



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. 3

LORD’S DAY 20 JANUARY 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>	Exodus 31:12-17	Hebrews 4:14-16
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 85 – “ <i>O Day of Rest and Gladness</i> ”	RHC 87 – “ <i>I Know Whom I Have Believed</i> ”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Alan Blaney	Alan Blaney
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 1	John 10
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 1</i> (to the tune of St. Anne, RHC 21)	RHC 354 – “ <i>God Leads Us Along</i> ”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Alan Blaney	Alan Blaney
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 44 – “ <i>We Praise Thee, O God Our Redeemer</i> ”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	1 Samuel 12	Psalm 77
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Consecration not Conformity</i>	<i>The Practise, Privilege and Power of Personal Prayer</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 400 – “ <i>Every Moment of Every Day</i> ”	RHC 358 – “ <i>What a Friend We Have in Jesus</i> ”
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson
<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 2013 – “Understand and know God” – Jeremiah 9:24

ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

By Pastor Kenneth D. Macleod of the Free Presbyterian Church in Leverburgh on the Isle of Harris. Taken with permission from The Free Presbyterian Magazine – September 2012 issue

The Psalmist asks, 'Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?' How, in other words, may he lead a holy life? And, in this Psalm of praise to God, he thus answers his own question: 'By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word' (*Psa.* 119:9). For, as *The Shorter Catechism* puts it, the Bible 'is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him' (Ans. 2), which is to be our chief aim as we make our way through life. In his commentary on this Psalm, Charles Bridges explains why 'the young man [is] so especially called to cleanse his way'; it is 'because God justly claims the first and the best'. And he adds, 'Is it not a most affecting proof of the alienation of the heart from God that the youth of man . . . should naturally be devoted to the service of sin?'

Manifestly, what applies to young men applies equally to young women, and thus also may older people lead lives devoted to God and not to the service of sin. All must attend to the teachings of the Word of God, a book which is utterly reliable. From beginning to end it is without error, for it was inspired by the Holy Spirit. This Psalmist found it to be a light to his feet and a lamp to his path (v 105) on his way through life. And so will we if our understandings are opened to receive its directions, by the powerful work of the Spirit who inspired it – for, as Bridges warns, 'except the teaching of the Spirit accompany the Word, all is darkness, thick darkness'.

If then we are to make our way safely through this life and if we are to be fit to meet a holy God when we pass into the eternal world, we must pay serious attention to what God is telling us in his Word. So what does the Bible tell us is the right way, the clean way, through life? It is the way of obedience – to God's will. And his will is spelt out for us in the Ten Commandments. Apart from small groups of people who have, through the Spirit's teaching, recognised its divine authority, no one has ever welcomed the entire law of God as a guide on their way through life; the Commandments too much restrain the human desire to depart from God and to follow out the sinful impulses of a corrupt heart.

Yet people, implicitly if not always explicitly, recognise the need for some moral code. They may protest that the Ten Commandments are well over 3000 years old and claim the need for another moral code, one that is suitable for our scientific, technological age. In fact, because the Ten Commandments were given by a God who is infinitely wise and possesses infinite knowledge, they are as well suited to the best-educated people of the present day as they were to the Israelites during their wanderings in the wilderness or when they settled down to till the fields of the promised land. God's law is permanently relevant, for it is the reflection of his holy, unchangeable being. He never changes; so his law will never change.

Why is the Sabbath not universally observed in the way that the Word of God demands? Why is it not kept as a day when, as far as possible, people confine their activities to the worship of God and to what is spiritually profitable? It is because the natural mind is not subject to the law of God. Unless people have been renewed by the Spirit of God, they find such a day tedious; the activities which God's Word points to as appropriate for his day are not according to their taste. So, unless they are restrained by custom or by conscience, unconverted people will treat the Sabbath like any other day of the week. They reject the authority of God's law and do whatever is right in their own eyes. And they are the losers by doing so.

Why is the Seventh Commandment so much ignored? Why is immorality so rife? It is because so many people live as if there was no God and reject the authority of his Word.

In a relatively short space of time, the institution of marriage has been very significantly devalued. First, divorce has been made easier and easier, in the face of the restricted grounds for divorce specified in Scripture. Then it was seen as utterly normal for a man and a woman to live together as an unmarried couple. Now it is proposed to redefine marriage so that a man can 'marry' a man, and a woman a woman.

But none of this is according to the Word of God, which tells us: 'Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they [one man and one woman] shall be one flesh' (*Gen. 2:24*). Yet when Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's Deputy First Minister, announced proposals for same-sex marriage, she claimed, 'This is the right thing to do'. It is a claim without a foundation, for God has defined what constitutes marriage, and no human being has any authority to specify what is *right* except on the basis of Scripture.

How wonderfully clean Saul of Tarsus' way through life appeared to himself! 'Touching the righteousness which is in the law,' he could honestly claim, his life was 'blameless' (*Phil. 3:6*) – before his fellow men. But he needed to learn that the law of God takes to do with the heart, not only with what is outward. Unless he had a clean heart, Saul was not fit for heaven. And his heart was not clean; in contrast with his opinion of himself, he was totally unfit to enter the presence of God. So, in taking heed to our ways according to the Word of God, we too need to pray, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God' (*Psa. 51:10*), and we must so pray in the name of Christ, the one Mediator between God and sinners like us.

The Bible teaches us about the seriousness of sin: it is committed against a holy God, who created us and to whom we therefore owe perfect obedience. We cannot possibly enter heaven if the guilt of our sins is still our own responsibility and if our hearts have not been renewed. How that thought should make us take heed to our ways, in the light of God's Word! How earnestly should unconverted sinners search the Scriptures to discover the way of salvation – not only so that they would gain some outward knowledge of the facts there revealed about God sending his Son to be the Saviour of the world, but with the desire that the Holy Spirit would powerfully apply these truths to their souls. How attentively should they also listen to the preaching of the Word in the hope that, as they do so, the Spirit would so work within them, opening the eyes of their souls to look to Christ Jesus as the Saviour appointed for sinners.

If we take heed to our way in the light of God's Word, we will consider seriously where our way will end. Will it be in heaven or in hell? Today's secular mind assumes that death is the end of everything. But a sense of the solemnity of what is revealed about the consequences of an ungodly life would surely banish all talk about euthanasia and assisted suicide. The fact is that a holy God must punish sin and, for Christ's sake, reward the godly. Again it is the Word of God which gives the necessary perspective, not only on this life, but also on the eternity which lies beyond it. And the Word shows us the one, narrow, way to heaven – through Jesus Christ, the crucified Redeemer – although it is so much despised by those who want to believe that they are thoroughly up to date in their thinking. They may be up to date, but that is of no advantage when their thinking is wrong.

How busy Satan has been since he first entered the Garden of Eden to deceive Adam and Eve! His attempt to deceive them was, solemnly, entirely successful – when he first questioned, and then denied, the truth of what God had said. And he has been very active ever since in casting doubt on the Word of God, in tempting sinners to ignore it, and even to deny its authority and its truth. Sadly, much of the professing Church of God actively rejects the accuracy, the inspiration and the full authority of Scripture. Yet these remain undiminished; Scripture is – as it has always been and always will be – a perfectly reliable revelation from our Creator. And if we are to go safely through this world, we must take heed to our way according to it.

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 23 Jan	11:00am	Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Eleanor Goh to our worship services last Lord's Day.	
Fri 25 Jan	7:00pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony <i>"The Trinity"</i> - Mr Stephen Toms		
Sat 26 Jan	4:00pm	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: 20/01/2013</u>	
Message	The Potter and The Clay	A Personal Challenge	Chairman:	Alan
Text	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Luke 4:14-30	Organist:	Joy
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist:	Jasmine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Mr Charles Scott-Pearson will be leading the pre-lunch study • 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, Eld Chew's mother, Scott • Pray for those on travel: Sonia, Nana, Matthew, Pastor & Mrs Ki, John & Sharon, Anthony & Helen • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta • Ladies Fellowship next Sunday: For more information, please see Sis Elizabeth • Church cleaning next Saturday, 1pm: For those who wish to volunteer, please see Hannah. 			Ushers:	Tom / Yetta
			Sunday School:	Hannah / Joy
			Lunch:	Hannah
			Washing Up:	Volunteers
			PA Crew:	Scott
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 27/01/2013</u>	
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £672.00, Lunch: £50.50, Kenya: £21.00 Attendance - Morning: 31 (A) 6 (C), Evening: 21 (A) 3 (C)			Chairman:	Jonathan
			Organist:	Joy
			Pianist:	Jasmine
			Ushers:	Alan / Margaret
			Sunday School:	Hannah / Joy
			Lunch:	Hannah
			Washing Up:	Volunteers
			PA Crew:	Yangfan

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 53

Q: Which is the Third Commandment?

A: The Third Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Comments:

This commandment tells how to treat the Name of God, and by his *Name* is meant everything by which he is named to us, or specially made known. To take God's name in vain is to use it for a vain or frivolous purpose; and we break this command by profane swearing, or by irreverently using God's name. We recognise the command when we pray – *Hallowed be thy Name.*

MEMORY VERSE

	This Week	
<p>Last Week</p> <p><i>“For the Lord of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?”</i></p> <p>Isaiah 14:27</p>	<p><i>“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”</i></p> <p>Isaiah 41:10</p>	<p>Next Week</p> <p><i>“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,”</i></p> <p>Isaiah 46:9</p>