



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. 13

LORD’S DAY 30 MARCH 2014

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 99:1-3

Psalm 3

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 8 – “Holy, Holy, Holy”

RHC 80 – “The Day Thou Gavest, Lord”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 63

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 63

(to the tune of No Other Plea, RHC 301)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 399 – ‘I Am Thine, O Lord’ verses 1-2

Scriptural Text

Romans 2:16-29

Matthew 5:10-12

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

An All-Knowing God

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake
RHC 77 – “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name”

*Closing Hymn **

Insert – “Rock of Ages”

*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

A HEART OF THANKSGIVING

How many of us who receive blessings from God give Him thanks? The story of the ten lepers teaches us what thanksgiving is all about. According to the story, Jesus healed ten lepers but only one returned to give thanks to Him, he was a Samaritan. He was grateful to God's mercy lavishly showered upon him (Luke 17:11-19).

Though unworthy we are in so many ways, you and I have experienced God's mercy in our lives. But how often do we give thanks to God? One good example is our giving thanks to God for food. We may acknowledge Him as our provider, but how sincere are we in saying our grace?

The Greek word for "thanksgiving" is "eucharistia." The heart of that word is "charis" which means "grace." So the heart of "eucharist" is "grace," and the heart of grace is the word "chairô" which means "to rejoice." Therefore, thanksgiving means to rejoice in God's presence for blessings freely received from Him. This joy is expressed in word and deed toward God for His grace.

The Psalmists were people of praise and thanksgiving. Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." You and I should be a people of praise and thanksgiving. As a matter of fact, one of the distinct characteristics of a Spirit-filled Christian is "Thanksgiving" (Ephesians 5:20). He always abounds in thanksgiving to God (Colossians 2:7). He always gives thanks to Him for everything all the time (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

The Nature of a Thankful Heart

Thanksgiving to God flows out in abundance only from the heart of a Spirit-filled Christian. No unbeliever will give thanks to God. His nature is to credit everything to himself. Paul speaks about such people in Romans 1:21: "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him." Ungrateful or backslidden Christians do not give thanks to God. Because of their waywardness, they fail to acknowledge the mercies of God which are new every morning (Lamentations 3:23).

Let us learn a lesson from Israel. Exodus records how God delivered Israel from the bondage of Egypt. Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt. When they were by the seashore, facing the Red Sea, they lifted up their eyes and saw the Egyptian soldiers pursuing them vigorously. As the army and horsemen of Pharaoh were approaching them nearer and nearer, they began to panic, and blamed Moses saying, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness (Exodus 14:11, 12).

God delivered the children of Israel by parting the Red Sea. When they came to the wilderness, they were tired and wearied. They looked for water but could not find any drinkable water. They complained and murmured against Moses (Exodus 15:22-24). Truly, these people of God were ungrateful to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They not only refused to give thanks to God for delivering them from slavery, but they also filled with a grumbling spirit. We are told in the book of Numbers that they tested God their Redeemer ten times (Numbers 14:22). The writer of Hebrews tells us that these ungrateful people saw God's works in the wilderness for forty years and yet they continued to test him. As a result, God was grieved with that generation and vowed in His wrath that none of them should enter into his rest (Hebrews 3:7-11).

Dearly beloved, here is a very stern warning to all of us. Have we been ungrateful to God? We are warned not to repeat our ungrateful attitudes if we have already done so. Don't be like the Israelites or the other nine lepers who did not come back to give thanks to God (Luke 17:17, 18). Thanksgiving to God proves that we are a grateful and thankful Christian.

The Nature of our Thanksgiving

What is this thanksgiving which we are to render continually? It is grateful acknowledgment of benefits received. King David said, *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s”* (Psalm 103:2-5). Elsewhere, he said, *“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered”* (Psalm 40:5). Paul said, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”* (Ephesians 1:3).

As sinners, you and I do not deserve any blessing from God, only judgment and instant destruction for our infinite sins. God not only saves us from sin, misery and hell, but also provides for us our every need, be it physical, financial or spiritual (2 Peter 1:3, 4). Having received so much blessing from Him, what shall we render to the LORD for all His benefits toward us? (Psalm 116:12)

We are instructed in the Holy Scriptures not only to thank God for His bounteous benefits (From whom all blessings flow. All that we are and all that we have comes from him; by ourselves we are nothing and have nothing), but also be thankful to those who have been kind to us. God uses people to bless us, especially brothers and sisters in the Lord.

King David was a man of kindness. He said, *“Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”* (2 Samuel 9:1) Why did he do it for Jonathan’s sake? The reason is that David never forgot Jonathan’s kindness toward him (1 Samuel 20:4).

Paul was a thankful Christian. In his letters to the churches in Asia Minor, he always gave thanks to God for his recipients (Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 1:3; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; Philemon 4). He even thanked God for Priscilla and Aquila for risking their lives for him in the service of God (Romans 16:3, 4).

Likewise, Christians are to put on kindness (Colossians 3:12). *“Brotherly kindness”* is one of the building blocks for Christian character (2 Peter 1:7). Therefore, you and I are to put on *“kindness”* and treat people, especially members of the Christian community gently and kindly, just as the Lord treats us (Matthew 11:28, 29; 1 Thessalonians 2:6, 7).

God’s blessings to us are uncountable, especially His kindness (Psalm 40:5). As the hymnwriter tells us, *“Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what God has done,”* I hope none of us would forget all His benefits, blessings and kindness toward us.

For that reason, you and I owe God this expression of gratefulness called *“thanksgiving.”* In our day and age, people are exceedingly rights-oriented. They expect their parents to take care of them, the government to take responsibilities for their social welfare, and everyone else to take care of them. I hope we will not forget that we owe everything to God, from whom all blessings flow, and we are to express our thanks to Him both in word and deed at all times (Deuteronomy 8:10-20).

Dearly beloved, have you ever made a list of things for which to thank God? Why don’t you sit down in the quietness of the night or morning and reflect on God’s benefits and blessings, and give thanks to Him who is our Redeemer, Saviour and Provider? (Deuteronomy 8:4) 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
Tues 01 Apr 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 04 Apr No Young Adults Fellowship	
Sat 05 Apr 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	<u>TODAY: 30/03/2014</u>
Message	Objections Raised - God's Justice Upheld	Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake - Part 2	Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Anthony Ushers: Daniel / Tom Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott
Text	Romans 3:1-8	Matthew 5:10-12	<u>NEXT WEEK: 06/04/2014</u>

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: There will be a short video study on "Christian Womanhood Series" by Mrs Rachel Fisher • 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, Maureen, Daniel, Jonathan, Magdalene. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Patricia. • Pray for those on travels: Jasmine, Matthew, Sarah. • Ladies Fellowship will meet today after Lunch. • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology - 1st to 3rd July 2014: Theme for 2014 is "Rightly Dividing the Word" • Please note that there will be an ECM on Sunday 13th April 2014 	<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £712.24; Lunch: £53.05</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attendance - Morning: 28 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 19 (A) 2 (C)</p>

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 9

Q: What is the work of creation?

A: The work of creation is God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

Comments:

The first thing that God did in relation to us was to make the world we live in. Now, when we wish to make anything, we require materials. Thus, to make a chair, we need wood. But God made all things *of nothing*, by merely speaking the word. We are here told also of the time in which he made all things – six days; and of the condition in which they were when made – very good.

Scriptural Reference:

Hebrews 11:3, Genesis 1:31

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."</i></p> <p>Psalm 91:2</p>	<p><i>"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."</i></p> <p>Psalm 37:23</p>	<p><i>"Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."</i></p> <p>Psalm 37:24</p>