



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. 8

LORD’S DAY 19 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>	Psalm 36:5-7	Psalm 147:1
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 36 – “High in the Heavens, Eternal God”	RHC 27 – “Now Thank We All 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 111	Ephesians 4:1-16
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 111 verses 1-4, 10</i> (to the tune of Crimond, RHC 344)	RHC 261 – “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 67 – “Praise the Saviour”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	2 Kings 5:1-15	2 Timothy 4:1-8
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	“Naaman the Leper” – Eld George Chew	“Function of the Church” – Eld George Chew
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 324 – “Trusting Jesus”	RHC 450 – “To the Work!”
<i>Benediction / 3-Fold Amen *</i>	Eld George Chew	Eld George Chew
<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 50

We have learnt that Paul found the will of the Lord concerning his afflictions through prayer in 2 Corinthians 12. That finding was the answer to his prayer. The answer he received was not something that could remove the cause of his prayers, physical affliction. However, he shows us that the will of the Lord in any given situation is an answer to all who are praying. Paul stopped praying for physical deliverance and graciously accepted the will of the Lord by faith. In fact, having realized that the grace of God was sufficient even in his physical afflictions, he was determined to take pleasure in his infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, and in distresses for Christ's sake. It is quite a striking confession that he was going to take pleasure in the problem (his physical infirmities), for which he had prayed before. He could not but be a man of faith, as we look at his attitude after he had known the will of God through his prayers. Prayer changed his perspective and attitude toward physical afflictions. And he did not revisit the issue again. It should be true that prayer does not change God but changes us, that prayer teaches us the will of God in issues we are facing, and that prayer ends with praises regardless of the kinds of answers (yes, no, or not yet). The next passage we are going to study is 2 Corinthians 13:7, "Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates."

First, we find the contents of Paul's prayer for the Corinthian believers. (1) He prayed that they would not do evil. (2) It is not easy to explain what "evilness" Paul is talking about in this verse. Other translations including ESV, NAS, and NIV translate the word as "wrong." (a) 2 Corinthians 12:19-21 elaborates Paul's concerns about the impurity of the Corinthian believers. "Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but *we do* all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying. ²⁰ For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and *that* I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest *there be* debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: ²¹ *And* lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and *that* I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed." Paul will be mourning over many who have sinned but not repented. They are not only unrepentant but also continuing to commit sin. The sin of sexual immorality appears to be especially pervasive not only in the community in general but also in the church in Corinth. Of course, according to verse 20, there were many sins that caused divisions and disharmony within the church. (b) The seriousness of Paul's warning against the unrepentant is clearly demonstrated in 13:1a, which says, "This is the third time I am coming to you." "Third time" may attract many interpretations, but what it clearly indicates is that plenty of warnings have been given to the church. (c) There is a hint in verse 2, which says, "I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare." There is an indication that there were people who had sinned. Paul is sternly warning them that he will not ignore the problems. Ralph P. Martin says in his commentary on 2 Corinthians that "possibly this [sparing someone] was a military term, suggesting an enemy in battle, especially when the opportunity to kill the enemy presented itself and was not taken . . ." (p. 472). We need to understand that the purpose of the warning is not to destroy them but to spare them. The pastoral heart Paul had had moved him to give them a warning to repent, and with the same heart he prayed for them later. (d) According to 13:3, the Corinthian believers did not acknowledge Paul's authority as an apostle: "Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you." Thus, they required proof of his credentials in this verse. They despised Paul and were disrespectful. In reality, they considered Paul a weakling. 2 Corinthians 10:1 says, "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence *am* base among you, but being absent *am* bold toward you." 2 Corinthians 10:10, "For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible."

If we read 2 Corinthians 10:7 carefully, we may even find an implication that they did not think of him as a true Christian. 2 Corinthians 10:7 says, “Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he *is* Christ's, even so *are* we Christ's.” If their spirit could not discern an apostle of Jesus Christ, Paul, as a man of God, what could they rightly discern? They were arrogant people.

Second, Paul gave them some exhortations or biblical lessons to correct their wrong views. (1) They did not understand the true authority and power of the apostles (believers). They tended to apostleship with demonstrative power. We know that the Corinthians were talking about charismatic power or gifts a lot. Of course, Paul does not diminish the presence of the power of God, but corrects their wrong perceptions in 2 Corinthians 13:4, “For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.” Jesus took the form of a servant, and Paul did the same thing. The Corinthians might have thought that Jesus was weak, but He accomplished everything by the power of God. If they had seen it from Jesus, they should have recognized Paul's authority over them as an apostle of Jesus Christ. (2) They needed to examine their own faith first, before they even attempted to measure Paul's faith. 2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” Paul gives them an opportunity to examine themselves before they are scrutinized by others. What they needed to examine was whether they were in faith or not. If I remake this exhortation for us living today, I may say that Paul is asking them, “do you know what it means to be a Christian?” or “do you know what Christianity is all about?” Paul makes it clear that they are not in a position to examine him. They ought to examine themselves first. By demanding of them to review their faith and to examine themselves first, Paul wants to lead them to the fundamentals of Christian faith and Christian living. He says that, if a person does not think that he has faith in Christ Jesus, he is not a believer but a reprobate. This exhortation is also a challenge to them that they ought to walk by faith in Christ Jesus, if they have faith in Him.

Third, Paul shares his prayer with them in 2 Corinthians 13:7, “Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.” (1) Praying that they will not do evil is also to pray that they will be restored through repentance and changed attitudes. Paul really wishes their perfection in 13:9. (2) Paul is totally unselfish. He does not mind how he appears to them. Though he may appear to them as a reprobate, it should not cause them to sin. However, he also mentions in 13:6 that he is not one of the reprobates. (3) Paul shows his sincere heart for the people as their pastor. What he desires here is not to clear his name or to demonstrate his apostolic power to prove his apostleship, though he has power to do so probably through some sort of disciplinary actions as indicted in 13:2. What he desires is to see that the Corinthian believers will do the right things. What Paul says is something like: “though you reject me as a reprobate, you do what is right.” The most important matter in his prayer life was to spare the believers from falling into sin. He wanted to bring them out by God's grace through his prayers. (4) Then, what he is praying for in this passage is for their edification, to be built up as one body in Christ to glorify Him. It is also the reason for his writing according to 12:19, “Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but *we do* all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.” Though Paul has power to discipline them, he refrains himself from exercising this power but does everything to edify them. (5) We must not forget that, while he is praying to God for His grace upon the Corinthian believers, he is also exhorting them according to His prayers. On the one hand, he asks the Lord for His help, but, on the other hand, he teaches the people concerning what they are supposed to do.

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 24 Feb	7:00pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony <i>God's Purpose for Iran - Mr Paul Toms</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Jessica Kong and Flora to our worship services last Lord's Day
Sat 25 Feb	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: 19/02/2012</u>
Message	Defiled Religion	Offerings and Sacrifices	Chairman: John
Text	Matthew 15:1-20	Leviticus 7:37-38	Organist: Joy
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Anthony
<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 Man"</i>. • Church cleaning next Saturday: For those who wish to volunteer, please see Hannah or Mrs Ki. Please meet up in Church at 1pm. • Ladies Fellowship next Sunday: Please see Mrs Ki for more information. • 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, Jin • Pray for those who are/will be on travel: Sonia, Nana, Eld & Mrs Chew, Prema, Fung, Jiak Eng, Sharon. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Rachael, Michelle. • Easter Camp 2012 (6/4 to 9/4): The camp speaker will be Pastor Gavin Beers 			Ushers: Tom/Yetta
			Sunday School: Hannah/Joy
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £902.50, Lunch: £68.10, Kenya: £21.00 Attendance - Morning: 32 (A) 3 (C), Evening: 27 (A) 3 (C)			Lunch: Constance
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Lee Wei/Yangfan
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 26/02/2012</u>
			Chairman: John
			Organist: Anthony
			Pianist: Joy
			Ushers: Daniel/Margaret
			Sunday School: Hannah/Joy
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Jonathan

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 5

Q: Are there more Gods than one?

A: *There is but one only, the living and true God.*

Comments:

We are here taught that there is only one God; and this one God is the source of all life, and the only true object of worship.

Proofs:

Isaiah 45:5

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"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."

Matthew 28:20

This Week

"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."

Luke 9:23

Next Week

"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work."

Nehemiah 4:6