



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. 7

LORD’S DAY 12 FEBRUARY 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>	Philippians 2:5-11	Psalm 117
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 11 – “May Jesus Christ Be Praised”	RHC 88 – “Praise Him! 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 110	Hebrews 4
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 110 verses 1-4</i> (to the tune of Kilmarnock, RHC 561)	RHC 387 – “I Need Thee Every Hour”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 96 – “He Keeps Me Singing”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 14:22-36	Exodus 25:10-22
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Jesus Walking on the Water</i>	<i>The Tabernacle of God</i>
<i>Lord’s Supper</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	---
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 178 – “At the Cross”	RHC 368– “From Every Stormy Wind that Blows”
<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 49

Now we are coming to the next passage for biblical prayer. I think that 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 is one of the best passages to study on the subject of prayer because it contains not only a prayer but also God's answer to that prayer: "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸ For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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."

First, we may need to consider the occasion of Paul's prayer in this passage. I must admit that there may be deep and serious implications related to the cause or background of Paul's prayer in verse 7 that I may not fully comprehend. Despite such limitations, let me venture out to try to find some important lessons we may learn about prayer from it. (1) From the bird's eyes' view, I must say that Paul was caused to pray or compelled to pray. He could not but pray. In other words, he was brought into a situation for which he could not but pray. (2) I also need to say that the one who caused him to pray was none other than God. (3) The situation that compelled Paul to pray was neither good nor benevolent to him humanly speaking. (4) The situation that compelled him to pray was providential. It was because the situation was neither accidental nor purposeless. Verse 7 clarifies these points quite frankly. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure." There are at least three things we need to consider: (a) the primary cause that pushed him to bring himself to the Lord in prayer was the abundance of revelation. We understand that revelation is not of man, because it implies manifestation or disclosure of something that is hidden from his eyes. Revelation is of God. Besides, the revelation given to Paul was of abundance. The Greek word for abundance probably does not refer to the quantity of revelations but to the quality, which is extraordinary in character. Such revelation is of course of God. And also the contents of the revelations Paul had received from the Lord were quite amazing and extraordinary. He was caught up into paradise according to verse 4. This particular term, paradise, attracts our attention. However, instead of doing any word study to identify the place of paradise, I'll follow the context and read verse 2, which says, "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven." It has been generally accepted that Paul is talking about his experience here not as a first person but a third person. Thus, the one who was caught up to the third heaven was Paul, who was brought into the paradise in verse 4. He heard words beyond any expression. It is possible that they are too sacred to be uttered by him. Or, Paul could not find proper words to express what he had heard. In other words, what he saw and heard in the third heaven was beyond any human description. Maybe we find hence a glimpse of the idea of glory. Glory is something not describable. What I want to say is that it is possible for us to be compelled to pray because of glory; (b) There is a divine purpose in everything for our benefit. We need to consider "lest I should" in the beginning of the verse. That expression can also be translated as "in order that I might not." It is a purpose clause. The situation compelling Paul to make desperate prayers had a divine purpose. (c) The compelling situation does not have to be caused by the person who is to pray. Rather, I may say that it is God's divine grace to him to fulfill God's divine providence by praying. A thorn in the flesh was given to Paul. He did not ask for it. His actions or behavior did not cause him to receive the thorn. Rather, the thorn in his flesh was a divine provision for him not to sin against God. It is too high and too noble for us to fully comprehend. However, it lets us know that the spiritual privilege Paul had eventually led him to have a thorn in the flesh.

(5) God's providential situation for the benefit of His people is not necessarily a happy and comfortable condition in the flesh. The glory Paul saw and experienced brought him a thorn, which was quite a pain to him. Glory and pain seem to be contradictory.....

Divine providence of God for His faithful servants and letting them suffer in the flesh appear to be inconsistent with God's goodness. However, we see them move together for the benefit of God's people.

(6) God's permission for His servant to experience pain in the flesh was for his good, but Satan misused and abused the occasion for his purposes to destroy Paul. It is like a struggle of two perspectives in the believers' mind for one same event. From Paul's spiritual point of view, the thorn in his flesh was a deterrence of any chance to sin against God by glorying himself about the abundance of revelations. But from his physical point of view, the thorn was an instrument that Satan used to make him suffer. How many believers are failing God in times of suffering? Especially, after glorious experiences like Paul's, after they have tasted the grace of God, unspeakable pain and suffering come and torment them. They cannot comprehend the reason and purpose of such torments. Paul said that the messenger of Satan buffeted him, which is translated as "harass" (ESV) and "torment" (NIV). The Greek word for "buffet" means "to strike with the fist," "to maltreat," or "to treat with violence and contumely." However, the agency of Satan could not prevail against the grace of God. (7) All of these experiences were to give Paul extra strength and resolution not to exalt himself above measure. (8) Let us know that the thorn was in the flesh, though the spirit was sound and healthy. Great spiritual blessings do not immunize the believers from the thorns in the flesh,

Second, I am going to consider his prayer itself. (1) Paul said that he prayed three times for relief from the thorn in verse 8. Probably, it does not mean that we must pray just three times. The point is that his prayer was answered, and it happened to be after his three occasions of prayer. And also, it indicates that his prayer was not answered as soon as he prayed. (2) Though Paul believed in the sovereignty of God, he prayed for his needs. The sovereignty of God does not clash with the necessity of prayers.

Third, God answered Paul's prayers in verse 9. (1) The answer was effectively, "no." It means that there was no relief from his afflictions. Can it be true that it was God's will for him to suffer? More relevantly, we may say, "is it possible that God wills us to suffer at times?" Apparently, the answer is yes. (2) What we can see is that good things may mean different things in man's and God's perspectives. It was not good for Paul to be in pain, but it was not bad from God's perspectives, even if Paul was in such a state. Rather, the thorn was an instrument to help him to be pure before God. (3) It implies that the goodness of God is not something that can be measured by absence or presence of pain and suffering in individuals' lives. (4) God's direct answer is found in verse 9, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness": (a) The answer to Paul's prayer was not to grant his wishes. (b) Instead, the answer was to pronounce the will of God to him. (c) Paul did neither resist the Lord's answer nor attempt to change the answer. (d) Behind his submission, it is needless to say that Paul was assured of the grace of God, which was always sufficient for him. (e) After all, the grace of God is the best answer for any prayer request. I must say that Paul did not get what he wanted (relief from physical afflictions) but received what he needed (sufficient grace of God). (f) What God provides is far superior to what man wants. God's strength was made perfect in Paul's weakness. Whatever God's perfect strength in Paul's weakness means, it must suffice to say that what He provides is far more than what we can ask for.

Fourth, Paul was submissive to the will of God shown in His answer. (1) He did not complain. He did not mourn over his incurable physical afflictions. (2) Instead, he welcomed the power of Christ resting in him in verse 9b. (3) He took delight in all of his infirmities and other seeming disadvantages in life for Christ's sake in verse 10.

Paul's prayer eventually worked in his heart and changed his perspective toward trials and pain. Through prayer, he found the will of God and submitted to it.

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 17 Feb	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship <i>Bible Study on Philipians</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
Sat 18 Feb	4:00pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting <i>"Eschatology"</i>	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Eld George Chew	Eld George Chew	<u>TODAY: 12/02/2012</u>
Message	Naaman the Leper	Function of the Church	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	2 Kings 5:1-14	2 Timothy 4:1-8	Organist: Joy

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<u>NEXT WEEK: 19/02/2012</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Pastor Ki will continue the series of studies on <i>"The Doctrine of the Church"</i>. • Saturday Bible Study: This coming Saturday, Pastor Ki will continue the study on <i>"Eschatology"</i>. • 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, Jin • Pray for those who are/will be on travel: Sonia, Nana, Daniel Ki, Mrs Chew, Prema, Fung, Jiak Eng. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Rachael, Michelle. • Easter Camp 2012 (6/4 to 9/4): The camp speaker will be Pastor Gavin Beers 			Pianist: Anthony
			Ushers: Daniel / Constance
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £695, Lunch: £38 Kenya: £10 Attendance - Morning: 22 (A) 1 (C), Evening: 18 (A) 1 (C)			Sunday School: Hannah / Joy
			Lunch: Mrs Ki
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Lee Wei / Yangfan

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 4

Q: What is God?

A: God is a spirit – infinite, eternal, and unchangeable – in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Comments:

The first thing we are here told concerning God is, that he has no *body* as we have. The second thing is, that he is not limited like us by want of power, affected by time, or subject to change. And the third thing is, that in character he is wise, and holy, and just, and good, and true. This is *our* God – the greatest of all beings, and the best.

Proofs:

John 4:24, Job 11:7, Daniel 4:35, Psalm 90:2, Psalm 102:26, 27

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."</i> Matthew 28:18-19	<i>"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."</i> Matthew 28:20	<i>"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."</i> Luke 9:23