



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. 16 No. 10

LORD’S DAY 04 MARCH 2012

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 113:1-2	Psalm 134
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 31 – “Blessed Be the Name”	RHC 45 – “We Gather Together”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 113	Psalm 85
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 113</i> (to the tune of Vox Dilecti, RHC 298)	RHC 234 – “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 115 – “Constantly Abiding”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Genesis 22:14	2 Chronicles 29:1-19
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Jehovah Jireh</i>	<i>Features of Revival</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 352 – “All the Way My Savior Leads Me”	RHC 236 – “Revive Thy Church, O Lord”
<i>Benediction / 3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Pooyan Mehrshahi	Rev Pooyan Mehrshahi
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	<i>May the Grace of Christ Our Savior</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 2012 – “Have a Mind to Work” – Nehemiah 4:6

BIBLICAL PRAYER – PART 52

We are going to continue our studies from Galatians 1:6-9. Last week we began to see the contents of this passage. Paul was amazed because the Galatian believers departed very quickly from God who called them into the grace of Christ. I was trying to point out that the theology of Judaism in Jesus' days was defective, even to denying the Messiah while claiming to believe in God. Jesus claims that no one is honoring the Father without honoring the Son. The ones who do not have and believe in the right doctrines of Jesus Christ also do not have the Father. We cannot think of the God of the Bible without considering His messiah, Christ, the Son of God. In fact, it was not the first time Israel displayed her wrong theology. When the Spirit of God came upon Azariah, he said to Asa and all Judah and Benjamin in 2 Chronicles 15:3-4, "Now for a long season Israel *hath been* without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. ⁴ But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them." The religion of Israel was still in the land, but in its theology, there was no true God. We must be reminded that the very reason for the destruction of Israel was her ignorance of God according to Isaiah 5:13, "Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because *they have* no knowledge: and their honourable men *are* famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst." I wonder whether we do experience the same thing from modern day churches and their followers: serving God but without God? The instruments that led the Galatians away from God was another or different gospel according to verse 6.

(4) Paul speaks about the power of false teachings and their teachers. It must amaze us that the Galatian believers did not have any proper defense for their faith. There is no mention of their effective resistance to the false teachings in the book of Galatians. At the end of Galatians 1:6, Paul says that they departed because of another (or different) Gospel. It indicates two things: (a) A genuine faith lies in the only and true Gospel and (b) the true Gospel is clearly defined so that false teachings can be discerned and demonstrated. The true Gospel can neither be mixed with something else nor compromised. (5) The centrality of the true Gospel is Christ. By putting this thought with the previous point, we cannot but say that we must be well taught of Christ and have a solid knowledge of Christ. We should be able to defend our faith well and discern false teachings rightly. (6) A point that we cannot miss is that though the Galatians were taught by a great apostle and his team, they still fell away from the true message of Christ. We need to heed unto Hebrews 2:1-3, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip. ² For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; ³ How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*." (a) It means that listening to great preachers and their stunning messages alone does not prevent us from falling away. (b) It teaches us about individuals' responsibility and accountability to heed the messages they have heard. Peter speaks about a possibility that the knowledge of Jesus Christ may be unfruitful within us in 2 Peter 1:8.

Second, Paul speaks about the solid and unchangeable message of the Gospel in Galatians 1:7-8, "Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (1) The problem is not in the Gospel but the Gospel preachers: (a) It is because there is no other gospel but one. (b) There is no gospel so called "another gospel" or "different gospel." (c) However, the preachers of the Gospel boldly and sinfully pervert the Gospel. (d) There are people who believe in wrong messages, not because the Gospel is wrong, but the messages that false and perverted messengers have delivered were wrong. (e) It is also an indication that these messengers are not from God, but they are self-appointed preachers of God. It is no wonder that Paul introduced himself to the Galatian believers very clearly in 1:1, "Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead)." I must say that this introduction of Paul is very unique even amongst the Pauline epistles. The book of Galatians is the only book introducing Paul as an apostle by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. God is being mentioned as the Father who raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

This very God-theology defines the Gospel and biblical theology in Paul's mind, from which the Galatians have departed. This theology was rejected by the Judaizers who had tempted them to depart from the God who called them into the grace of Jesus Christ.

(2) The Gospel is a set of truths given by God, which rejects any idea of modifications in any form either by adding to or subtracting from it. (a) It refutes any idea of the existence of another or different gospel. There is only one Gospel in all ages. (b) An argument that there is another gospel is only a form of perversion. (c) Anyone who preaches a different message from the Gospel is a person who brings confusion into the mind of the hearers ("there be some that trouble you" in verse 7). The KJV and the ESV say, "trouble you," the NAS says, "are disturbing you," and the NIV says, "are throwing you into confusion." The false messages only troubles the minds of the hearers without bringing them to the true faith in the true God. (d) The preachers who deliver different messages from the Gospel are perverting the Gospel of Christ. The last part of Galatians 1:7 is important: "and would pervert the gospel of Christ." There are at least three things we need to consider: (i) the perversion involves the intention or willful desire of the false teachers. The Greek word for "would" is translated as "want" in the ESV and the NAS. The word means "to wish," "to want," or "will of purpose or resolve"; (ii) "To pervert" means to "change" or "to turn around." Thus, when a message is perverted, the result of its teaching produces an opposite effect from the one expected from the gospel of Jesus Christ. We must be aware that false teachers may use exactly the same materials we have, but they put different meanings into them and turn their teachings around from the original lessons we are supposed to learn. That's why these false teachers are called trouble makers here; (iii) What is perverted is the Gospel of Christ. There is no other gospel apart from the true doctrine of Jesus Christ, from which the Galatians had departed. (e) Nothing or no one is above the authority and truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul says that the apostles, including himself, is not more important than the Gospel. Even an angel from heaven does not have authority or power to preach a different message by perverting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If anyone perverts the Gospel, there is only one verdict upon him: "be cursed." In other words, no outward credentials are more important than the purity and truthfulness of the Gospel.

Third, Paul makes a very unusual but powerful utterance, which is a form of prayer. He says in Galatians 1:8b, "let him be accursed," and again in 1:9b, "let him be accursed." I was not very sure whether it was a form of prayer or not. (1) However, I felt that it could be considered as a prayer for the following reasons. (a) The verb ("let him be") is third person imperative, which implies an idea of a wish found in the optative mood (which you do not have to know). There is an idea of both wish and exhortation. If a suggestion of wish is strongly found in this word within this context, this "curse" expression is almost like saying, "may he be accursed," which is a form of prayer. (b) R. Alan Cole says in his commentary on Galatians (Tyndale New Testament commentaries): "But this test of preachers does not only apply to Paul. Even if *an angel from heaven* were to preach any gospel to them other than that which they had already received, Paul's prayer is that such a messenger should be *anathema*, which conveys the same idea of the Hebrew *herem*, that of being 'under the curse,' 'under the wrath of God'" (p. 78). (2) This prayer may be compared to the imprecatory psalms including Psalms 55, 59, 69, 79, 109, and 137. Psalm 55:15 is one of the prayers by David, "Let death seize upon them, *and* let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness *is* in their dwellings, *and* among them." (a) However, these prayers do not seek for personal vengeance. Paul's prayer of anathema was not personal. (b) Maybe the following two explanations give us some insights about such prayers. Alexander McClaren says, "Perhaps, it would do modern tenderheartedness no harm to have a little more iron infused into its gentleness, and to lay to heart that the King of Peace must first be King of Righteousness" (*The Psalms*, Vol. 3, New York, NY: George Doran Company, 1892). William Holladay puts it: "The call to love one's enemies must be exercised within the context of the claims of justice: if an injustice has been done, then it needs to be made right" (*The Psalms Through Three Thousand Years*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993, 311-312).

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 09 Mar	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship <i>Bible Study on Philipians</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Bruce Lee & Family to our worship services last Lord's Day
Sat 10 Mar	4:00pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting <i>"Eschatology" – Rev Timothy Ki</i>	
<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	TODAY: 04/03/2012
Message	Defiled Religion	Burnt Offering	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	Matthew 15:1-20	Leviticus 1:1-17	Organist: Joy
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Anthony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Pastor Pooyan will be sharing his testimony. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Eld Ford, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah Sherwood, Brian, Mrs Ki, Lai Kheng, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson. • Pray for those who are/will be on travel: Sonia, Nana, Eld & Mrs Chew, Prema, Fung, Jiak Eng, John & Sharon, Nnabugwu. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Rachael, Michelle. • Easter Camp 2012 (6/4 to 9/4): The camp speaker will be Pastor Gavin Beers. • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. 			Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn
<p>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1005.60, Lunch: £43.83, Kenya: £100.00</p> <p>Attendance - Morning: 30 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 23 (A) 3 (C)</p>			Sunday School: Hannah / Joy
			Lunch: Mrs Ki
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Lee Wei / Yangfan
			NEXT WEEK: 11/03/2012
			Chairman: John
			Organist: Anthony
			Pianist: Jasmine
			Ushers: Daniel / Constance
			Sunday School: Hannah / Joy
			Lunch: Mrs Ki
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Jonathan

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 7

Q: What are the decrees of God?

A: *The decrees of God and his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass.*

Comments:

The decrees of God are *his purposes*, or *what he has from eternity determined to do*. And this answer tells us that God has so appointed everything that comes to pass. Nothing happens by chance. Everything is arranged upon a plan, and that plan is the plan of God. He makes all things work together for good to them that love him, and for evil to them that hate him.

Proofs:

Isaiah 40:13, 14, Romans 8:28, Matthew 10:29

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work."</i>	<i>"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."</i>	<i>"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."</i>
Nehemiah 4:6	Luke 19:10	John 1:14