



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. 34

LORD’S DAY 25 AUGUST 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> | Isaiah 61:10-11 | Galatians 2:19-20 |
| <i>Opening Hymn *</i> | RHC 31 – “Blessed Be the Name” | RHC 106 – “Christ Liveth in 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 32 | --- |
| <i>Second Hymn *</i> | <i>Psalm 32</i> verses 1-2, 7-8, 11 (to the tune of Kilmarnock, RHC 561) | --- |
| <i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i> | Jonathan Kim | Jonathan Kim |
| <i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i> | RHC 286 – “O Happy Day” verses 1-2 | --- |
| <i>Scriptural Text</i> | Romans 12:10b | Psalm 119:25-28 |
| <i>Pastoral Prayer</i> | Rev Colin Wong | Rev Colin Wong |
| <i>Sermon Message</i> | <i>Honour One Another</i> | <i>The Word Liberates - Part 1</i> |
| <i>Closing Hymn *</i> | RHC 456 – “In Christ There Is No East or West” | RHC 254 – “Break Thou the Bread of Life” |
| <i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i> | Rev Colin Wong | Rev Colin Wong |
| <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

My Dear Reader,

LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS

David was a well-loved person. He was a God-chosen man. He was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). His desire was to know God (Psalm 27:4) and to do His will (Acts 13:36). When Israel was challenged to fight against a giant named Goliath, David responded to the challenge. King Saul was skeptical and doubtful (1 Samuel 17:32, 33). The rest of the story is history. David defeated Goliath with just one stone (1 Samuel 17:49).

King Saul was well-pleased with David. So wherever he went he brought him along. As David was returning after killing Goliath and as the soldiers were coming back home, women from every town in Israel came out to meet King Saul. They were singing joyful songs, dancing and playing tambourines and lyres. In their celebration the women sang, "*Saul has killed thousands, but David tens of thousands.*" Saul did not like this, and he became very angry. He said, "*For David they claim tens of thousands, but only thousands for me. They will be making him king next!*" And so he became jealous and suspicious of David from that day on (1 Samuel 17:5-9; 18:29b).

King Saul tried to kill David a couple of times (1 Samuel 19, 20; 23:15) but did not succeed. Despite David's men persuading him to kill Saul, he spared his life because he reckoned him to be the Lord's anointed (1 Samuel 24:4-7; 27:7-11).

1 Samuel 31 records the death of King Saul and his sons. News came to David about their deaths. Instead of rejoicing over the deaths of the king and his sons, he mourned for them greatly and forbade the people to announce it in Gath or in the streets of Ashkelon lest the women of the Philistines be glad and the daughters of pagans rejoice (2 Samuel 1:20).

Dearly beloved, can you see the big-heartedness of David? Despite his men persuading him to kill Saul, he would not lay his hand on him because he reckoned him to be the Lord's anointed. Despite all the evil deeds Saul did to him, he did not broadcast them to his countrymen. He rather kept them to himself. He also forbade his men from talking bad about him. Why should David give his enemies an opportunity to blaspheme God? (2 Samuel 12:14)

Perhaps, there is another reason why David withheld his hand from King Saul. We read in 1 Samuel 26:10, he said, "*As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.*" He believed in the justice of God. If the king had done him wrong, God would punish him in his good time. Justice must prevail. That is why he continued to do good to him despite his many attempts to kill him. That is also the teaching of Paul in Romans 12:19-21 which says, "*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good*" (Proverbs 25:21, 22).

The local church can be a place of gossip and backbiting. Backbiting is speaking spitefully or slanderously about a person. It is talking down someone behind his back in a derogatory, an uncomplimentary and an unfavorable manner. Barclay aptly defined gossip as "*a sin of those who meet in corners and gather in little groups and pass on confidential tidbits of information which destroy the good name of those who are not there to defend themselves*" (William Barclay: The Daily Study Bible on James, p. 111).

What should Christians do to keep away from the sin of gossip and backbiting? I would like to suggest to you the following:

1. What should you do if a fellow Christian sins (leader or member)? Should you keep silence or should you broadcast it to the whole world? What you should do is to go and counsel him in the spirit of gentleness, praying that God would restore him or her (Galatians 6:1; Romans 15:14).

2. Should you get jealous and suspicious of your loved ones, colleagues or friends who are better than you? What if you happen to know some secret sins they have been indulging in? Would you keep silence about them or would you broadcast them to the whole world? Perhaps, you say to yourself that this is a good opportunity to smear them. Don't be like King Saul who became jealous and suspicious because of the popularity of David. Be like David who never took revenge but left the matter to God. He wouldn't allow evil to overcome him but he conquered evil with good. Indeed, love covers a multitude of sins. In love, there is forgiveness for sins without number.
3. Have you attended any funeral service? How often have you heard of any horrendous things said about the deceased by his or her loved ones? No matter how bad the deceased was, something good is always said about him or her. Make an effort to say something good about someone, even your enemies.

As Christians, we are called to build one another up in the Lord. Paul encourages each and every Christian to edify one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11). But sadly, it is a lot easier to be a discourager than to be an encourager. As a matter of fact, it takes less thought and effort to tear someone down than it does to build someone up. We are to cover (i.e. forgive) one another's sins and build up one another (Matthew 6:12, 14, 15).

Paul encourages us to pursue or to go after those things which bring peace and which are good and edifying for each other – *“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another”* (Romans 14:19). The phrase *“one another”* in the original has a defining force which is lost in the Translations. There is a definite article before *“one another.”* Thus, Paul's reference is to individuals rather than to the church as a whole. As Christians, you and I are to edify one another in word and in action, not to tear down one another. We are not to speak to one another with the language of the world but with the language of Zion which is uplifting, comforting, encouraging, edifying and pleasant to the soul.

Jesus is our perfect model. Luke records, *“And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?”* (Luke 4:22). The people in the synagogue spoke well of Jesus because they were amazed to hear words of grace flowing from his lips. Being a gracious man (John 1:14), I am sure he also spoke gently and graciously to the multitudes (except the Pharisees) like the woman caught in the act of adultery – *“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more”* (John 8:11). I do not believe that these words were spoken to her harshly. Paul said, *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt”* (Colossians 4:6a). Don't belittle the power of the tongue, for the Bible says, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits”* (Proverbs 18:21).

Every day you and I interact with people from all walks of life. *Do people speak well of us? Do they say within or among themselves, “Is he or she not a Christian?”* (1 Peter 2:12; Matthew 5:16) Strive to speak the language of Zion which is soothing to the soul.

Dearly beloved, the Word teaches us not to condemn or to expose the sins of others too quickly (Matthew 18:15-20), but learn to bear with one another's weaknesses, forgive and forget past offenses. Luther aptly said, *“As God with His love covers my sins if I believe, so must I also cover the sins of my neighbour.”* We must follow the conduct of Shem and Japheth to Noah (Genesis 9:23) in contrast to Ham's exposure of his father's shame, and as a result, he was cursed by his father (Genesis 9:22, 25). We ought to cover the sins of others only where love itself does not require the contrary.

Let us follow the examples of David, Shem and Japheth. In this way, we will not destroy others but will build others up in the most holy faith. Love covers a multitude of sins. Proverbs says, *“He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends* (Proverbs 17:9). Amen.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Colin

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 28 Aug | 11:00am | 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 30 Aug | 7:00pm | Young Adults Fellowship | |
| Sat 31 Aug | 4:00pm | Bible Study & Prayer Meeting | |
| Next Lord's Day | Morning Service | Evening Service | LORD'S DAY DUTIES |
| Preacher | Rev Colin Wong | Rev Colin Wong | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 25/08/2013</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Jasmine</p> <p>Ushers: Daniel / Margaret</p> <p>Sunday School: No Sunday School</p> <p>Lunch: Hannah</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: John</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 01/09/2013</u></p> <p>Chairman: John</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Jasmine</p> <p>Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn</p> <p>Sunday School: Hannah</p> <p>Lunch: Maureen</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Jonathan</p> |
| Message | Submit One Another | The Word Liberates (Part 2) | |
| Text | Ephesians 5:21 | Psalms 119: 29-32 | |
| NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Rev. Wong will lead a discussion on this mornings' sermon "<i>Honour One Another</i>". • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor Ki, Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Rev Colin Wong. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. • Pray for those on travel: Pastor & Mrs Ki, Sarah, Yangfan, Evelyn & Christiana, Tom, Elizabeth, Scott & Venise. • Ladies Fellowship today after lunch. | | | |
| <p>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £419.06, Lunch: £50.00</p> <p>Attendance - Morning: 24 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 19 (A) 4 (C)</p> | | | |

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 85

Q: What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A: To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST – REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE – with the diligent use of all the OUTWARD MEANS whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of Redemption.

Comments:

The Law of God says, 'Do this and live', or 'Do it not and die'. And man cannot do it. He breaks the Law daily in spite of his utmost efforts. But God is merciful, and has provided a way by which we may be saved. That way is here told us. It consists in faith and repentance, which are *inward* means of salvation, with the diligent use of all the *outward* means hereafter to be told.

Scriptural Reference:

Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21

MEMORY VERSE

| Last Week | This Week | Next Week |
|---|---|--|
| <p><i>"Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name."</i></p> <p>1 Chronicles 29:13</p> | <p><i>"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"</i></p> <p>2 Corinthians 9:8</p> | <p><i>"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"</i></p> <p>Ephesians 3:20</p> |