



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. 20

LORD’S DAY 19 MAY 2013

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>	1 Chronicles 16:8-10	Psalms 150
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 93 – “To God Be the Glory”	RHC 197 – “All Glory, Laud and Honour”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalms 18	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 18 verses 1-6</i> (to the tune of Evan, RHC 379)	---
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 183 – “Jesus Paid it All”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 21:18-22	Judges 5:1-31
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Cursing of the Fig Tree</i>	<i>Deborah, the Prophetess</i>
<i>Baptism Service</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	---
<i>Lord's Supper</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	---
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 201 – “According to Thy Gracious Word”	RHC 80 – “The Day Thou Gavest, Lord”
<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 III – ITS PURIFYING HOPE

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

The last 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

You sometimes hear people described as 'hopeless cases' or 'no hopers'. What a desolate thought! Yet the truth of the matter is that every one of us, left to ourselves, is a 'hopeless case'. We have, by nature, 'no hoper' written all over us. But the glory of God's grace to sinners in the Gospel is precisely this: 'hopeless cases' are given hope; 'no hopers' are born again by the Holy Spirit, redeemed from sin by the precious blood of Christ, reconciled to God *and adopted into his family*. Everything is turned around completely whenever anyone becomes a Christian; and not least in this crucial matter of *hope*. We are given a new hope, a firm hope, a good hope, a sure hope, a precious hope, a true hope, a lasting hope, an eternal hope.

We saw something in the previous article of the Christian's hope, focussed in *our likeness to God* ('we shall be like him') and *our vision of God* ('we shall see Him as He is'). But John does not leave things there in his treatment of us being children of God. He proceeds in 3:3 to make a very important and a very specific application of this hope: we should prepare now for the fulfilment of it, we should live now in the light of it. How? In the way of it being a powerful stimulus and a consistent motivation to us in our pursuit of holiness. This hope, arising directly from our adoption, is *the hope that purifies*. Or it should be!

It runs like this. 'And every man that hath this hope in him ['him' refers to God the Father] purifieth himself, even as he is pure' [the ultimate reference of 'he' is to 'God in Christ': 'he' at the end of verse 3 is literally 'that one'].

Two things stand out.

Firstly, the work God's children must perform

In a word, we are to purify ourselves. And this is a *work*, which involves labour, cost, tears and effort. J C Ryle has a phrase: 'no gains without pains'. It applies here. The word 'purify' is a very active and positive verb. It is not the same as (for example) 'wash' or 'cleanses'. It goes deeper. It gets 'under the skin'. It carries a sense of 'through-and-through-ness'. It involves sin shunned, sin avoided, sin steered clear of, sin parted company with, sin mortified, sin rooted out. It is 'root and branch'. It is not just, 'Lord, cleanse me from my sin' (vital plea though that is). It is rather, 'Lord, take away my very love of sinning'. And (and this is John's point in context) it is inspired and driven by the hope that we have of being like God and beholding the face of God.

John is not alone in this. It is the united call and testimony of Scripture. We hear it from Paul: 'Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God' (2Cor.7:1; and we could add 1Thess.5:22 for good measure, 'Abstain from all appearance of evil'). We hear it from James: 'Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded' (Jas.4:8), remembering that James is writing to believers.

And we hear it from Peter: 'As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance; but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy' (1Pet.1:14-16); to which we could add 2:11 as well, 'Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul'.

This work is a work which *must* be done and which *can* be done. All the strength, grace and enabling is available from on high to perform it. We are not left to our own devices. But the actual work itself is ours to do. As for how we go about it, dwell upon the following few *practical helps for the mortification of sin*.

(1) *Stay close to the Scriptures*. Remember that God's Word is not only His *saving* Word. It is His *sanctifying* Word as well. Jesus prayed for us to the Father in this way: 'Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth' (Jn.17:17).

(2) *Keep a close watch upon your heart affections*, lest anything 'oust' the Lord Jesus Christ from the primary and central place. Guard the 'gates': eye-gate, ear-gate, mouth-gate and so on.

(3) *Be continually in prayer*.

(4) *Recall your adoption*. Never forget that you are a child of God and should live accordingly.

(5) *Seek to suppress sin at its first rising*. Give it no quarter!

(6) *Do not be put off by failure*. One of Jonathan Edwards' 'Resolutions' goes like this: 'Never to give over, nor in the least to slacken, my fight with my corruptions, *however unsuccessful I may be*' (my italics).

(7) *Make as much as you possibly can of the Lord Jesus Christ*. Robert Murray M'Cheyne gave what has become an oft-quoted counsel in connection with self-examination, mortification and the like: that for every one look we take at ourselves, we should be sure to take at least ten looks at Christ.

Secondly, the pattern God's children must follow

It is this: 'even as he is pure'. What is this? Nothing less than Christ being formed in us. Our passion and aim as the adopted sons and daughters of God is not to be 'a little better than we were' or 'a little holier than everyone else', but to be as much like our God and Saviour as it is possible to be. We are to set our sights so high, that they could scarcely be any higher! 'He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked' (1 John 2:6).

One of my very best 'friends on my bookshelves' is Octavius Winslow (1808-1878). Let him have the final two words. Here is the first. 'It is not strange that the fact of his adoption should meet with much misgiving in the Christian's mind, seeing that it is a truth so spiritual, flows from a source so concealed, and has a seat in the profound recesses of the soul. The very stupendousness of the relationship staggers our belief'.

And here is the second. Extolling (for God's glory and for our encouragement and assurance) the all-sufficiency of the God who is our Father and whose children we are, Winslow writes: 'There is in Him an all-sufficiency of love to comfort us; an all-sufficiency of strength to uphold us; an all-sufficiency of power to protect us; an all-sufficiency of good to satisfy us; an all-sufficiency of wisdom to guide us; an all-sufficiency of glory to reward us; and an all-sufficiency of bliss to make us happy there, and happy to all eternity. Such is the inheritance to which as children of God we are the heirs'.

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 22 May	No Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Rev Timothy Kim to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Fri 24 May 7:00pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony <i>"Total Depravity"</i> - Mr Ivan Foster	
Sat 25 May 4:00pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Patrick Baker	Rev Patrick Baker	<u>TODAY: 19/05/2013</u> <i>Chairman:</i> John <i>Organist:</i> Sarah <i>Pianist:</i> Joy <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Daniel <i>Sunday School:</i> No Sunday School <i>Lunch:</i> Mrs Ki <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Yangfan
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, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Pastor Ki, Hannah, Eld Chew's mother, Jonathan, Tobias & Elliora, Scott, Yetta. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. • London Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology 2nd - 4th July 2013 - Recovery from Spiritual Decline. • Ladies Fellowship next Sunday: See Mrs Ki for more information. • Church Anniversary Service next Sunday. Please see Bro. Daniel or Bro. Jonathan if you wish to cook a dish for lunch. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 26/05/2013</u></p> <i>Chairman:</i> Alan <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Jasmine <i>Ushers:</i> Jonathan/Margaret <i>Sunday School:</i> Hannah / Joy <i>Lunch:</i> Carry-In <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £709.56, Lunch: £47.81 Attendance - Morning: 29 (A) 7 (C), Evening: 27 (A) 6 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 70

Q: Which is the Seventh Commandment?

A: The Seventh Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

Scriptural Reference:

"Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<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>Revelation 15:3</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>Revelation 15:4</p>	<p><i>"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."</i></p> <p>Hebrews 12:2</p>