



# 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. 45

LORD’S DAY 04 NOVEMBER 2012

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Evening Service – 4pm</i>
	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Prelude</i>		
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 148:1-5	Psalm 29:1-2
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 29 – “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”	RHC 46 – “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 140	Psalm 27:1-24
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 140 verses 1-6</i> (to the tune of St. Agnes, RHC 57)	RHC 375 – “Speak, Lord, in the Stillness”
<i>Announcements &amp; Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings &amp; Doxology *</i>	RHC 558 – “We Plough the Field”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 9:35-38	Romans 1:1-17
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>The Lord Needs You For The Harvest</i> Elder George Chew	<i>I Am Not Ashamed Of The Gospel</i> Elder George Chew
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 450 – “To the Work!”	RHC 382 – “I Would Be True”
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	<i>May the Grace of Christ Our Saviour</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**

# **THE WAYS OF GOD**

*By Rev Issac Ong, adapted from Evangel BPC bulletin 14 October 2012*

## **God Works Through Man**

Every day we go through life serving and being served by a whole host of people. In the morning, we get our favourite cup of coffee; we read the morning newspaper; we drive into the gas station to fill up our tanks. Then we are off to work, and that means having to come into contact with people through the telephone, fax, and email. Later in the day, we return to our home, we drive on the well-paved roads in our air-conditioned cars; to fight the boredom of the evening traffic, we slot in our favourite CD. After dinner, we get a brief respite as we catch with the events around the world on television.

In a day, we would have to count on the services of hundreds of people from the person who makes your coffee, to your colleagues, to the unnamed people who prints the newspaper, report the news, keep the elevator and your car moving. So appropriately, at the end of the day before we turn in, we ought to pray a prayer of thanksgiving because it is God who makes life and living possible.

## **God Works in Mysterious Ways**

The question is how many of us are actually conscious that God is working in and through all these people. William Cowper writes, "God moves in a mysterious way/His wonders to perform;/He plants His footsteps in the sea/And rides upon the storm." It is true that God, at times and according to His sovereign will, moves and acts in ways beyond our human understanding. The Westminster Confession states that by "God [who is] the first cause, all things come to pass immutably and infallibly" (WCF, 5.2).

When we pray for a person who is seriously sick, we expect God to something miraculous. After all, our Lord Jesus gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, strength to the paralysed, life to the dead. And sometimes Christians have the idea that if God is going to heal a person, He must do it in a spectacular way that would stump the doctors in the hospital. To be sure, God can heal the sick that way if He so wills, and there are times when God does intervene in such mysterious ways.

More often than not, God heals us in the slow and mundane ways of going to the doctors, seeking the right treatment, and taking the right medication. The Westminster Confession says that, "God, in his *ordinary* providence, maketh use of means" (WCF, 5.3); the key word being "ordinary."

When Christians seek God's direction, some expect to see a bright light or hear an audible voice, similar to what Paul experienced on the way to Damascus (Acts 9:3); others expect God to send a vision as He did Paul, when he saw the vision of a man from Macedonia (Acts 16:9). More often than not, God uses the ordinary means of His Word – the faithful and sound preaching of His ministers and the conscionable hearing of His people. No blinding lights or invisible voices, that to some can be disappointing.

## **God Works in Ordinary Ways**

This view of God seems to put an unbridgeable distance between God and us. We think that He is indifferent; we think that the world runs on its own. We expect to see Him only in the big events and not in the mundane routines of day-to-day living. Not so, Paul says, adding that "they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us: For in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:27-28a).

The reason that Christians expect to see God only in the spectacular and see nothing of Him in the ordinary is that we have lost the sense of God's providence. The Confession defines providence as the work of God to "uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things" (WCF, 5.1). God's providence is different from the pagan philosophy of determinism or fate because behind the governance of the world is a God who infinitely wise, just, good and merciful.

Urban living leads to a secularising of the mind. Science and technology provides the answers to all things around us. There is a rationale for everything that happens in the world we live in. Science provides the explanations in the so-called real world.

Christianity – as a religion and like all religions – is good for the individual, and it is a private matter. It deals with the unscientific soul or inner being. It may make a person feel good, but Christianity has neither relevance nor reality in the “real world.”

Beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, on the heels of the Industrial Revolution, when the world became more and more mechanized, the view that the physical world was meaningless. It ran on its own, governed by the laws of nature. Meaning in life was found in and originated from man. Every person is responsible for giving meaning to his or her life. If Christianity can do that, that is good, but the Christian cannot impose his/her Christian views on a person to whom Christianity means nothing. In other words, the Christian faith is privatised. Christianity is good if it is kept in a person’s mind and within the confines of his home.

This is the thinking today. Sadly, this is the thinking that Christians have too. Even though, Christians reject atheism, and the other false religions, we have succumbed to the pressures of the world and have kept our faith out of sight and underground.

Christian ethics and morality become a matter for the individual and has no place in the public domain. And Christians go about their work/vocation without seeing the connection between their faith and their work, without considering how they may express the Christian faith in the work that they do.

### **God Works Through Ordinary Providence**

One of the reasons is that Christians have failed to see the power and presence of God in our daily lives. In bygone days, it was God who brings the rain. The Psalmist says, “He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasuries” (Psalm 135:7). Today, the same rain cycle is explained changing air pressure, relative humidity, cold fronts and rising hot air; very much like Psalm 137 except that God is left out of the picture. But knowing the science behind the rain cycle does not and should not diminish the fact that God causes the rain. He works through means; that is God’s ordinary providence.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Century Protestant Reformers understood this very well. They saw two kingdoms, one spiritual and the other physical. In both, God works through ordinary providence. God could have appeared to every man the same way He appeared to Paul, but God uses weak instruments as human beings, and the means of preaching. Paul writes, “It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21). “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Human preaching is the means that God uses.

God also uses the church (body of believers) as His means to minister to one another. Christians are told to “bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). We are to “do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). We are to be “distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality” (Romans 12:13). In so doing, we “let [our] light so shine before men, that they may see [our] good works, and glorify [our] Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

That is how our vocation becomes a spiritual ministry. Christians must regain the understanding that God works through ordinary providence, and be thankful that for most times, we are the beneficiaries of God’s wonderful providence, and sometimes, we are called to be the benefactors of God’s goodness to others.

# 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
Wed 07 Nov 11:00am <b>Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study</b>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Fri 09 Nov 7:00pm <b>Young Adults Fellowship</b> <i>"Quieting the Noisy Soul"</i>	
Sat 10 Nov 4:00pm <b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b>	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev John Sherwood	Rev John Sherwood	<b><u>TODAY: 04/11/2012</u></b>  <b>Chairman:</b> John <b>Organist:</b> Joy <b>Pianist:</b> Jasmine <b>Ushers:</b> Alan / Evelyn <b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Joy <b>Lunch:</b> Maureen <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Scott  <b><u>NEXT WEEK: 11/11/2012</u></b>  <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> John
<b>Message</b>	Heaven Opened	Lonely, yet not alone	
<b>Text</b>	Revelation 19:11	John 16:32	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-Lunch Bible Study:</b> Eld Chew will be leading a study on "A Summary of the Bible".</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Tom, Nina, Helen, Elizabeth, Hannah, Anthony.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those on travel:</b> Sonia, Nana, Matthew, Evelyn, Hannah.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for the Visa process for Pastor &amp; Mrs Ki.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta.</li> <li>• <b>Prayer Meeting for office-bearers after lunch today.</b></li> <li>• <b>Lord's Supper:</b> We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared.</li> </ul>	
<b>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1131.30;</b> Kenya: £275; Lunch: £65 <b>Attendance - Morning: 38 (A) 7 (C), Evening: 26 (A) 3 (C)</b>	

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 42

**Q: What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?**

**A:** *The sum of the Ten Commandments is, TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and OUR NEIGHBOUR as ourselves.*

Comments:

The whole of God's commands to us are here summed up in one word – LOVE. The man who with his whole soul loves God and his neighbour, fulfils the law. *Neighbour* here means not merely one who lives near us, but, as Christ teaches us (Luke 10), whoever holds kindred with us, or is a man.

Proofs:

Matthew 23:37, 39, 40; Romans 13:10

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."</i> <b>Philippians 4:13</b>	<i>"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."</i> <b>1 John 1:9</b>	<i>"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."</i> <b>Jeremiah 29:11</b>