



# 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. 17

LORD’S DAY 27 APRIL 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>	Psalm 36:5-9	Psalm 91:1-4
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 36 – “High in the Heavens, Eternal God”	RHC 101 – “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 67	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 67 2nd version verses 1-7</i> (to the tune of St Peter, RHC 456)	---
<i>Announcements &amp; Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings &amp; Doxology *</i>	RHC 400 – “Every Moment of Every Day” verses 1&2	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Romans 3:21-31	Matthew 6:9
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Wonderful and Amazing Grace</i>	
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	Insert – “Not What My Hands Have Done”	RHC 360 – “My God, Is Any Hour So Sweet”
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<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**

# HOW TOTAL IS OUR DEPRAVITY?

My Dear Reader,

27-04-2014 - How blessed we are to be able to join this another Lord's Day to continue on rejoicing in the news that Christ has risen from the dead! Remember that it was one week later when Jesus again met with His disciples on the first day of the week. That became the day of worship and fellowship for those who believed in Jesus Christ for their eternal salvation. By the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, Christians had become accustomed to referring to the first day of the week as "the Lord's Day." You will find that identification in Revelation 1:10 as John described his encounter of having met with God.

As we reflect back two weeks to the Lord's Day's morning sermon from Romans 3, Pr. Mok helped us understand from Scripture that all of humankind is under the bondage of sin, or as the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:2, we were born "dead in trespasses and sin." When the summary of Old Testament teaching about our human condition is presented in Romans 3:10-18, it is anything but attractive. The passage announces that none of us is righteous, that none of us, not even one, seeks after God. Rather our lives, priorities, and passions are detoured after other things with the result that we become worthless. Our best efforts, that appear to be good are tangled and come from motives that are distorted. The Apostle Paul cites passages that refer to our speaking: throats are graves, tongues are used to deceive, or worse to attack with the intensity of a poisonous snake, mouths saturated with muttering curses and expressions of bitterness. Wow that is an intense list. Our mouths looks so harmless, until we begin to think of the power of biting or of what comes from them as the expression of our hearts. Then the Apostle Paul addresses our feet and notes that what we say is matched by what we do in carrying out what we have spoken. All of that is because we have lost any vision or awareness of who God is who we are before Him. We are rendered powerless to resist the final verdict of GUILTY before God! It is not surprising then that he writes, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). But that brings up the question of how depraved one is. Are my actions affected by sin but is my will or mind free?

The first of the historic **Five Points of Calvinism** is Total Depravity. It should be noted that when we speak of "**the five points**" we are referring to the response that was made in Holland to the five points made by the followers of James Arminias, known as the Five Points of Arminianism. You will look in vain in the writings of John Calvin to find a listing of "the Five Points of Calvinism." Below I have posted the summary of the two positions on human depravity.

### **Free Will or Human Ability**

Although human nature was seriously affected by the fall, man has not been left in a state of total spiritual helplessness. God graciously enables every sinner to repent and believe, but He does not interfere with man's freedom. Each sinner possesses a free will, and his eternal destiny depends on how he uses it. Man's freedom consists of his ability to choose good over evil in spiritual matters; his will is not enslaved to his sinful nature. The sinner has the power to either cooperate with God's Spirit and be regenerated or resist God's grace and perish. The lost sinner needs the Spirit's assistance, but he does not have to be regenerated by the Spirit before he can believe, for faith is man's act and precedes the new birth. Faith is the sinner's gift to God; it is man's contribution to salvation.

### **Total Inability or Total Depravity**

Because of the fall, man is unable of himself to savingly believe the gospel. The sinner is dead, blind, and deaf to the things of God; his heart is deceitful and desperately corrupt. His will is not free, it is in bondage to his evil nature, therefore, he will not — indeed he cannot — choose good over evil in the spiritual realm. Consequently, it takes much more than the Spirit's assistance to bring a sinner to Christ — it takes regeneration by which the Spirit makes the sinner alive and gives him a new nature. Faith is not something man contributes to salvation but is itself a part of God's gift of salvation— it is God's gift to the sinner, not the sinner's gift to God.

*from the online resource "Graceonlinelibrary.org"*

When we speak of Total Depravity, we do not mean that humankind has committed every evil that he or she could do. Rather it means that every area of our lives is affected by the fall, or the rebellion of our first parents, Adam and Eve. Even someone as committed to evil as Adolph Hitler (or any other notoriously wicked person) did not commit every sin that he possibly could have committed. But there was no area of his mind, will, emotions, or actions that was not affected by sinfulness. Neither is there in my life or yours. One sin is sufficient to send us to Hell (James 2:10).

Thomas Aquinas was an influential theologian Roman Catholic nearly 1,000 years ago. He contended that our minds are "free" and capable of thinking in a way that escapes the effects of sin. This opened the door for thinking that one can be religious in actions but has the ability to think freely with her or his mind. This is why those in the Roman Catholic Church and other churches, can focus on religious practices (works) to satisfy their spiritual debt but their thought life is free. Others like Arminias have used the term "will" and have argued that it is "free." They say that a person only needs to continually choose the right and good thing so that she or he can choose to please God. Those who hold to such a position then argue that in the heart of every person, God opens a window, for an uncertain period of time, when He suspends the effects of sin upon that person so that she or he can choose to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior by their own choice, unaided by God's work in the heart of the person. According to this position, God remains detached and waits for the person to make the choice. Then once the choice is made, and only then He validates it. The missing factor for this position is that **it does not have Scriptural support.**

What hope then have we in the face of such universal fallen condition? God is a generous God and He graciously and freely saves all who come to Him. Romans 10:13 invites, "Whosoever calleth on the name of the Lord shall be saved." That includes you, your family, your neighbors, your enemies. We have made it a major focus of ministry to freely invite all to come to Christ. At the same time, we are very aware that unless the Lord works in the heart of a person, she or he will not accept Jesus Christ. If one comes to Christ, there has been an amazing complex of things that God has done to bring her or him to Himself. Do not ignore the Gospel call. If you have never accepted the payment Jesus Christ provided for your sin, I invite you to do so right now! If you know Him, invite others to come to Him.

Hoping to point you to Christ, CTM

# 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 29 Apr <span style="float: right;"><b>No Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study</b></span>	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 02 May <span style="float: right;"><b>No Young Adults Fellowship</b></span>	
Sat 03 May 4:00pm <span style="float: right;"><b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b></span>	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TODAY: 27/04/2014</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> John</p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Anthony</p> <p><b>Pianist:</b> Sarah</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Margaret</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> No Sunday School</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Tom</p> <p><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>PA Crew:</b> Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 04/05/2014</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan</p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Anthony</p> <p><b>Pianist:</b> Jasmine</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Daniel / Evelyn</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Rachael</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Hannah</p> <p><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>PA Crew:</b> Scott</p>
<b>Message</b>	When Jonah Heard from God	Why Has God Spoken?	
<b>Text</b>	Jonah 1	John 12:28-31	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-lunch Bible Study:</b> Dr Martin will lead a study on "The Doctrine of the Church".</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, Jonathan, Sharon.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Patricia, Rachael.</li> <li>• <b>Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology - 1st to 3rd July 2014:</b> Theme for 2014 is "Rightly Dividing the Word".</li> <li>• <b>Please note that the ECM will be held after service today.</b></li> <li>• <b>Ladies Fellowship after Lunch today.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £498.00</b></p> <p><b>Attendance - Morning: 28 (A) 10 (C), Evening: 27 (A) 10 (C)</b></p>

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 13

**Q: Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?**

*A: Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.*

Comments:

Adam and Eve did not keep God's command. They sought to please themselves instead of seeking to please God, and so they fell from a state of innocence into a state of sin.

Scriptural Reference:

Deuteronomy 30:19, Genesis 3:6

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."</i></p> <p><b>Colossians 3:13</b></p>	<p><i>"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"</i></p> <p><b>Romans 5:1</b></p>	<p><i>"For we walk by faith, not by sight:"</i></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 5:7</b></p>