



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. 47

LORD’S DAY 20 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 67	Isaiah 49:7-13
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 19 – “Come, We That Love the Lord”	RHC 105 – “I Will Praise Him!”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 97	Proverbs 2
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 97 verses 1-4, 6-7, 9-12</i> (to the tune of Landas, RHC 301)	RHC 356 – “Lead Me, Savior”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 120 – “Now I Belong to Jesus”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Exodus 20:14
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Parable of the Wheat and Tares</i>	<i>The Seventh Commandment</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 229 – “Thy Kingdom Come, O God”	Insert – “O Thou Who Gavest Power to Love”
<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

BIBLICAL PRAYER – PART 38

I have written about Paul's prayer from 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 a few weeks ago. It is time to resume the talk of his prayer from where we have left off. In particular, I have not dealt with verse 9 yet. My focus will be given to verse 9, before that, let me quote from the whole prayer first. 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; ⁵ That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and *in* all knowledge; ⁶ Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: ⁷ So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁸ Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord." This is a prayer to God by Paul, which was made known to the Corinthian believers. That's why this prayer is almost like a message rather than a private prayer. Also I'll continue the numbering of points from the previous articles.

(4) Paul is thanking God for His faithfulness. God's faithfulness is one of His attributes concerning His goodness. In order to comprehend the faithfulness of God to us, we'd better begin with some lexical definitions: (a) *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* defines *faithfulness* as:

1) trusty, faithful 1a) of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties 1b) one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust 1c) that can be relied on 2) easily persuaded 2a) believing, confiding, trusting 2b) in the NT one who trusts in God's promises 2b1) one who is convinced that Jesus has been raised from the dead 2b2) one who has become convinced that Jesus is the Messiah and author of salvation; (b) *1828 Noah Webster's English Dictionary* defines *faithfulness* as: 1) Fidelity; loyalty; firm adherence to allegiance and duty; as the faithfulness of a subject, 2) Truth; veracity; as the faithfulness of God, 3) Strict adherence to injunctions, and to the duties of a station; as the faithfulness of servants or ministers, 4) Strict performance of promises, vows or covenants; constancy in affection; as the faithfulness of a husband or wife.

From the above definitions of faithfulness, we may say that the faithfulness of God refers to (a) His trustworthiness, (b) His credibility, (c) His reliability, (d) His immutability (no changes), (e) His veracity, (f) His honesty, and (g) His constancy. I do not know how to simplify all of these elements into a simpler statement. One thing is for sure, i.e, God has wonderful attributes as a person, which makes Him so different from idols. Thus, Paul's thanksgiving in his prayer to God is from a person to a person, and it is very personal, too. The personhood of God also provides us with a ground for our belief that God will hear our voices. At the same time, all the attributes shown in His faithfulness indicates that He will not hear the prayers of the evil. It is because the faithfulness of God is based on His truthfulness. He must be true to Himself, and He cannot deny His own attributes. Therefore, it is not possible that God will hear the sinners' prayers in favour, when there is no sign of repentance.

The truth that God is faithful is theologically profound. It is because (a) it speaks of God to be true. We cannot think of God who is not true. Jeremiah 10:10 says, "But the LORD *is* the true God, he *is* the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation." The True God in this verse emphasizes on His reliability, steadfastness, permanence, or continuance. Because He is true, not only to us but also to Himself, He cannot but be praised. The same truth is stated by Jesus himself in John 17:3, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." Again, God being true indicates that He is not an imagination of our minds. He is not artificial. He does not appear to have a beautiful attribute of truthfulness, but, in fact, he is what He appears to be; (b) The faithfulness of God also indicates that His words are trustworthy.

He keeps His words and promises. It is because His faithfulness guarantees His truthfulness, or His reliability. His faithfulness also guarantees that He does not change. It also means that He does not lie. 1 Samuel 15:29, "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he *is* not a man, that he should repent." Probably, Hebrews 6:18 is the most powerful testimony on this: "That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us." The inability of saying lies is an ability of God, because His words are the truth. Therefore, it is our privilege to pray to God with His promises in His Word; (c) The faithfulness of God also proves that He is able. If God promises something, but He is not able to keep His word, though He desires to keep it, He is not faithful to His promise. If a person promises anything with an understanding that he may not be able to keep it, he is not fully faithful, though his intention may be honorable. However, God is able to keep everything He says. Numbers 23:19, "God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it?* or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, "But *as* God *is* true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, *even* by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. ²¹ Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; ²² Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." If God is not able to do what He says He will do, then our prayers will often be ineffective and all will depend on circumstances and the limitations of God. However, the faithfulness of God removes all of such worries from our prayer life. (d) The faithfulness of God also demonstrates the freedom of God and His immutability. What it means is that the ability to keep His words is a simple indication that He is sovereign. There is no one who can stop Him or question Him. He cannot deny Himself. He is a truly free being. Romans 9:19-20, "Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? ²⁰ Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus?" It means that He is the only one who has the power of self-determination. On the other hand, it means that God is independent, and He is not dependant on anything or anyone. He does not depend on contingencies. Our olden day theologians have explained it as God's simplicity. It also refers to the perfection of God. It is because only imperfect beings are dependent. It also indicates that there is only one God who is sovereign. He is above everything both physical and metaphysical act and power. And also He is dependable because His faithfulness guarantees His reliability. He is not an arbitrary God. That's why He is trustworthy.

Now we are coming to relate this divine truth of God's faithfulness to us more personally and individually. 1 Corinthians 1:9, "God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord." God who is faithful has called us to have fellowship with Jesus Christ, which may refer to our redemption and all inclusive blessings following it. (a) It speaks about God's grace for our salvation. It is His faithfulness not ours that brings us to Christ Jesus. (b) God's grace to bring us to Christ has been given to us in a form of calling. God calls His people effectively, to which they respond by faith. Each and every message from God is a sign of His divine faithfulness to us. Therefore, we must hear when we hear. (c) The faithfulness of God is also a guarantor of our salvation. Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ." (d) The faithfulness of God has enabled us to have fellowship with His son, Jesus Christ. Basically, the word, fellowship, means to participate, to communicate, or to associate. Therefore, the overall meaning of the fellowship with Christ is to become partakers with Him. This participation may include from our newness of life, participation of His trials and suffering, resurrection and glory, and inheritance. Truly, the faithfulness of God deserves our praises in prayers.

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 25 Nov	7:00pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony The History of the Bible - Mr Paul Toms	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Rhys Hewlett, Michelle & Jaida to our worship services last Lord's Day.		
Sat 26 Nov	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	Parables of the Kingdom	The Eighth Commandment			
Text	Matthew 13:31-33	Exodus 20:15			
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			TODAY: 20/11/2011		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Pastor Ki will continue the series of studies 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, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah Sherwood, Jonathan's father, Avi, Mrs Ki, Lai Kheng. • Pray for those who are/will be on travel: Sonia, Nana, Mrs Ki, John, Sharon & Tobias, Hannah. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Rachael. • Ladies Fellowship: Ladies Fellowship will take place next Sunday after lunch. 			Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Joy Pianist: Anthony Ushers: Tom / Yetta Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Lee Wei		
			NEXT WEEK: 27/11/2011		
			Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Joy Ushers: Daniel / Margaret Sunday School: Hannah / Joy Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Brian		
			Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1504, Lunch: £53.30, Kenya £50 + £91 Attendance - Morning: 32 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 22 (A) 3 (C)		
			SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 99		
<p>Q: What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?</p> <p><i>A: The <u>whole Word of God</u> is of use to direct us in prayer; but the <u>special rule of direction</u> is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called THE LORD'S PRAYER.</i></p> <p><u>Comments:</u> We are here taught that in praying to God we have the whole Bible as a guide. But specially we have a pattern or example set us in the prayer which Christ taught his disciples. This is usually called the Lord's Prayer – that is, the prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p><u>Proofs:</u> 1 John 5:14. Matthew 6:9</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Last Week</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;">Psalm 46:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This Week</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;">Psalm 46:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Week</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Psalm 46:11</p>		