



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. 11

LORD’S DAY 11 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 34:1-3	Psalm 89:5-7
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 28 – “The God of Abraham Praise”	RHC 49 – “How Great Thou Art!”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 114	Romans 12:1-23
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 114</i> (to the tune of Ellacombe, RHC 29)	RHC 409 – “Take Time to Be Holy”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 384 – “My Jesus, I Love Thee”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 15:1-20	Leviticus 1:1-17
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Defiled Religion – Part 2</i>	<i>Burnt Offering</i>
<i>Lord’s Supper</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	---
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 186 – “Wounded for Me”	RHC 178 – “At the Cross”
<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 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 53

The next passage for us to study about prayer is Ephesians 1:15-23: “Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, ¹⁶ Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, ²⁰ Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: ²² And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, ²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

Grady Scott wrote Bible study materials on Paul's prayers for the Ephesians. I found a few lines of his introduction very interesting. It says, “Warren Wiersbe tells a story of how William Randolph Hearst once read of a valuable piece of art and decided that he must add it to his collection. He sent an agent all over the world to find and secure the art object. After many months his agent came back and told him that he had found the object. It had been stored all the time in a warehouse of Hearst. It had been purchased years ago by Hearst and forgotten!” I thought that this introduction illustrated the point of the importance of prayers and the negligence of the believers in prayer life. The passage I am going to look into has ample material waiting for our study. I intend to study this passage as simply but precisely as possible.

First, we may find reasons why Paul prayed the prayer for the Ephesian believers from the passage. (1) The first few words in verse 15 tells us about the reason why Paul was about to invoke a prayer in the passage. (a) The first few words are: “Wherefore I also.” The Greek phrase translated as “wherefore” literally means “because of this [thing],” or “for this reason.” It indicates the reason why he is going to pray a prayer in the passage. (b) When the Greek text says, “because of this [thing],” the word “this” is a demonstrative pronoun, which points out and specifies the object. Having read the whole chapter, I cannot but conclude that “this” refers to the contents in the previous passage concerning God's grace of salvation in Ephesians 1:3-14. (c) It is necessary to summarize the lessons from 1:3-14 to understand the reason why Paul prayed a prayer in 1:15-23: (i) the believers are chosen by God the Father in 1:3-6; (ii) the believers are redeemed by God the Son in 1:7-12; and (iii) the believers are sealed by God the Spirit in 1:13-14. (d) This brief summary from 1:3-14 indicates that Paul's prayer was for the believers who are in Christ. And also they are members of the true church as Ephesians 2 says. (e) What Paul prayed for the believers was based on what God had done for them. I may say that the worthiness of God was the grounds of Paul's prayers for the believers. Then, his prayer must be offered to honour God as well as to make petitions for them. Through his prayers, we shall see the glory and honour of God. It prevents all man-centred and man-glorifying elements from our prayers.

(2) The second reason why Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers was that he had heard of their faith in the Lord Jesus. (a) In other words, they were genuine believers who know the Lord Jesus Christ (“after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus”).

It may teach us a good definition of a Christian. He is a person who believes in Jesus Christ as revealed in 1:3-14. (b) Their faith was not hidden but known to and heard of even by Paul. It means that their faith was not secretive but confessional. They were not ashamed of their faith. (c) I cannot miss a point here that their faith was very personal. Paul said that it was their faith he heard of. The significance of this personalized faith is twofold: (i) individuals had their personal faith and trust in God and (ii) believing in God personally was those individuals' responsibilities. Paul explained to the Ephesians about the sovereign and supernatural nature of their salvation in Ephesians 1:3-14. He said about God's election of them even before the foundation of the world. If anyone misunderstands God's redemptive works, he may falsely accuse God that He is the responsible party for the unsaved. However, Paul made it very clear that what he heard of was their faith. If Paul said of God's sovereignty in man's salvation in 1:3-14, now he was speaking of man's responsibility.

(3) The third reason why Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers was that they loved all the saints in 1:15: (a) there is a good balance between their vertical relationship with God and their horizontal relationship with man. Faith in God has many expressions. One of them is to love others, especially the members of the household of God. This good balance is often missing in many professing believers. I have often found such unbalance in so-called Bible believing fundamental churches. While they emphasize the importance of God's truths and a personal relationship with God, they have made their congregations cold and unloving. There is no blessed and powerful demonstration of the truth of God without love and affection amongst the believers themselves. If we do not love our brethren whom we see, how can we love God whom we cannot see? 1 John 3:16 epitomizes the lesson we must learn: "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren"; (b) The mutual love shown by the Ephesian believers was praiseworthy even to bring Paul to the throne of grace on their behalf. What they did in loving the saints of God was an act of obedience to the commandment of God. We need to read a few more verses from 1 John 3. Verses 18-19 say, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."¹⁹ And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him." John says that we cannot but love one another, if we are truly of the truth. Truth and love are inseparable. He continues to say in verses 23-24, "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."²⁴ And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." If I follow John's teaching, I must say that my true knowledge concerning my relationship with God is to be affirmed and confirmed by my obedience to the commandment of the Lord, which is to love my fellow brethren. If I obey His commandment, I can know that I dwell in Him and He in me. It is something that the Holy Spirit testifies in me. It is no wonder that Paul put the faith of the Ephesian believers and the love they had for one another in the same line, as if they were inseparable. In fact, the apostle John emphasized the importance of keeping the commandment to love one another and the answered prayers by God in 1 John 3:22, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

As we have seen so far, Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:15 about three compelling reasons why he cannot but pray for the Ephesian believers. Second, Paul says about the frequency of his prayers and particular contents of his prayers in verse 16. Well, I think I'd better leave this study for our future studies after I come back from overseas. In the meanwhile, let us pray for one another and demonstrate our faith in God and love for our fellow brethren.

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 16 Mar 7:30pm Young Adults Fellowship	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Christine to our worship services last Lord's Day
Sat 17 Mar 4:00pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev John Sherwood	Rev John Sherwood	<u>TODAY: 11/03/2012</u> Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Jasmine Ushers: Daniel / Constance Sunday School: Hannah / Joy Lunch: Mrs Ki Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Jonathan
Message	No Condemnation	The Preservation of the Church of God	
Text	John 8:1-12	Acts 5:38-39	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Pastor Ki will continue the series of studies on "The Doctrine of the Man". • 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, Jonathan. • Pray for those who are/will be on travel: Sonia, Nana, Eld & Mrs Chew, Prema, Jiak Eng, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Nnabugwu, Marilyn, Naomi. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Rachael, Michelle. • Easter Camp 2012 (6/4 to 9/4): The camp speaker will be Pastor Gavin Beers. 	<u>NEXT WEEK: 18/03/2012</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Joy Pianist: Anthony Ushers: Alan / Yetta Sunday School: Hannah / Joy Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Lee Wei / Yangfan

Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £935.00,
Lunch: £55.00, Kenya: £300.00

Attendance - Morning: 34 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 24 (A) 3 (C)

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 8

Q: How doth God execute his decrees?

A: God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Comments:

We have been told what God *is*; we now begin to learn what he *has done*. We are here told that he created all things, and still sustains them, and that in creation and providence we see God executing his own decrees.

Proofs:

Revelation 4:11, Daniel 4:35

MEMORY VERSE

	This Week	
Last Week <i>"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."</i> Luke 19:10	<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> John 1:14	Next Week <i>"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."</i> John 3:3