



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. 3

LORD’S DAY 19 JANUARY 2014

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 36:5-10

Psalm 40:1-3

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 36 – “High in the Heavens,
Eternal God”

RHC 130 – “I Waited for the
Lord My God”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 53

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 53 verses 1-4, 6
(to the tune of Wiltshire, RHC 35)

*Announcements &
Memory Verse*

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings &
Doxology **

RHC 352 – “All the Way My
Savior Leads Me ”

Scriptural Text

Romans 1:8-15

Matthew 5:3

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

A Living Faith that Proclaims

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 419 – “Take My Life and
Let It Be”

RHC 420 – “I Surrender All”

*Benediction/3-Fold
Amen **

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

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

SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR

Dear Brethren in the Lord,

In this brief article, which is an adaption of some pertinent points from the book, *"The Almost Christian Discovered"* written by puritan pastor, Rev Matthew Mead, I would like to highlight the false notion of what a Christian is not.

This false notion first and foremost may be doing of Christians themselves who misunderstood what true evangelical salvation is, and it is further aggravated by false teachings such as "health and wealth" gospel, "easy believism" and work-based salvation, which is common diet even in reformed churches.

So I have extracted from the book, twenty steps complied by author to show one may go very far in the way of heaven (salvation), and yet be but almost a Christian.

1. He may have much knowledge.
2. He may have great gifts.
3. He have a high profession (profess to be a Christian).
4. He may go against sin.
5. He may desire grace.
6. He may tremble at the Word.
7. He may delight in the Word.
8. He may be a member of the church of Christ.
9. He may have great hopes of heaven.
10. He may be under great and visible changes. (like an angel like light).
11. He may be very zealous in the matters of religion.
12. He may be much in prayer.
13. He may suffer for Christ.
14. He may be called of God.
15. He may, in some sense, have the Spirit of God (eg. Cain, Balaam, Judas – have it only transiently, not abidingly).
16. He may have some kind of faith (not experiential saving faith).
17. He may love the people of God.
18. He may go far in obeying the commands of God.
19. He may be, in some sense, sanctified.
20. He may do all, as to external duties, that a true Christian can, and yet be no better than almost a Christian.

1. Activities-based Christians

There are many who presume that they belong to the Lord Jesus Christ as long as they are in the membership roll of a church. Others busy themselves in the Lord's service to the extent of "burn out," thinking that being active in the various ministries of the church must be a sure sign that one is a Christian. Yet others faithfully sit on the pews in the church listening to sermons after sermons, assuming that church attendance on every Sunday is the definite way to prove one is a Christian.

Listen to what Rev Mead has to say, "It is Satan cunningness to persuade sinners to take up a form of godliness if he cannot keep sinners in their open profaneness. If he cannot entice them on their lusts with a total neglect of heaven, then he entices them to such a profession as is sure to fall short of heaven. He will consent to the leaving of some sins as long as we keep the rest; to doing some duties as long as we neglect the rest. He cares not which way we come to hell, as long as he gets us there at last."

Dear Brethren, my intention is to show that many Christians, both young and old, as described by Rev Matthew Mead are living under the false impression that this new life in Christ is a life of Christian activities.

As long as they are occupying themselves with the Word of God, regular prayers, fellowship meetings, hospital visitations, caring for the sick and troubled, evangelism and/or anything that Christians normally and should do or involve in, therefore they must be Christians.

2. Grace-based Christians

What then are the true signs of a Christian? I submit to you the followings in contrast to the list given above:

He is one who, when comes under the conviction of the Holy Spirit...

1. Is justified by faith (Rom 3:28, 5:1)
2. Is made aware of his wretches, that He is at enmity with God because of his sins (James 4:4).
3. Realizes that he absolutely can do nothing to save himself because he is spiritually dead (Eph 2:1; Col 2:13).
4. By grace through faith receive Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, as his personal Saviour and Lord (Eph 2:8).
5. Is made a new creature (2 Cor 5:17).
6. Desires more than "the sincere milk of the word" and go for "strong meat" (1 Pet 2:2; Heb 5:14).
7. Understood that the bestowment of spiritual gifts is for the edification of the body of Christ, the Church (1 Cor 4:12; Eph 4:12).
8. Has not only a high profession, but live like a Christian.
9. Go not only against sin, but hates sin and the sinfulness of sin, just as God hates sin.
10. Desires to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet 3:18).
11. Trembles at the Word and submit to God (James 4:7)
12. More than delight in the Word, but is a doer of the Word and keeper of God's commandments (James 1:22; John 14:15).
13. Is a member of the body of Christ through the union of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13).
14. Hopes in the Lord Jesus (1 Thess 1:3; 2:19).
15. Is undergoing sanctification by the Holy Spirit (2 Thess 2:13; 2 Pet 1:2)
16. Has zeal from God
17. Prays "effectual fervent prayer" (James 5:16)
18. Suffers for Christ for His name sake (1 Pet 2:19 & 20).
19. Is not only called of God but sent (Rom 10:15).
20. Has the Spirit abiding in him (1 Joh 3:24; 4:13).
21. Has experiential saving faith.
22. Love the people of God because he has the love of God in his heart (1 John 4:12).
23. Do all things for the glory of God, and not as men pleasers (1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:23; Eph 6:6 & 7).

Conclusion

I suggest that we re-visit the scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to search the deep recesses of our hearts and to reveal our true position, whether we are in Christ or not. If you truly desire to know the condition of your heart and care for your own soul, get this book and read it meditatively, you may be shocked to discover that after all these years as a Christian, you are so close and yet so far from being a true follower of Jesus Christ.

I end once again with a quote from the author, "The design hereof is not to "break the bruised reed, nor to quench the smoking flax. Not to discourage the weakest believer, but to awaken formal professors. I would not sadden the hearts of any whom God would not have made sad though I know it is hard to rip up the dangerous state and condition of a professing hypocrite, so but that the weak Christian will think himself concerned in the discovery."

Yours in His bond,

Mok

Note: The Book, "*The Almost Christian Discovered*" (Rev Matthew Mead) is available free online at: http://www.ccel.org/ccel/mead_matthew/almost.pdf

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 22 Jan 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 24 Jan 7:00pm Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony	
Sat 25 Jan 4:00pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 19/01/2014</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Sarah</p> <p>Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn</p> <p>Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael</p> <p>Lunch: Maureen</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 26/01/2014</u></p> <p>Chairman: John</p> <p>Organist: Jasmine</p> <p>Pianist: Matthew</p> <p>Ushers: Daniel / Margaret</p> <p>Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael</p> <p>Lunch: Maureen</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Yangfan</p>
Message	The Righteousness of God Revealed	Blessed are they that Mourn	
Text	Romans 1:16-17	Matthew 5:4	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: There will be a short video study on "Purity" by Dr Jim Berg. • 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, Elizabeth, Magdalene. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Patricia. • Pray for those on travel: Fung, Margaret, Becky. • Pulpit Ministry: 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.
<p>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £602.90, Lunch: £40</p> <p>Attendance - Morning: 22 (A) 2 (C), Evening: 14 (A) 2 (C)</p>

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 106

Q: What do we pray for in the Sixth Petition?

A: *In the Sixth Petition – (which is, AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL) – we pray, That God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.*

Comments:

Temptation means anything that would induce us to sin. And in this petition we ask one of two things from God – either that he would take all temptation away from us, or that he would enable us to resist and overcome it.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 26:41, Psalm 19:13, 2 Timothy 4:18

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."</i></p> <p>Matthew 9:38</p>	<p><i>"And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him."</i></p> <p>Isaiah 30:18</p>	<p><i>"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."</i></p> <p>Ephesians 4:32</p>