



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. 18 No. 31

LORD’S DAY 03 AUGUST 2014

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 63:1-4

Isaiah 45:20-22

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 38 – “As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams”

RHC 66 – “Fairest Lord Jesus!”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 80

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 80 verses 14-19
(to the tune of St Louis, RHC 171)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 125 – “Jesus is the Joy of Living” verses 1-3

Scriptural Text

Amos 8:1-8

John 13:31-35

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Where Are You When You Worship?

It’s New and True and Impacts You

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 386 – “Be Thou My Vision”

RHC 456 – “In Christ There Is No East or West”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* 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 2014 – “Waiting for God” – Isaiah 30:18

THE TRUTH ABOUT ERROR

By John A. Witmer (used with permission from *Bibliotheca Sacra*)

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A phenomenon of the contemporary religious scene is the growth of the heretical cults. Through aggressive propagandizing by means of publications—electronic media such as radio, television, phonograph records, and tapes—and personal contacts, the cults have established amazing numerical growth records. Their growth rates are the envy of the major Protestant denominations, which at present are not even keeping pace with the population expansion. The cults are growing not only in the United States, where most of them have had their start, but also throughout the world. Especially has this growth of the cults been evident in recent years in the traditional missionary areas of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The contemporary growth of the cults has been not only in numbers but also in influence and public acceptance. Modern religious liberalism accepts them all without question as manifestations of contemporary religious life. They are listed without notation of any kind in *The Yearbook of American Churches* and Mead’s *Handbook of Denominations in the United States*. A current debate among evangelical Christians centers on classifying Seventh-Day Adventism as a heretical cult or a standard Christian denomination. A leader of a cult within a decade has held a United States cabinet post as secretary. Another serves as governor of a large and strategic state and is a potential presidential candidate of a major party. Paralleling the contemporary numerical growth of the heretical cults is their proliferation. . . . Where confusion exists error thrives. Therefore, these circumstances amply justify a discussion of the truth about error.

Definition of Terms

One of the first problems to face is that of definition of terms. At least two terms are in view—*cult* and *sect*. These terms are popularly used interchangeably as basically synonymous. I think a valid and proper distinction of meaning between them can be drawn. This distinction will be clarified in the discussion that follows. A definition of a cult which I accept is the following from Walter Martin. He says that cults are religious groups holding “to doctrines which are pointedly contradictory to orthodox Christianity and which yet claim the distinction of tracing their origin to orthodox sources” [Walter Ralston Martin, *The Rise of the Cults*, pp. 11-12]. The various ethnic religions as a result are not properly classified as cults. On the other hand, this definition would classify modern religious liberalism as a cult, which I am convinced evangelical Christians should make a point of doing. Martin later condenses his definition to a religious group which represents a “major deviation from historical orthodox Christianity” [*Ibid.*, p. 12]. Modernism or liberal Protestantism still passes the test as a cult. Gerstner prefers to use the word *sect* for these heretical groups, but he is not as careful to provide a formal definition. He explains that the Roman Catholics apply the term *sect* to all groups other than the Church of Rome, which they view as the church. Liberals frequently apply the term *sect* to all groups because they feel none of them qualifies as the church. “Evangelicals,” he continues, “generally use ‘sect’ when referring to those Christian denominations not regarded as evangelical.... Those which do not hold to evangelical principles are not usually called churches at all, but sects or cults” [John H. Gerstner, *The Theology of the Minor Sects*, p. 9]. This is quite vague and confusing. I prefer to follow Martin in defining a cult as he does, which is essentially how Gerstner defines a sect. I would reserve the term *sect* for groups representing minor deviations from historic orthodox Christianity. For example, with Gerstner, Lindsell, and many others, I would classify Seventh-Day Adventism as a cult. On the other hand, I would classify the Seventh Day Baptists, whose sole divergence from orthodox Christianity is the seventh-day doctrine, as a sect. Similarly, I classify the Jehovah’s Witnesses as a cult; but I would classify the Advent Christian Church, which is orthodox except for some deviations in eschatology, as a sect. . . .

Doctrinal Truths about Cults

Somewhat bridging the areas of historical and theological truth about the cults is the fact that most of the cults are simply modern versions of ancient heresies faced by the early Christian church. The Christology of Christian Science, for example, is a modern expression of the docetic heresy the Apostle John refuted in his First Epistle (1:1–3; 4:1–3). The Christology of the Jehovah's Witnesses, on the other hand, is a modern form of Arianism proscribed as heretical by the Council of Nicea. The Christian Science emphasis upon the nonreality of evil, disease, and death comes from neo-Platonism, which rests in turn upon Platonic and Zoroastrian dualism with the concepts of the essential evilness of matter. Many of the contemporary heretical cults, furthermore, are imbued with the Judaistic and/or the Gnostic spirit that was confronted and refuted primarily by the Apostle Paul. The Sabbath-keeping, the dietary laws, and the legalism of Seventh-Day Adventism, for example, reflect the Judaistic spirit. On the other hand, the emphasis upon going beyond the simplicity of the Christian faith and becoming an initiate into special truths which is found among the Jehovah's Witnesses and also to some extent the Mormons reflect the spirit of Gnosticism. It is also important to remember that no cult is completely wrong. By definition, a cult is a "major deviation from historical orthodox Christianity," but elements of orthodox Christianity obviously remain. Cults represent a mixture of truth and error, and herein lies their danger. The attention of the unwary can be focussed upon the truth without realizing that it is vitiated or contradicted by the error until the poison is swallowed. Part-truthism is one of Satan's favorite tools.

Practical Truths about Cults

A practical fact concerning many of the contemporary cults is that they have been founded by women or have women prominently connected with their leadership. Examples are Mary Baker Eddy of Christian Science, Ellen G. White of Seventh-Day Adventism, the Fox sisters of Spiritualism, Helena P. Blavatsky and Annie Besant of Theosophy, the Brooks sisters of Divine Science, and Mrs. Charles Ferguson of the School of Practical Christianity. This prominence of women in the cults is understandable in the light of the Scriptural exhortation to "let your women keep silence in the churches" (1 Cor 14:34) and the example of Paul that "I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1 Tim 2:12). Many persons are misled by the sincerity, enthusiasm, and missionary zeal of some adherents to the cults, concluding from these external things that the system must be true. Such dedication by exponents of error should be a rebuke to complacent Christians. May God use it to goad us into consistent personal witnessing. But these traits are not essential ingredients of truth. The crew of the airship *Enola Gay* flew to their deaths in the middle of the Sahara Desert far beyond their home base, sincerely but mistakenly believing that the airport still lay ahead of them. Even the cults do not match the dedication and self-sacrifice of the atheistic Communists. Truth resides in content, not in attitude. Many persons also are misled by the exemplary lives and good works of some adherents to the cults into concluding that the system must be true. Admirable as such things are, they are not essential ingredients of truth. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were good people, but He likened them to "whited sepulchres" (Matt 23:27). In this connection Paul instructs us: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness" (2 Cor 11:13–15).

Conclusion

Christians should not be dismayed by the contemporary growth and proliferation of the heretical cults. This is to be expected as the Christian church moves into the last days of its formation (cp. 1 Tim 4:1–3; 2 Tim 3:1–8; 2 Pet 2:1–3; Jude 4, 8, 10–12, 16–19). Furthermore, truth by its nature is singular and unitary, while error is multifarious and multitudinous. Finally, Christians can be prepared to withstand the onslaught of the cults by following Peter's injunction to "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet 3:15) and John's instructions to "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1). This is the truth about error.

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
Tues 05 Aug No 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 08 Aug No Young Adults Fellowship	
Sat 09 Aug 4:00pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 03/08/2014</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Jasmine</p> <p>Ushers: Daniel / Tom</p> <p>Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael</p> <p>Lunch: Helen</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 10/08/2014</u></p> <p>Chairman: John</p> <p>Organist: Jasmine</p> <p>Pianist: Anthony</p> <p>Ushers: Tom / Constance</p> <p>Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael</p> <p>Lunch: Jasmine</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott</p>
Message	When the Food Supply Runs Low	Do You Know Your Own Heart?	
Text	Amos 8:9-14	John 13:36-38	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Pre-lunch Bible Study:** This week's study will be led by Dr Martin.
- **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, Scott, Patricia, Hannah, Shirley, Jonathan, Daniel, Yetta.
- **Pray for those seeking employment:** Yetta, Patricia.
- **Pray for those on travel:** Evelyn.
- **Pulpit Ministry:** Please pray for the Church and the calling of Pr Mok Chee Cheong as our resident minister, and that the visa application will be accepted and completed without delay.
- **Church ACM** will be held after morning service today. Please can all members stay behind in the sanctuary after morning service.
- **Lord's Supper:** We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared.

Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £510.20, Lunch: £42.00
Attendance - Morning: 20 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 4 (C)

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 27

Q: Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A: Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the CROSS; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Comments:

Humiliation means coming down from a high rank to a low. Christ did so for us. He descended from his throne in heaven, and became a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. In this answer we are told the various particulars in which his humiliation consisted. It consisted: 1. In being born; 2. In being born poor; 3. In being subject to the law; 4. In suffering the sorrows of life; 5. In suffering the hiding of God's countenance; 6. In being crucified; 7. In being buried; 8. In remaining in the grave for three days. All these things were borne by Christ, and on our behalf.

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 2:7, Matthew 27:46, Philippians 2:6-8, Matthew 12:40

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever."</i></p> <p>Psalm 145:2</p>	<p><i>"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable."</i></p> <p>Psalm 145:3</p>	<p><i>"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."</i></p> <p>1 John 4:16</p>