



# 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. 17 No. 19

LORD’S DAY 12 MAY 2013

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Morning Service – 11am

### Evening Service – 4pm

	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Prelude</i>		
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 29:1-2	Isaiah 48:17-19
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 2 – “O Worship the King”	RHC 351 – “He Leadeth Me”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 17	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 17 verses 1-9</i> (to the tune of All Saints, RHC 438)	---
<i>Announcements &amp; Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings &amp; Doxology *</i>	RHC 434 – “Savior, More Than Life to Me”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Judges 7:1-23	Luke 11:1-13
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>The Life of Gideon - Gideon's leadership before the battle</i> <b>Mr Robert Campbell</b>	<i>What is Prayer?</i> <b>Mr Robert Campbell</b>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 328 – “How Firm a Foundation”	RHC 365 – “Teach Me to Pray”
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</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 2013 – “Understand and know God” – Jeremiah 9:24**

# OUR GLORIOUS ADOPTION II – ITS STRIKING ENIGMA

By Rev Richard Brooks. Reprinted with permission from Free Church Witness magazine dated September 2007

*The second of three devotional articles based on 1John 3:1-3, originally delivered at the 2006 School in Theology at Larbert.*

*"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3: 1-3*

Do you ever feel that people don't understand you – or that you scarcely understand yourself? The question, 'Who am I?', sounds almost corny or amusing, even though it is often presented as one of the deepest philosophical questions of all time. Yet if you are a Christian, who are you? You are a child of God. It's the glorious truth of our adoption, or sonship: that act of God's free grace whereby He receives us into the company of His children/family and gives to us all the rights and privileges of the divine family.

In our previous article we spoke of the *marvel* and of the *blessings* of being children of God. We proceed now to consider the enigma of it. John writes in 1John 3:1-2 of the *present hidden secret* and the *future revealed secret* of our adoption.

The flow of what he says is as follows:

v1b-2a: the world does not know us nor comprehend us, it cannot make sense of us. We are a great mystery to people. v2b: yet in due time this mystery will be revealed, all will be made clear for everyone to see. When that happens, two things will stand out: *our likeness to God* ('we shall be like him') and *our vision of God* ('we shall see him as he is').

## **1 A Secret Hidden**

The world in its natural state (at enmity with God, separated from Christ, devoid of the Spirit, walking in darkness) cannot figure out either the true Christian or the true church. Don't let that surprise you – and certainly don't let it dishearten you, undermine your assurance or derail your Christian life or ministry!

We are an enigma to the world. *And this is how it should be.* The Lord Jesus Christ was an enigma. People could not make sense of Him. Even those who were drawn most closely to Him could not always fully 'make Him out', and some (even at times among His own actual family) were strongly against Him and considered Him 'mad'. So if He was an enigma, so shall we be.

There is something about a Christian, a child of God, that cannot be explained. And, I underscore again, this is exactly how it ought to be. After all: we are partakers of the divine nature; we hold communion and fellowship with the living God in each of His three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit); we are ushered (in measure) into the understanding of divine mysteries by the Spirit; we are 'in' the world without being 'of' it; we are heirs of God, co-heirs with Christ, citizens of heaven. Have we ourselves grasped all of that? So shall we expect the world to do so? And the world reacts to this enigma in various ways. At the 'softest' end it couldn't care less and carries on as if we didn't even exist. Then it turns to laughter, mockery, character assassination and the laying of snares. Ultimately it can respond by way of victimisation, persecution and even murder.

As Horatius Bonar expressed it:

‘It is the way the Master went;  
Should not the servant tread it still?’

The great mistake that Christians and churches so easily make in the light of this is to seek to be more ‘like’ the world. It is the worst thing we can do! Yet even so much of Reformed evangelicalism has done this and is doing it.

## **2 A Secret Revealed**

Yet whatever the world does not and cannot know about who and what we are, we know something very special: we shall be like our God and we shall see our God. And, of course, there is a rich and vital connection between the two, because it is the pure in heart who shall see God (Mt.5:8); it is those who pursue holiness who shall see the Lord (Heb.12:14); and it is those upon whose foreheads is His name written who shall see His face (Rev.22:4). The little word almost at the end of 1 John 3:2, translated ‘for’ or ‘because’ establishes this essential connection. At the moment our adoption is very much a secret hidden, but it will not always remain so.

At this point it is instructive to raise a translation query. The statement ‘when he shall appear’ is regularly taken as a reference to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (oh! glorious day!) as being the time and context of the secret hidden becoming the secret revealed. Certainly the second coming has just been mentioned by John in 2:28, and so it makes complete sense to render the phrase in 3:2 as ‘when he shall appear’. But we are not bound to translate it that way. The original will bear the alternative translation ‘it’ – hence ‘when it shall appear’. ‘It’? What is ‘it’? The secret! When the secret is revealed. Thus the flow of the context is this: right now we are the children of God, yet it doesn’t yet appear what we shall be – but we know this, that ‘when it shall appear’ (in the sense of ‘when it does appear’) then will be the time when ‘we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is’. The ‘him’ and ‘he’ refer to God the Father, in the face of the Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the day, we do not have to make a choice between the renderings ‘when he shall appear’ or ‘when it shall appear’. Both are possible. Both enrich what John is declaring. And if you are minded to argue that, either way, it will all happen at the second coming anyway – fair enough!

*Our likeness to God:* ‘we shall see him’. Breathtaking! Like God! Godly through and through! No more, ‘O wretched man that I am!’ Then it really will be ‘like Father, like son’. No more ‘fightings without and fears within’. Robert Candlish has written: ‘The crowning glory and joy of sonship is to be like Him whose sons we are’. It will be Christ formed in us – at last! The secret about us will have been revealed: just what it is that explains and accounts for us, makes us ‘tick’.

*Our vision of God:* ‘we shall see him as he is’. Another word for ‘vision’ would be ‘sight’. This is what is called ‘the beatific vision’, ‘beatific’ signifying blessed beyond words or imagination. It means seeing the king in his beauty (Is.33:17), beholding God’s face (that face which has shone upon us all the way through our pilgrimage to heaven).

Thomas Watson expounds it as a *transparent* sight (unveiled, clear, perfect); a *transcendent* sight (all-surpassing in its glory); a transforming sight (we shall be changed into His glory); a *joyful* sight (filled with joy in His presence); a *satisfying*, an *unwearying* and a *beneficial* sight; a *perpetual* sight (it will never grow dim nor fade away); a *speedy* sight (immediately upon death). And note this detail: ‘we shall see him as he is’. Not partially, but completely. Not blurredly, but focussedly. Not ‘mistakenly’, but accurately. And not distantly, but intimately.

# 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 15 May		<b>No Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study</b>	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 17 May	7:00pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship</b>	
Sat 18 May	4:00pm	<b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b>	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TODAY: 12/05/2013</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan</p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Joy</p> <p><b>Pianist:</b> Anthony</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> John / Constance</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Joy</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Mrs Ki</p> <p><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>PA Crew:</b> Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 19/05/2013</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> John</p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Sarah</p> <p><b>Pianist:</b> Joy</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Yetta</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Joy</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Mrs Ki</p> <p><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>PA Crew:</b> Yangfan</p>
<b>Message</b>	Cursing of the Fig Tree	Deborah, the Prophetess	
<b>Text</b>	Matthew 21:18-22	Judges 5:1-31	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-Lunch Bible Study:</b> Mr Campbell will lead a short study on "A warning from Gideon" - Judges 8:22-35.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Pastor Ki, Hannah, Eld Chew's mother, Jonathan, Tobias &amp; Elliora, Scott, Yetta.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta.</li> <li>• <b>London Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology 2nd - 4th July 2013</b> - Recovery from Spiritual Decline.</li> <li>• <b>Lord's Supper:</b> We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared.</li> <li>• <b>Baptism next Sunday 19th May:</b> The infant baptism of Chibuike Nnabugwu</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £3484.52, Lunch: £49.00, Agape Fund: £200.00</p> <p><b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 32 (A) 7 (C), Evening: 24 (A) 6 (C)</p>	

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 69

**Q: What is forbidden in the Sixth Commandment?**

**A:** *The Sixth Commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbour unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.*

Comments:

This commandment respects *life*. It acknowledges that God is its Giver, and that therefore no one has a right to take it away without just reason.

It commands us to take all proper care of our health, as well as of the health of others. And it forbids us to take away our own life – which is *suicide*; or the life of another – which is *murder*.

Scriptural Reference:

Acts 16:28, Matthew 5:22

## MEMORY VERSE

	This Week	Next Week
<p><b>Last Week</b></p> <p><i>"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."</i></p> <p><b>Colossians 2:3</b></p>	<p><i>"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."</i></p> <p><b>Revelation 15:3</b></p>	<p><i>"Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."</i></p> <p><b>Revelation 15:4</b></p>