



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. 52

LORD’S DAY 28 DECEMBER 2014

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Ephesians 2:11-19

Psalm 90:1-2, 14-17

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 45 – “We Gather Together”

Insert – “Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Dwelling Place”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 100

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 100

(to the tune of Bradford, RHC 214)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 554 – “Another Year is Dawning”

Scriptural Text

Colossians 2:1-5

John 15:23-27

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Christian Nurture with a Purpose

True Spirit Enabled Living

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 400 – “Every Moment of Every Day”

RHC 233 – “O Breath of Life”

Benediction/3-Fold

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Amen **

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 UNSPEAKABLE GIFT

15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. (2 Cor 9:15)

Introduction

It is in this season of the year that you would expect to hear a sermon about Christ's birth; of how God sent His only begotten Son to the world. Well, there are good reasons why this is so.

Firstly, we are forgetful and ungrateful sinners that tend to take many things for granted, and so there is a need to be reminded of the greatest gift of God to mankind.

Secondly, there are millions out there that have not heard of this greatest gift, so it is a good opportunity especially to use this time to tell them of this unspeakable gift from God, the true meaning of Christmas. There are other reasons too, which I will not mention here.

Looking at 2 Cor 9:15, we see the apostle Paul was full of praise for the Corinthians Christians in their giving to the ministering of the saints. He was much encouraged by their willingness to give to the relief of the brethren in distance land, which they have not seen and heard, to which they have no connection except for the spiritual bonding in Christ. Yet they generously contributed to the welfare of these suffering brethren in the provinces of Macedonia and Achaia. These are acts of merciful most pleasing to the Lord.

Behind the hearts of their generous giving, Paul saw something in them that moves them to give in such a wonderful way. He saw the love of Christ that enabled them; that empowered them to give because the Corinthian Christians themselves have first received the greatest gift of God into their hearts that produces such kind of Christ-like attitudes, which is selfless and gracious. Upon seeing such Christian virtues in them, it very natural compels Paul to give thanks God for the unspeakable gift.

This is the background to chapter 9 that gives rise to Paul's doxology in the last part of this chapter, praising and blessing God for working in them such a love for others. Can this be said of New Life BPC, London? Do others see Christ working in us such kind of Christian love one for another and extend such love to those outside? Or are we preoccupy with some many other things that clouded our sight of those in need or to hear the gospel?

If we claim to have received this unspeakable gift from God, which means we are truly born-again and have received Christ into our hearts as our personal Saviour and Lord, then there should be evidences of our faith, like that of the Corinthians Christians. This is an opportune time to remind ourselves why Christ Jesus had to come into this sin-cursed world to save sinners, to reconcile them to God.

1. The proclamation of the Gift

Firstly we are told in Scripture, particularly the four gospels that the angels made public the birth of Christ. In Luke 2:8-14, the angels of old announced the first advent of Christ to lowly shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem. These lowly shepherds are the least likely people for such significant news outbreak, yet God saw it fit not to inform unbelieving kings or religious leaders but to lowly shepherds in the field.

The announcement of this unspeakable gift is not about **Santa Clause is coming to town; it is not the announcement that Christmas sales is on, neither is it about "buy one and get one free", or buy now paid later.**

The proclamation is, **JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS.** None of us are able to save ourselves or approach God in and of our own effort. But God have mercy on us unconditionally and called us unto everlasting life. This is a wonderful news of God's saving grace sovereignly extended to undeserving sinners that if they embrace and believe this message, they will be saved.

In 1st Tim 1:15 Paul says, *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...* The shepherds' reaction was one of joyful belief, worship and praise. They were told not to be afraid in (Luke 2:10) but to **rejoice and give thanks for such an unspeakable gift.** We are to respond in the same manner with faith, believing in Christ alone as our only Saviour...

(Rom 10:9, 10). Faith and love in Christ cast out all fear. This is a heavenly announcement that has eternal consequences for us which we must take heed to. We must go beyond the tinsel and the seasonal hype of Christmas to truly appreciate the lasting impact of the Christmas message.

2. The Person in the unspeakable Gift

It is important to know and understand the central figure of Christmas. It is not Santa Claus but Jesus Christ, the Saver of the World. He is the Anointed one ('the Christos' - Messiah) and He is Lord of all creation (the Kurios – the Master and one having authority). **He is the Messiah and the only Redeemer of all mankind, the Great High Priest, who will mediate a sinful race to a thrice-holy God. He is the Great Shepherd of the sheep, the Prophet, Great High Priest and King of kings.** Without Christ there is no Christianity, there will be no hope for the redemption of lost sinners condemned to hell. Jesus of Nazareth is no mere mortal, He is the Living and True God, the God-Man, and the only Deliverer of his people from their sins. Christ said of Himself in John 14:6 says, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* The doctor Luke in Acts 4:12 adds, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* **Without Christ, it is a hopeless end. With Christ, it is an endless hope.**

3. The Purpose of the unspeakable Gift

After having heard the announcement and receive the gift of salvation, it is not for us to keep. In Luke 2:13-14, we are told, *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.* This is for us to emulate, to go around, near and far, telling others about Christ in Word and deed for the saving of souls.

The Christian's message is one of peace and reconciliation between a sinful generation and a righteous, just and holy God. **True peace is not just absence of war but securing of the favour of God, not incurring his righteous wrath.** It is a peace with God and the peace of God. Rom 5:8 says, *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:* This is the message we ought to carry with us whenever we go, all the time.

Christmas is about making peace with God and with our fellowmen through the perfect life, atoning death and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:1-5). *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. This is the purpose of the unspeakable gift"* (2 Cor 5:21).

As we approach this year-end season, do we truly understand and celebrate Christmas in the full appreciation of the Proclamation, the Person and the Purpose of Christmas? Let us pause and ponder this sober and joyous life-changing message of salvation through Christ alone. Come and seek Christ and be saved today. 2 Cor 6:2 tell us, *For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

Conclusion

Jesus Christ, our Lord is the only way to abundant and everlasting life. Born of a virgin, Mary (Isa 7:14), **He lived a perfect life that He may die a sinless death on the cross for us.** He is the dream of all that the Prophetess, Anna, proclaimed in her prayer in Luke 2:11-18.

Are you born-again or have you back slid from the Lord? Do you have the joy of salvation and the hope of eternal life? It can be yours if you repent and confess Christ as your Lord and Saviour with your heart.

For those of us who have Christ in our hearts as our Saviour and Lord, and walking with Him daily in holiness, then the love of Christ can flow from our hearts to one another and to others outside the church. Paul says in 1 Tim 3:16, *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.* He is the true Deliverer of our souls and He is the Lord that deserves our worship and adoration. Only Jesus saves! Amen

Pr Mok

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 31 Dec 6:00pm New Year's Eve Gathering	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Priscilla & Peter, Caleb, Margaret, Kamilla & Dennis to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Fri 02 Jan No Young Adults Fellowship	
Sat 03 Jan 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	<u>TODAY: 28/12/2014</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Sarah Pianist: Sarah Ushers: Tom / Daniel Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott <u>NEXT WEEK: 04/01/2015</u> Chairman: John Organist: Sarah Pianist: Keene Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Jonathan
Message	What Does It Mean to Receive Christ Jesus as Lord?	When Troubles Come	
Text	Colossians 2:6-7	John 16:1-4	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: Dr Martin will lead this week's study. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Rev Colin Wong, Patricia, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Brian Green, Dr Tow, Elizabeth, Magdalene, Jonathan's father. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Magdalene, Nana • Pray for those on travel: Ernest, Josias, Elizabeth, Margaret, Shirley, Matthew, Keene, Anthony & Helen, Madeline, John & family. • Pulpit Ministry: Please pray for Pr Mok Chee Cheong's visa application. • New Year's Eve Gathering @ 6:00pm: All are invited to come to bid farewell to 2014 and usher in 2015. Please bring a dish/snack to share • The Task Force would like the wish the congregation a Blessed and Happy New Year. 	
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £897.20 Attendance - Morning: 28 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 17 (A) 2 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 48

Q: What are we specially taught by these words, 'before me', in the First Commandment?

A: These words – 'BEFORE ME' – in the First Commandment, teach us, That God who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of **HAVING ANY OTHER GOD.**

Comments:

The special reason here given why we should observe this commandment is, that God, who seeth all things, keeps an eye especially on the breaking of this commandment, and punishes the offence with his sorest displeasure.

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 44:20, 21; Romans 1:20, 21

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6	"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." Isaiah 30:18	"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:" Isaiah 55:6