



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. 42

LORD’S DAY 14 OCTOBER 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 138:1-2	Psalm 117:1-2
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 93 – “To God Be the Glory”	RHC 26 – “Come, Thou Fount”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 137	1 Timothy 3:1-16
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 137 verses 1-6</i> (to the tune of Belmont, RHC 22)	RHC 445 – “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 420 – “I Surrender All”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 19:27-30	Joshua 1:1-9
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Heavenly Reward</i>	<i>Succession Plan</i>
<i>Lord’s Supper</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	---
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 187 – “It Is A Thing Most Wonderful”	RHC 451 – “Ready”
<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

CONSCIENCE - PART 7

The issues related to conscience are very relevant to lots of ugly crimes happening today in our society. Not too long ago, a young man who had not even reach the age of 20 broke into a primary school classroom and hurt many children. Before he committed that crime, he had left a letter behind with instructions about the disposal of his dead body. In this letter, he said that he knew that what he was going to do was wrong, but he would do it anyway, because he did not want to die alone. Well, he survived and was arrested. The medical professionals called the young man a sociopath. I did not have any idea about the term and decided to look it up in the dictionary. I found the following descriptions about sociopath. A sociopath is glib and has superficial charm. He may be manipulative and cunning. He feels that he is entitled to have rights, while he does not recognize others' rights. He does not have any problem lying coolly and easily. He has a lack of remorse, shame or guilt. He is callous and shows a lack of empathy. This description goes on and on. I am sure that there are medical explanations for all these symptoms. Nonetheless, I also find problems with such a person's conscience. All of the symptoms are, in fact, related to wrong, wicked, darkened, and even a seared conscience. The problem goes back to the darkened mind and defiled conscience. Lots of so-called experts will probably try to fix such people's problems with medication. However, there is no medicine that can fix the wicked and darkened conscience. Prophet Jeremiah described his sinful people in Jeremiah 4:22, "For my people *is* foolish, they have not known me; they *are* sottish children, and they have none understanding: they *are* wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge." Evil conscience encourages the wicked to be getting even worse. The misery of the wicked is even more aggravated by their inability to fix their problems. Jeremiah testified it in Jeremiah 13:23, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? *then* may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." An evil and seared conscience is only accustomed to doing evil. Without the grace of God, no one is able to remove the fatness from his conscience, because man is sinful by nature. It is another reason that he must be born again. He needs to be redeemed and cleansed. Again and again, the Scripture proves itself to be true. Hebrews 9:9 says that there is nothing but one that can cleanse our conscience. Hebrews 9:14 testifies that only the blood of Jesus can cleanse it.

There was an interesting article in the *Guardian* on October 1, which title was, "'Conversion therapy' for gay patients unethical, says professional body." This article says, "Britain's biggest professional body for psychotherapists has instructed members that it is unethical for them to attempt to 'convert' gay people to being heterosexual, formalising a policy change long demanded by rights groups." It continues to say, "The BACP [British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy] guideline change followed a case in which a devoutly Christian psychotherapist, Lesley Pilkington, was struck off the members' list for offering conversion therapy to an undercover journalist. Her appeal was turned down in May." I am not planning to talk about gay and lesbian issues here. All that I want to consider is that the BACP considers it unethical that any of its members tries to help gay people to become heterosexual. I thought it was very interesting that the BACP used the term "unethical." There was no mention of whether the therapy did change the treated gay people or not. The reason that the BACP opposed this therapy was because it was "based upon the assumption that homosexuality is a mental disorder, or based on the premise that the client/patient should change his/her sexuality." The article also says, "The statement, drawn up by the board of governors, ends: 'BACP believes that socially inclusive, non-judgmental attitudes to people who identify across the diverse range of human sexualities will have positive consequences for those individuals, as well as for the wider society in which they live. There is no scientific, rational or ethical reason to treat people who identify within a range of human sexualities any differently from those who identify solely as heterosexual.'"

The main reason that the BACP opposes this therapy is that the BACP has its own presuppositions (socially inclusive, non-judgmental attitudes) about “people who identify across the diverse range of human sexualities,” and that it does not agree with the presuppositions behind the conversion therapy. Honestly speaking, I do not know about “Conversion therapy.” However, the word, “unethical” in the statement issued by the BACP caught my eye. It is because the word, “ethical,” is a word related to morality, which is also related to conscience. “Being ethical” refers to “pertaining to or dealing with morals or the principles of morality.” “Being ethical” is conduct properly based on the notions of right and wrong. It is a work of conscience to decide whether what we are doing is ethical or not. However, when a man is away from God, his conscience is darkened, and he cannot correctly know what is right and wrong. What the BACP did and does is to change the meaning and roles of its members’ consciences. Any definition of ethics, morality, or conscience without God is unclean and imperfect. Every part of our ethics, moral principles or conscience needs to be purified and purged by the blood of Jesus. This is what Hebrews 10:22 says, “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” Unless a person’s conscience is sanctified by the blood of Jesus, he does not have the best guidance for moral and ethical principles. This may be a meaning of 1 John 3:6, “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.”

Conscience is important to the welfare of healthy societies. It is because a good conscience convicts men and women of their wrongs and sins. Thus, they receive opportunities to correct their wrongs. We find two extreme examples of people’s responses to the proper work of their consciences. One, Peter preached to the Jews in Jerusalem in Acts 2. He told them that Jesus was both their Lord and Christ in 2:36. As they heard him preaching Jesus, according to verse 37, they were pricked in their heart. The Greek word for “prick” in this verse means “to pierce,” “to pain the mind sharply,” or “to agitate [the mind] vehemently.” It was the work of their conscience that caused their minds to feel a sharp pain because of their sins and unbelief. In response to this troubled conscience, they asked Peter and the other apostles in the same verse, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said in 2:38, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” This positive response to the work of their troubled heart/conscience resulted in their salvation in verse 41, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.” Their conscience helped them to be conscious of their sins, and they repented. Two, on the other hand, we find a totally different response of people against their conscience. In Acts 7, Stephen spoke to the council, and according to 7:1. There was also the high priest. Stephen recounted the history of Israel. He pointed out the sins of Israel including their disobedience, rebellions, and unbelief. He spoke about idolatries their forefathers practiced. While these religious men were listening to him, something happened in their hearts. Acts 7:54, “When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.” Their uncomfortable conscience made them furious against Stephen, and we know what happened afterwards. Acts 7:57-59 say, “Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,⁵⁸ And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul.⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” They killed Stephen. They acted against the demand of their conscience. Even in the hearts of the pagans, there is the law written for them. However, they cannot keep such laws of their own hearts, which bring them into condemnation. Probably, it is the meaning of Romans 2:11-16. The second group of Jews could not bear the burdens of the voice from their own conscience. We need Jesus even for our conscience.

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
Tue 16 Oct	11:00am	Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Jade Chong, Raymond Leong and Joyce Tay to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Fri 19 Oct	7:00pm	Young Adults Fellowship <i>"Quieting the Noisy Soul"</i>	
Sat 20 Oct	4:00pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting <i>"Eschatology" – Rev Timothy Ki</i>	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	<u>TODAY: 14/10/2012</u>
Message	Continuing Thoughts of Rewards	Crossing of Jordan	Chairman: John
Text	Matthew 20:1-16	Joshua 3:1-17	Organist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Joy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Pastor Ki will continue the study on "Anthropology" – The Doctrine of the Man. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Mrs Ki, Lai Kheng, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Tom, Nina, Helen, Maureen. • Pray for those on travel: Sonia, Nana, Matthew, Jonathan. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. • Baptism Service of Abigail Blaney: The baptism will take place on 21st October 2012. 			Ushers: Alan / Daniel
			Sunday School: Hannah / Joy
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Yangfan
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 21/10/2012</u>
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1262.10; Lunch: £44.00			Chairman: Jonathan
Attendance - Morning: 31 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 20 (A) 3 (C)			Organist: Joy
			Pianist: Anthony
			Ushers: Tom / Yetta
			Sunday School: Hannah / Joy
			Lunch: Constance
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Scott
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 39			
Q: What is the duty which God requireth of man?			
<i>A: The duty which God requireth of man, is OBEDIENCE TO HIS REVEALED WILL.</i>			
<u>Comments:</u>			
Having just learned what God has done, is doing, and means to do for us, we are now to be told what he requires us to do <i>for him</i> . What he requires of us is <i>obedience</i> to all that he reveals. This is our <i>duty</i> , or <i>what we ought to do</i> .			
<u>Proofs:</u>			
Ecclesiastes 12:13, Micah 6:8			
MEMORY VERSE			
Last Week	This Week	Next Week	
<i>"Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good."</i>	<i>"Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness."</i>	<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>	
Psalm 119:39	Psalm 119:40	Nehemiah 4:6	