



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. 21

LORD’S DAY 26 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>	Psalm 66:1-4	Hebrews 12:1-2
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 40 – “God the Omnipotent”	RHC 74 – “For the Beauty of the Earth”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 19	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 19 verses 1-10</i> (to the tune of Green Hill, RHC 192)	---
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 91 – “The Lily of the Valley” <i>verses 1&2</i>	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Psalm 34:3, 8-9	Isaiah 40:9-11
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Three Calls to Worship</i> Rev Patrick Baker	<i>Looking at God</i> Rev Patrick Baker
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 35 – “Through All the Changing Scenes of Life”	RHC 61 – “O for a Thousand Tongues”
<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

SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF FEARING GOD

By Rev Jack Sin, pastor of Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore. Adapted from Maranatha Messenger dated 5th May 2013

Introduction

Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament at about 430 B.C. but certainly not the least important. He has given us practical admonitions and instructions for the 21st century post-modern church. The relevant call to tithing is normally highlighted from the book of Malachi, but there is another equally important subject here; it is a summon to fear God and to fellowship with the saints. We are familiar with John 3:16, let us acquaint ourselves with Malachi 3:16. Among all the lifeless formalism and apostasy of Malachi's day, there remained a faithful remnant, two things were said about this group described as a people who feared God.

The first is that they *"spake often one to another."* Literally, it means that they made a constant habit of edifying communication and sharing together. There is an uniqueness about Christian fellowship that has its own inherent blessing and we impoverish ourselves by staying away from beneficial meeting with true believers. The Highlanders in Scotland would meet often in a member's home for prayer and discussion over doctrinal issues from the Word of God and share, pray and interact together, admonishing and edifying one another in the fear of God. This is laudable.

The second thing we are told about this group is that they *"thought upon his name."* "Quite literally it means to take an inventory. These people thought upon the name. They were taking an inventory of their wealth in the name. The kings had gone, the priests were corrupt, the prophets were silent, but they still have the name of God. To them the name was Jehovah" (G Campbell Morgan, *Voices of Twelve Hebrew Prophets* [Baker, 1975], 158–159). The fear of the Lord is mentioned at least 3 times in the book of Malachi alone (2:5; 3:16; 4:2). There is no grander theme here than to appreciate what the prophet had to reiterate to them so many times. Is it not uncommon to find people with irrational fears and morbid phobias of many things? The reason why we have so many irrational fears and morbid phobias today is because we have not learnt to fear God. **Fear God and we will have nothing to fear.** What then is the fear of God?

The Psalmist said in Psalm 128:1, *"Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways."* How does one cultivate and engender a deep deference to and fear for God, one may ask? I would like to suggest to us three basic and requisite elements that will help us grow in a healthy fear for God. These are necessary characteristics that one must have in our relationship with the Almighty Jehovah.

Firstly, it is a correct concept of the character of God. How can we fear a person whom we do not know? How can we revere and honour and have a high regard and respect for someone we are not even close to? Who is God and what kind of God is He? Let the inspired penman tell us from the Holy Writ:

The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation (Exod 34:6–7).

Let Joshua exhort us in Joshua 24:14, *"Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD."* Many would like to emphasise and amplify the love of God today. But do not forget to balance it with the justice and the righteousness of God who must deal with sin. God will never condone sin or else it would not be necessary for the atonement at all. God is holy and just and He must deal with sin and this should create a fear in us for the holiness and righteousness of God. This fear will keep us away from sin. As Proverb 8:13 says, *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."*

Secondly, there must be a pervasive sense of the presence of God. The presence of God has a purifying and edifying influence on us. The Psalmist in Psalm 139 reminds us that God is not only omniscient and omnipotent, but He is also omnipresent. He is everywhere. *"If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there"* (v 8). This sense of the presence of God all the time should build in us a right response to God and to sin. We would not do some things that we might like to do if when we remember that God is with us. We will behave ourselves and keep away from all appearance of fornication and evil. The fear of God is to hate evil and to love Jesus.

Thirdly, we need a constant awareness of our accountability to God. This is a neglected teaching today. We often forget that we are to be responsible and answerable to God one day. Look at Romans 14:12, *"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."* In 2 Corinthians 5:10, we were told of the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Bema for the assessment of believers. We will all be judged by the Almighty Arbiter. Yes, we are saved by grace but we are judged by works. Are we conscious of the fact that we are accountable to God one day for all our actions, deeds, and our daily walk and the way we deal with others and our lives? There should be a healthy fear of God for this is what the preacher Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 12:13–14, *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."*

We should fear God because everyone's deeds will be revealed one day at the coming of the Lord. This is a strong and basic reason to cultivate a fear for God.

What is the end result of a healthy fear for God? We will keep His commandments. This is very true if we love God and fear Him. We will obey God and abide by what He teaches in His Word. This is the positive benefit or effect of the fear of God in our lives. Check and examine ourselves today (2 Cor 13:5). Can we say that we have a fear of God and a fear for God? Think of the three points mentioned and really digest it to cultivate them in our daily lives.

The second main point has to do with the **benefit of the fellowship with the saints**. Do we relish and cherish Christian fellowship and the joy of just sharing, praying, encouraging and comforting one another in the Lord? As a young Christian, I have always looked forward to YF meetings on Saturday in the early 80s. I would linger on to have dinner and extended time of fellowship with the brethren. There were a few occasions where we stayed overnight at a brother's house for more sharing and prayer. Today, sad to say, with the distractions of the TV, internet, HP, SMS and computer games and WhatsApp, You Tube videos, CDs, music and the Ipod, these have substituted worship and edifying fellowship for some Christians. Many would rather sit in front of the goggle box / computer for hours than to meet up with the brethren. **We have forfeited ourselves of the privilege and joy of Christian fellowship and the worship of God.**

It is a strange thing when believers do not delight to come together regularly to exhort, edify, admonish and to encourage one another. Our demeanour is incompatible with our status if that is the case. We need to learn to consider one another and to provoke one another unto love and good works (Heb 10:24–25). **We need godly zeal and an indefatigable spirit of edifying one another to be a great blessing to many people.**

Those who fear the Lord have the privilege of also thinking upon His name. What saturates our mind? What consumes our energy and time? Is it work? Leisure? Pets? Plants? Pastimes? In drinking alcohol, music leisure and pleasure and dancing? Social media and internet games? The frenzy of football or the F1 race caused a drastic loss of many man-hours world-wide. The BBC stated that even Congressmen postponed national business meetings to watch their country play against another in the game of football. Christians are not spared of this addiction. We have to be vigilant, to watch against excesses in our lives. If there is one addiction that is acceptable to God, it is the spiritual devotion or addiction to the ministry of saints (1 Cor 16:15). When we are so enthralled and zealous about blessing and edifying God's people and to pray and seek God together in corporate intercession, the Lord will hear and will definitely bless and prosper our time together.

Consider the following wise counsel from king Solomon on the manifold benefits of fearing God:

1. The "fear of the Lord" is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom ([Prov 1:7](#))
2. The "fear of the Lord" will teach one to hate evil and arrogance ([Prov 8:13](#))
3. The "fear of the Lord" will prolong life ([Prov 10:27](#))
4. The "fear of the Lord" provides strong confidence and is a fountain of life ([Prov 14:26-27](#))
5. The "fear of the Lord" prompts one to depart from evil ([Prov 16:6](#))
6. The "fear of the Lord" leads to a contented life, and this will spare one from much evil ([Prov 19:23](#))
7. The "fear of the Lord" is the only way to true riches, honour, and life! ([Prov 22:4](#))

John Calvin, the 16th century French Reformer at Geneva, said that **the first elementary principle in Christian piety is the fear of God**. Spurgeon placed a very high value on reverence and awe for God. When the fear of God rules our hearts, there will be conscientious care to keep His Word and to practice it. The problem with us is, as said in Romans 3:18, *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."* Learn to submit one to another in the fear of God. When we are filled with the Spirit as mentioned in Ephesians 5:21, we fear God and we have less interpersonal problems.

One of the important benefits is mentioned in Acts as one of the keys of the growth of the early church in Acts is this, *"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied"* (Act 9:31).

Note that they were being edified possibly by the preaching of the word and the spiritual comfort of the Spirit and then they were also "walking in the fear of the Lord" and the end result is that the church is healthy and growing numerically. What a blessing it is to have a revived church!

Conclusion

Finally, remember Hebrews 12:28. This is the kind of attitude with which we should serve God. *"Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."* Why? Because our God is a consuming fire (v 29). Know that and live with that knowledge always. The Psalmist rejoiced with trembling and served the Lord with fear (Ps 2:11). This is a healthy mix of both joy and fear of God in the service of the most High God. There is no fear of God for those who laugh uncontrollably in senseless delirium and reckless behaviour, like the charismatic confusion with shouting, swinging and dancing irreverently and frivolously in the presence of a thrice holy God, without any regard for His majesty and holiness. Remember all these for it is a vital thing in the practice of true religion.

May the Lord help us to grow and to cultivate a holy fear and reverence for the living and true God and a desire for sound Christian edifying fellowship among the saints in the years ahead as a God honouring church.

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 29 May	No Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Gillian and Nnabugwu's Friends to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Fri 31 May 7:00pm	Young Adults Fellowship <i>"Quieting the Noisy Soul"</i>	
Sat 01 June	No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 26/05/2013</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Jasmine Ushers: John / Margaret Sunday School: No Sunday School Lunch: Carry-In Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott
Message	Amos - God's Prophet with a Passion	When God Restructures Your World	
Text	Amos 1:1-2	Psalm 25	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church 17th Anniversary Today: Please stay behind for fellowship lunch. • Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Rev. Baker will be leading a Character Study on Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-30). • 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. • Pray for those on travel: Alan, Naomi & Abigail. • Pilgrim Tabernacle Church Anniversary – Sat 1st June: Please see Jonathan for more information. • Ladies Fellowship after Lunch: See Mrs Ki for more information. • The Church would like to offer their condolences and prayers to Naomi and the family of Rev Robert Ormerod, who passed away last week. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 02/06/2013</u></p> <p>Chairman: John Organist: Sarah Pianist: Jasmine Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn Sunday School: Hannah / Joy Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Yangfan</p>
<p>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1439.02 Lunch: Love gift from Nnabugwu. Attendance - Morning: 42 (A) 9 (C), Evening: 24 (A) 5 (C)</p>	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 71

Q: What is required in the Seventh Commandment?

A: The Seventh Commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbour's chastity, in heart, speech, and behaviour.

Scriptural Reference:

2 Timothy 2:22; Ephesians 5:11-12

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<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>	<p><i>“For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”</i></p> <p>Hebrews 12:3</p>