



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. 53

LORD’S DAY 30 DECEMBER 2012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Hebrews 10:23-25

Jeremiah 31:1-7

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 1 – “O Worship the King”

RHC 313 – “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

*Opening Prayer **

Alan Blaney

Alan Blaney

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 148

Hebrews 8

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 148 verses 1-6
(to the tune of St. Anne, RHC 21)

RHC 212 – “Hail Thou Once-Despised Jesus”

Announcements & Memory Verse

Alan Blaney

Alan Blaney

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 253 – “Standing on the Promises”

Scriptural Text

2 Peter 1:1-16

Jeremiah 31:31-40

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message

Things to Remember

The God Who Commits

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 466 – “Go Labour On”

RHC 115 – “Constantly Abiding”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

May the Grace of Christ Our Saviour

* 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

“BEHOLD, BLESS YE THE LORD”

(PSALM 134:1-3)

Psalm 134 is the last of the 15 songs of degrees. The songs of degrees were sung in temple worship. Matthew Henry aptly observed of Psalm 134 saying, it “fitly made the conclusion of them (songs of degrees), for the design of it is to stir up the ministers to go on with their work in the night, when the solemnities of the day were over.”

Christians serve the Lord all the time. Our calling to serve God is a 24/7 affair. You may be wondering how a Christian, especially you who have a fulltime employment serve God. The manner we serve the Lord has many dimensions. While it is not possible for you to be doing the work of the Ministry 24 hours a day, you can still serve Him in areas like prayer, supplication and thanksgiving. Have you woken up from your sleep and felt the need to pray for someone? We can be serving Him even when resting. A Christian does not leave his mind to idleness. Henry George Bohn says, “An idle brain is the workshop of the devil.” (Handbook of Proverbs) The Old Testament saints were exhorted to keep their minds occupied with the things of God all the time. “And these words, which I commanded thee this day, shall be in thine heart.” (Deut. 6:6) Joshua said to the people of Israel, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (Josh. 1:8)

I love the hymn written by Robert Robinson in 1757, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” The 3rd stanza reads:

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

A. We are called to bless the Lord (vv 1-2)

“Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.”

The servants of the Lord were called to bless the Lord. Who were they? They were servants who stand in the house of the Lord by night and who lifted up their hands in the sanctuary. It is clear the psalmist was speaking of the priests and the Levites for they were the people who had access to the temple of the Lord all the times. They guarded the temple by night that it might not be profaned nor plundered. They watched over the fire of the altar and the lamps in the candlestick that they were not extinguished. Like soldiers they performed their duties standing up – the psalmist says, “which by night stand in the house of the LORD.”

Bible Commentators believe that devout and pious Jews would spend their nights sitting up with the priests and the Levites. In Luke 2:37 we read of one prophetess by the name of Anna who “departed not from the temple, but served God, with fastings and prayers night and day.”

These people who served God were called to bless (to worship, to praise) the Lord. The aim was to keep themselves awake by keeping themselves employed. They redeemed time in holy exercises – praising and worshiping God. They raised their hands praising God. (v. 2)

The lesson for Christians is we are to watch and pray. Jesus said to Peter, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.” (Matt. 26:41) We are living in the end time. The devil is pushing his final assault on the believers. He wants to render us ineffective in our witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that we would not fall prey to his evil scheme.

B. The Lord has committed to bless us (v. 3)

“The LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.”

Who bless us? – “the LORD that made heaven and earth” He will bless us. The word “bless” when used of divine favour means “to cause to prosper.”

Gen 12:2-3 “2And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Gen 17:16 (about Sarah) “16And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.”

Gen 22:17 “ 17That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;”

What does it mean to “bless thee out of Zion?” The Psalmist wants us to know that the blessings are spiritual. They were blessings of the covenant, and of communion with God. These are the best blessings and we should be most earnest for. We beg these blessings not only for ourselves but for others also.

Rev Lim Chee Boon

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 02 Jan	No Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study		We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Fri 04 Jan	No Young Adults Fellowship		
Sat 05 Jan	No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting		
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Eld George Chew	Eld George Chew	<u>TODAY: 30/12/2012</u>
Message	Who I want to be in 2013	A Fresh Start	
Text	Colossians 3:12-17	Isaiah 43:18-19	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<u>Chairman:</u> Alan <u>Organist:</u> Anthony <u>Pianist:</u> Anthony <u>Ushers:</u> Tom / Yetta <u>Sunday School:</u> No Sunday School <u>Lunch:</u> Constance <u>Washing Up:</u> Volunteers <u>PA Crew:</u> Scott <u>NEXT WEEK: 06/01/2013</u> <u>Chairman:</u> John <u>Organist:</u> Anthony <u>Pianist:</u> Anthony <u>Ushers:</u> Daniel / Evelyn <u>Sunday School:</u> No Sunday School <u>Lunch:</u> Maureen <u>Washing Up:</u> Volunteers <u>PA Crew:</u> Scott
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Rev Lim will continue his study on the book of Matthew. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Tom, Nina, Helen, Elizabeth, Anthony, Naomi. • Pray for those on travel: Sonia, Nana, Matthew, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Margaret, Rev Lim & family, Joy & Jasmine, Hannah, Justin, Yangfan, Sarah. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. • Church Theme for 2013: "Understand and know God" - Jeremiah 9:24 • The Task Force would like to wish the congregation a Blessed New Year! • Funeral Service for Eld. Jack Ford: This will be taking place at the Church on Thursday 10th January 2013. Please see John or Jonathan for more information. 			
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1207.50 Attendance - Morning: 35 (A) 6 (C), Evening: 21 (A) 5 (C)			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 50

Q: What is required in the Second Commandment?

A: The Second Commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his Word.

Comments:

This commandment bids us: 1. Adopt the way of worshipping God appointed by himself; 2. Adhere to it; 3. Not add to it; 4. Nor take from it. There must be no will-worship.

Proofs:

Matthew 28:20, Deuteronomy 12:2

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."
1 Corinthians 15:10

This Week

"The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all."
Psalms 103:19

Next Week

"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."
Jeremiah 9:24