw breath, re-order our wearied minds, renew our tired bodies, and engage in soul-refreshing worship. The Sabbath day is not only a day set apart for the Lord, it is a day set apart for the good of his creatures: *'the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath'* (Mark 2:27). Today, however, many Christians give the impression they are wiser than God. Too often the blessing of the Sabbath day is neglected, and lost, because we use it to catch up on work or studies, most often left undone by poor planning in the previous days of the week. Not only do we dishonour the Lord when we misuse his day, we rob ourselves of the renewing blessings of a life that has waited on the Lord with his people (see Isa. 58:13-14).

The Sabbath day is woven into the moral framework of God's creation (the fourth commandment simply codifies an existing creation ordinance). Our Maker, who is also our Husband, knows our needs; he never forgets that we are dust. If Adam in his innocence needed a Sabbath day, how much more do we need God's day of rest to renew our wearied bodies and tired minds.

The Sabbath is God's weekly, and so very gracious, provision for his people. But you are not to imagine that you have to wait a whole week before you 'wait upon the Lord'. The example of our Lord Jesus is instructive. Luke tells us that *'Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.'* Quiet times were basic to the rhythm of the Saviour's life. He needed time alone with his Father. He needed to wait upon the Lord to renew his strength. His humanity was no charade, he felt the strain of constant service. Are we holier than our Saviour? If he needed to spend time often alone with his Father, do we not need to do the same? A daily quiet time is not a luxury, it is a necessity!

It is sadly fashionable in some Reformed circles to pour scorn on the quiet time, as if it were a pietistic cop-out from the rigours of serving Christ. I must confess that I am all for more piety. The more pious a man or woman is, the more they will, like their Saviour, feel the need to set time aside to draw near to God. In his presence our minds are re-ordered, our souls are refreshed, even our bodies are strengthened.

We live in a mad, bad world. Equip yourself to face it and not be overwhelmed by it, by honouring the Sabbath day, and by imitating the example of the Saviour, who *'often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.'* He needed to, and he did. We need to and we must.

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 23 Sept	No Young Adults Fellowship		We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Nana Oye Agyepong and Jonathan to our worship services last Lord's Day.		
Sat 24 Sept	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	Rev Timothy Ki			
Message	Thoughts About Signs - Part 2	The Sixth Commandment			
Text	Matthew 12:38-45	Exodus 20:13; Genesis 9:6			
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			TODAY: 18/09/2011		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study Today: Pastor Ki will give a short talk about his trip to Kenya and Tanzania before continuing with the study on "The Doctrine of the Church. • 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, Jasmine & Father. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. 			Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Joy Ushers: Jonathan / Yetta Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy Lunch: Constance Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Lee Wei		
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 25/09/2011</u>		
			Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Joy Pianist: Anthony Ushers: John / Yetta Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Lee Wei		
			Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £510.10		
			Attendance - Morning: 29 (A) 3 (C), Evening: 14 (A) 3 (C)		
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 90			MEMORY VERSE		
<p>Q: How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?</p> <p><i>A: That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with <u>diligence</u>, <u>preparation</u>, and <u>prayer</u>, receive it with <u>faith and love</u>, lay it up in our <u>hearts</u>, and practise it in our <u>lives</u>.</i></p> <p><u>Comments:</u> We are here taught the proper way to use the Bible. We must use it carefully, reverently, and prayerfully. We must believe what it tells us, and do what it bids us. And we must receive the truth in the love of it, else the Word read will not profit our souls.</p> <p><u>Proofs:</u> Psalm 119:18, Hebrews 4:2, Psalm 119:11, John 7:17</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Last Week</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Timothy 3:14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This Week</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Psalm 46:1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Week</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Psalm 46:2</p>		