



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. 43

LORD’S DAY 21 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>	Isaiah 44:1-6	Psalms 100
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 45 – “We Gather Together”	RHC 20 – “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalms 138	Isaiah 49:1-13
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 138</i> (to the tune of Bethlehem, RHC 251)	RHC 253 – “Standing on the Promises”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 119 – “Sweeter as the Years Go By”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 20:1-16	Joshua 3:1-17
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Continuing Thoughts of Rewards</i>	<i>Crossing Jordan River</i>
<i>Infant Baptism</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 245 – “Channels Only”	RHC 348 – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
<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 8

Last week's talk about the darkened conscience was important, because it helped us to see the necessity of a conscience cleansed by the blood of Jesus. However, by such teaching it should never be understood that the conscience of the unregenerate is totally out of function and does not work at all. It is not so. There are at least a few reasons to believe that though conscience is not fully sanctified, it still functions for the benefit of the whole of humanity. (1) We probably need to revisit Romans 2:14-15, which says, "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: ¹⁵ Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another)." What this passage means is that there is a moral code in everyman's conscience. It is not too hard to understand. Though there are very evil and wicked people out there and we are chilled by their crimes, we cannot deny that they do also have consciences though they may be very dull or have a different set of rules. It is quite an interesting practice that the most cruel and wicked criminal organizations require their members to follow the strictest rules made for them. When they violate the rules, they are condemned for their unethical (according to their own standards) actions and expected to be punished accordingly. Their morality may be sinful against their victims, but they still maintain moral codes within their own organizations or so-called families. It tells us that they still have their own sets of morality written within their consciences. (2) The most outstanding example about one's conscience is probably in the story of the adulterous woman caught at the scene in John 8. According to Jewish law, she was worthy of the death penalty. She was to die by stoning. The scribes and Pharisees brought her to Jesus and asked Him about His views of the case in the light of the Mosaic Law. John 8:6, "This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not.*" When they forced Jesus to give them an answer, He told them in verse 7b, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Verse 9 says, "And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst." Though they thought that the Law of Moses effectively told them to stone an adulterous woman, when they examined themselves, they were convicted of their own sins and could not throw a stone at her. Though they rejected Jesus as their Messiah, their conscience was sharp enough to condemn their own sinfulness. I cannot but say that it is a result of God's grace for the benefit of the whole of mankind. Conscience is imbedded in the most inner place of man's inner being. There is also a very interesting element of conscience in this story of the adulterous woman. When the religious men brought her to Jesus, they had not thought of their own sinfulness. They were full of religious zeal and desire to execute the law. Their conscience was clean even to the extent that they demanded of Jesus to take a stand on this matter by making a judgment against her sin. However, soon after they heard Jesus saying, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her," their conscience was pricked, and all of them left the place. This point may require all of us to consider our religious life and works, whether what we are doing now is good or bad. This story implies that our conscience is not infallible. It also, I think, shows us the power of conscience over reason. The reason of the scribes and the Pharisees convinced them that the adulterous woman should be stoned to death. The highest authority over their reasoning was the Law of Moses, and they firmly believed that they had grounds to execute their judgment against her. However, they stopped doing that. What made them stop? It was the work of their conscience. (3) Before I move on, I must tell you about the strength of conscience. We often hear about people who come to the police to confess their uncaught crimes in the past. They are not found, but they make self-confessions. They are scared of jail sentences and humiliation, but they cannot live in peace without confessing them first.

I heard about a serial killer who was about to die in prison. Only about a week before he died, he called for a policeman to confess his other murders, which were still unsolved crimes. He said that he did it to give his conscience peace. All these years, he was tormented inside until confession was made.

At this point, I'd like to revisit Titus 1:5 to understand the fallibility of conscience. Titus 1:15 says, "Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." The last part of the verse says that mind and conscience are defiled. (1) The Greek word for "defile" means "to dye with another color," "to stain," "to defile," "to pollute," or "to contaminate." Over all, it speaks about corruption. What it means is that conscience cannot be the sole judge over all matters, as it is neither reliable nor infallible, unless it is sanctified by the blood of Jesus and the knowledge of God. (2) We need to also know that "defiled" in this verse is a passive word. It means that the conscience can be contaminated by some things. There was a young singer, Guy Sebastian, who rocked Australia as the winner of Australian Idol in 2003. He was known as a devout Christian worshipping in one of the largest charismatic churches in Adelaide. He did not mind talking about his faith on stage. He went into the music business and became a celebrity even in the US. He recently produced his new album and has been doing promotional interviews. In one of the interviews, he spoke about his faith again, but this time it was with a different tone. The following is a part of his recent interview with *News Limited Network* on October 11, 2012: "My views are more based on life and discovery and research than just what I'm told' . . . 'Because what I was told in regards to so many things was so wrong. I've gone from a place where I was told there was one way and only one way, to being more in a place where I don't think anyone has the right to say what they believe is more important or more significant.'" Sebastian also spoke out in favour of gay marriage. His moral principles had changed. The consciousness of his religious beliefs had also changed. I would not say that these changes are improvements but defilements from the biblical point of view. It implies that we must guard our conscience from pollutants. We need to remember that conscience can be defiled. Unless conscience is based on the absolute standard of God, it is corruptible. (3) Titus 1:15 makes it clear that mind and conscience are different. They are not the same. If there is any commonality between the two, both can be defiled. The primary meaning of mind is, according to the Thayer's Greek Lexicon, something that comprises like "the faculties of perceiving, understanding, and those of feeling." It is often related to reason, too. (4) Titus 1:15 also gives us an idea of the people whose mind and conscience may be defiled. They are those who are defiled and unbelieving. If this is true, then we cannot but say that the conscience of the unsaved is defiled and contaminated. (5) The fallibility of conscience must make the believers accountable for their consciences. The sanctifying grace is available, and they are already washed by the blood of Jesus. Then, they should continue to discipline their consciences to comply with the instructions of God. For example, Amos 5:14 says, "Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken."

Before I return to the points I have made in the first five articles, I would like to speak about conscience in the Greek Old Testament, the Septuagint. Interestingly, there is only one occurrence of the Greek word for conscience in the whole Greek Old Testament in Ecclesiastes 10:20, "Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter." The same Greek word is translated as "thought" in "thy thought." Its Hebrew word means "knowledge," "mind," or "thought." Franz Delitzsch says in his commentary, *Commentary of the Canticles and Ecclesiastes*: "It does not correspond with the moral-religious idea of conscience, but yet it touches it, for it designates the quiet, inner consciousness which judges according to moral criteria."

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
Wed 24 Oct	11:00am	Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Nikki Ching to our worship services last Lord's Day.
		Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony	
Fri 26 Oct	7:00pm	" <i>God's Purpose for Israel (past)</i> " - Mr Richard Monteith	
Sat 27 Oct	4:00pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting "Eschatology" – Rev Timothy Ki	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 21/10/2012</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan</p> <p>Organist: Joy</p> <p>Pianist: Anthony</p> <p>Ushers: Tom / Yetta</p> <p>Sunday School: Hannah / Joy</p> <p>Lunch: Constance</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 28/10/2012</u></p> <p>Chairman: Alan</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Jasmine</p> <p>Ushers: Jonathan/Margaret</p> <p>Sunday School: Hannah / Joy</p> <p>Lunch: Maureen</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Yangfan</p>
Message	TBC	TBC	
Text	TBC	TBC	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<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, Elizabeth. • Pray for those on travel: Sonia, Nana, Matthew, Evelyn, Lee Wei. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. • Ladies Fellowship next Sunday: For more information, please see Mrs May Chew or Mrs Ki. • Church cleaning next Saturday, 1pm: For those who wish to volunteer, please see Hannah or Mrs Ki. • Infant Baptism of Abigail Blaney: The baptism will take place today during the morning service. 	
<p>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £871.00; Lunch: £49.90 Attendance - Morning: 31 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 26 (A) 5 (C)</p>	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 40

Q: What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A: The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was THE MORAL LAW.

Proofs:

"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, not having the law, are a law unto themselves." Romans 2:14

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p>"Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness." Psalm 119:40</p>	<p>"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</p>	<p>"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13</p>