



# 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. 7

**LORD’S DAY 16 FEBRUARY 2014**

## 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 45:18-22	Isaiah 42:5-10
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 45 – “We Gather Together”	RHC 29 – “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 57	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 57 verses 5, 7-11</i> (to the tune of Lloyd, RHC 563)	---
<i>Announcements &amp; Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings &amp; Doxology *</i>	RHC 331 – “The Haven of Rest” verses 1 & 3	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Luke 13:11-30	Genesis 33:1-11; Philippians 4:8-10
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Loosed from Thine Infirmary</i>	<i>Contentment</i>
<i>Lord's Supper</i>	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson	---
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 178 – “At the Cross”	RHC 346 – “Be Still, My Soul”
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson
<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 2014 – “Waiting for God” – Isaiah 30:18**

My dear Reader,

## IS THERE A HEAVEN?

Is there a heaven? Is heaven a literal or imaginary place? Do you believe in a literal heaven? Ask the people in the street. Heaven is ignored, ridiculed or denied by most people today. There is a saying, *“Life’s good experiences are heaven; life’s bad moments are hell.”* When life is good – no recession, no inflation, no retrenchment, no income tax, no ERP, no GST, no stress, no SARS, no bird flu – that’s heaven!

How often is heaven mentioned in your conversation? How often do you talk about your future home? Sometimes a pious objection is raised concerning the utterance of the word. The protest goes something like this: *“But don’t you think we can become so heavenly minded that we’re no earthly good?”* My answer to the objection is Colossians 3:2: *“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

Christians ought to speak of heaven. Paul told the Philippian Christians how he longed to leave this world and to be with Christ which is far better (Philippians 1:23). The men of faith in the Old Testament longed for a heavenly city and they probably talked among themselves about seeking after it (Hebrews 11:16).

But what is heaven? What will heaven be like? Will Christians see God in heaven? I shall try to answer these questions briefly to encourage and strengthen your heart especially those who are going through trials of life.

### **What is Heaven?**

The word *“heaven”* is mentioned in the King James Bible 582 times in 550 different verses. The Hebrew word *shamayim* is a plural noun form that literally means *“the heights.”* The Greek word *ouranos* refers to that which is raised up or lofty. Both words are used differently in the Bible to refer to three different places. This may explain why in 2 Corinthians 12:2 Paul refers to being caught up into *“the third heaven.”*

The first heaven is called the Atmospheric Heaven. This is the sky that blankets the earth. This is the home of the birds and clouds. Jeremiah 4:25 says, *“I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.”* Daniel 4:12 says, *“The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.”* Jesus says, *“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”* (Matthew 6:26) Again He says, *“The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head”* (Matthew 8:20). Genesis 7:11 and 12 says, *“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.”* The sunrise and sunset may be beautiful on occasion but it is not the eternal home of the believer.

The second heaven is called the Planetary Heaven (i.e. the Universe). This is the home of the sun, moon and stars. When God created the heavens and the earth he said, *“Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth”* (Genesis 1:14-17). God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 22:17 says, *“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.”* Psalm 19:1 says, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”*

In 1969 we put a man on the moon for the first time in history. Scientists were able to build a space craft that would transport men out of the first heaven into the second heaven. However, no matter how wonderful the discovery may be, we must not be confused with the heaven where God dwells – that is the *third* heaven.

The third heaven is where God, his holy angels and Christians who have died in Christ are. This is the heaven which Paul speaks of in 2 Corinthians 12. He said he knew a man who was caught up to the third heaven. He said, *“such an one caught up to the third heaven”* (2 Corinthians 12:2). Solomon speaks of God’s dwelling in his prayer in 1 Kings 8:27 and 30 – *“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.”*

The first and second heaven will pass away (2 Peter 3:10) but this one is everlasting. Men may transport themselves to the first and second heaven but no spaceship can ever be devised which will take them to the third heaven.

The journey to the third heaven is not by the power of the human mind but by the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember the story of Nicodemus, a Jewish leader in John 3. Jesus told him a man could not even see the kingdom of heaven, let alone enter it, apart from being born again (John 3:3).

How do you enter into the kingdom of heaven – by the power of the human mind or by the power of the Holy Spirit? Jesus says, *“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also”* (John 14:2-3). Will I see you there?

## **What will Heaven be like?**

Heaven is a wonderful place. In heaven there will be no sin, suffering, death, sorrow, pain or crying because there will be nothing to make us sad (Revelation 21:4). There will be no persecution, schism, disunity, selfishness, hurt, hate, quarrels, disagreements, disappointments or stress because there will be no one exerting his/her power over someone.

When Christians get to heaven, they will know what perfect pleasure is. They will know the full meaning of Psalm 16:11: “... *in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*” What makes us sad will finally be done away with. We will find ourselves in the very presence of God, beholding the beauty of the LORD and enjoying him.

When Christians get to heaven, they will have perfect knowledge. Paul says, “*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known*” (1 Corinthians 13:12). We will have no more unanswered questions, confusion, ignorance, and no more need to walk by faith rather than by sight.

When Christians get to heaven, they will live in perfect comfort. They will not experience any discomfort anymore. No wonder Paul so longed to be with Christ which is far better (Philippians 1:23).

When Christians get to heaven, they will live in perfect love. They will understand what perfect love is – a love that has no fear (1 John 4:18). They will love God perfectly and will be loved perfectly by him for all eternity.

## **What will Christians do in Heaven?**

Christians cannot be strumming their golden harps all the time in heaven. This may be heaven according to Walt Disney. The Bible does indicate what Christians will do when they get to heaven.

First, heaven will be a place of worship. If God so desires us to worship on earth, then how much more would he want us to do the same in heaven (Isaiah 44:23; Hebrews 2:12; Revelation 4:10, 11; 14:3; 15:3).

Second, heaven will be a place of fellowship. Oftentimes, Paul’s letters encourage us to have fellowship one with another. Christian fellowship strengthens one’s spiritual life. When we get to heaven, our fellowship with God and with one another will be sweet. What a fellowship, what a joy divine!

Third, heaven will be a place of service (Revelation 7:15; 22:3, 5; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3; 2 Timothy 2:12). Everybody will be busy doing something. Everybody will be serving God with gladness.

## **Will Christians see God in heaven?**

The answer is a resounding YES. We will see God face to face. Revelation 22:3 and 4 says, *“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face.”*

Fanny Crosby was a blind lady. She was a 18th century hymn writer. One of the hymns she wrote is *“My Savior First of All.”* This hymn depicts her heart’s desire and that is, when she opens her eyes in heaven, the first person she would like to see is her Lord Jesus.

## **Conclusion**

Heaven is a wonderful place. Heaven is a real place where God’s people with glorified bodies will dwell in God’s presence for all eternity. Jesus says, *“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the (evil) spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”* (Luke 10:20)

Friends, what really satisfies you? Do not rejoice over what you possess – a new car, a new house, position, prestige, or popularity – for Jesus said that a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions (Luke 12:15), rather rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

Have you booked your ticket to heaven? Come to Jesus today. He is your passport to heaven. Amen.

Lovingly 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 19 Feb	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 21 Feb	No Young Adults Fellowship		
Sat 22 Feb	4:00pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Mok Chee Cheong	Mok Chee Cheong	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TODAY: 16/02/2014</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> John  <b>Organist:</b> Anthony  <b>Pianist:</b> Jasmine  <b>Ushers:</b> Daniel / Yetta  <b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Rachael  <b>Lunch:</b> Hannah  <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers  <b>PA Crew:</b> Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 23/02/2014</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan  <b>Organist:</b> Anthony  <b>Pianist:</b> Sarah  <b>Ushers:</b> John / Margaret  <b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Rachael  <b>Lunch:</b> Maureen  <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers  <b>PA Crew:</b> Yangfan</p>
<b>Message</b>	Rejection of God brings Rejection from God	Blessed are they which do hunger - Part 2	
<b>Text</b>	Romans 1:28-32	Matthew 5:6	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-lunch Bible Study:</b> There will be a short video study on "Purity" by Dr Jim Berg.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> 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, Elizabeth, Magdalene, Jonathan.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Patricia.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those on travel:</b> Margaret.</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Please pray for the Church and the calling of Rev Colin Wong as our resident minister, and that the visa application will be accepted and completed without delay.</li> <li>• <b>Church cleaning after lunch today.</b></li> </ul>			
<p><b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £1206.20; Lunch: £38.50</p> <p><b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 24 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 4 (C)</p>			

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 3

**Q: What do the scriptures principally teach?**

*A: The scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.*

Comments:

In order to attain the chief end of our life, the two things most important for us to know are: *What we are to believe*, and *What we are to do*. These two things the Bible explains to us very fully. It tells us *what God is*, and *has done for us*, and also *what he requires us to do*, in order that it may be well with us now and hereafter.

Scriptural Reference:

John 5:39, Ecclesiastes 12:13

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*

**Hebrews 13:5**

### This Week

*"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."*

**Hebrews 13:6**

### Next Week

*"And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."*

**Psalms 40:3**