



# 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. 50

**LORD’S DAY 09 DECEMBER 2012**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Morning Service – 11am*

### *Evening Service – 4pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Isaiah 62:10-12

Psalm 133

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 406 – “Who is on the Lord’s Side?”

RHC 262 – “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!”

*Opening Prayer \**

Alan Blaney

Alan Blaney

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 145

John 17

*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 145 verses 1-7*  
(to the tune of Belmont, RHC 22)

RHC 260 – “The Church’s One Foundation”

*Announcements & Memory Verse*

Alan Blaney

Alan Blaney

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 286 – “O Happy Day!”

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*Scriptural Text*

Joshua 24:1-25

1 Thessalonians 2

*Pastoral Prayer*

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Rev Lim Chee Boon

*Sermon Message*

*My Family, My Church*

*Same Heart, Same Mind*

*Lord’s Supper*

Rev Lim Chee Boon

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*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 471 – “A Christian Home”

RHC 261 – “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

*Benediction/3-Fold*

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Rev Lim Chee Boon

*Amen \**

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

*May the Grace of Christ Our Saviour*

\* 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**

# **PROPHET MALACHI SPEAKS TO THE** **CHURCH TODAY (MALACHI 1:1-14)**

Malachi began his book with the compassion of God. 1:1 “The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob’s brother? Saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob.” God has promised to love Israel. And because He loved Israel the people were not destroyed for their sin. The return from captivity under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah was a clear evidence of God’s mercy. However, despite all that God had done, the people chose their own way instead of obeying the Lord.

In 1:6-14 Malachi presented to Israel one of God’s indictment. In these 9 verses there are some prominent words: altar, offering, incense and sacrifices. These words are associated with worship. Thus it is apparent that the complaint of God against His people began with worship. Though the Israelites were worshipping in the temple, God was not pleased with their worship. It fell short of the required standard that they worship God in spirit and in truth. What is Malachi’s message for the church today?

## **I) THERE IS CORRUPTION IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY (1:6-8)**

Malachi began his message with a couple of affirmations that the people would probably agree with wholeheartedly, except that he would go on to rebuke the people based on these affirmations. In verse 6 the prophet said, “A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have despised thy name?” Malachi stated a truth – “a son honours his father and a servant his master.” The Bible has clear command about the matter. In Eph 6:2 we are commanded to “Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise.” Eph 6:5 also tells us: “Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ.”

After stating the truth, God asked 2 rhetorical questions – “if then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts.” We call God our heavenly Father and Master, then where is my fear? (reverence and the sense of awe).

The problem of the people was they were neither honouring nor fearing the Lord. Jesus says in Matthew 7:22-24 “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.”

The key expression of honouring and fearing God is obedience to His Word. Verse 24 says, “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.”

What was the problem with the people in the days of Malachi? They despised God’s Name. “O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?” (v. 6b) The word “despise” means to look down on something as if it is worthless or to treat with contempt. This is a serious matter. The people had worshiped in the temple, the priests offered sacrifices, and they were seemingly doing all the right things, but God said to them, “You have despised my name.”

How the people despised God? They did two things: In verse 7 the people offered polluted (defiled, stale) bread on God's altar and in verse 8 they offered defective animals as sacrifices. God's command concerning the atonement sacrifice is clear and unequivocal. It must be a perfect animal and without blemish. In the latter part of verse 8, God Himself challenged the people to take this kind of gifts and "offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of Hosts."

## **II) THERE IS A NEED TO CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE IN WORSHIP TODAY (1:9-14)**

In this section the prophet instructed the people what they should do. They should pray for forgiveness - "And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us." (verse 9) Malachi says "beseech God"; in other word: "beg or intreat Him" to be gracious unto us. The motivation of the prayer is that God may be gracious. The word "gracious" implies that they did not deserve God's favor, but rather His judgments, for "grace" is undeserved favor.

In verse 9b the prophet says, "this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons?" This phrase is an idiom meaning, "this is what you have produced." Will God be pleased or will he respect those who do this? The implied answer to the rhetorical question is that God has no pleasure in or respect for the worshiper who offers to God something that is defiled or worthless. The people were commanded to stop their vain worship. "Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? Neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of Hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand." (verse 10) This is what Malachi meant in the verse: he thinks it is better to lock the doors of the temple and keep the people out. If they continue to worship this way with their defiled offering then the fire they light on the altar will be worthless. God takes no pleasure in worthless worship; in fact he rejects it!

Verse 11 is a prophecy - "For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi foretold that one day the Gentiles will worship God in the right manner. They will burn incense to His name. They will offer pure sacrifices. Paul tells us of the salvation of the Gentiles in Romans 11. He says the wild olive is grafted into the pure olive tree. God will bless the wild olive, the Gentiles.

Now with the warning given in the above verses, God commands the people and the church today to change their attitude in their worship: Firstly, we must not allow our worship to become drudgery (verses 12-13). Worshiping God should be a delight to all Christians. We love to sing praises to God and to hear His word. Worship energises believers to live meaningfully and purposefully for God. Secondly, we must not deceive God in what we do (verse 14). God knows who we are. We can be physically present in church but our minds and hearts are far away. He knows. So let us come to Him with true and sincere hearts. Our Heavenly Father seeks such attitude of hearts to worship Him

Rev Lim Chee Boon

# 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 12 Dec 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 14 Dec 7:00pm <b>Young Adults Fellowship</b> <i>"Quieting the Noisy Soul"</i>	
Sat 15 Dec 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 Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon	<b><u>TODAY: 09/12/2012</u></b>  <b>Chairman:</b> Alan <b>Organist:</b> Joy <b>Pianist:</b> Jasmine <b>Ushers:</b> John / Constance <b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Joy <b>Lunch:</b> Hannah <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Yangfan
<b>Message</b>	Overcoming Evil with Good	Faith is the Victory	
<b>Text</b>	Romans 12:17-21	1 Thessalonians 3:1-13	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-Lunch Bible Study:</b> Rev Lim will speak on Matthew.</li> <li>• <b>Christmas Service (25/12 @ 10am):</b> Do invite your family and friends to join the service.</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, Jasmine, Anthony.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those on travel:</b> Sonia, Nana, Matthew, Pastor &amp; Mrs Ki, Margaret, Rev Lim's family.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta.</li> <li>• <b>Condolences:</b> to Rachael and her family for the loss of her grandmother.</li> </ul>	<b><u>NEXT WEEK: 16/12/2012</u></b>  <b>Chairman:</b> John <b>Organist:</b> Anthony <b>Pianist:</b> Jasmine <b>Ushers:</b> Jonathan / Yetta <b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Joy <b>Lunch:</b> Volunteers <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Yangfan
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £832.00 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 31 (A) 6 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 3 (C)	

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 47

**Q: What is forbidden in the First Commandment?**

**A:** *The First Commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God, as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to him alone.*

Comments:

The First Commandment forbids us: 1. To deny God, which is *atheism*; 2. To worship any other God, which is *idolatry*; 3. To glorify any other God, which is *profanity*.

Proofs:

Psalm 14:1, Matthew 4:10, Romans 1:25

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."</i></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 9:8</b></p>	<p><i>"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."</i></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 12:9</b></p>	<p><i>"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."</i></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 12:10</b></p>