



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. 19 No. 31

LORD’S DAY 02 AUGUST 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 138:1-2

Psalm 47:6-9

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 44 – “We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer”

RHC 32 – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 122

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 122
(to the tune of Ellacombe, RHC 29)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 390 – “Something for Thee”

Scriptural Text

Colossians 4:10-15

John 17:10-12

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Teamwork in Ministry

The Secure Keeping Power of God

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 450 – “To the Work!”

RHC 353 – “God Will Take Care of You”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

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 2015 – “Build a God-Honouring Family” – Joshua 24:15b

WHAT IS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

Adapted from Life BPC Weekly - 12 July 2015 - Rev Colin Wong

When a person becomes a Christian, he is eternally saved. However, he does not necessarily have the assurance of salvation at the point of his conversion. The way it happens varies from person to person. Some may wait a little longer; others may go through certain conflicts or difficulties before he is assured by God's Word and the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16). So whether your assurance of salvation comes at the point of conversion or later, the one thing you need to do is to make every effort to make your calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10, 11).

Is doubting your salvation a sin? John F. MacArthur's comment is helpful – *“Doubts about one's salvation are not wrong so long as they are not nursed and allowed to become an obsession. Scripture encourages self-examination. Doubts must be confronted and dealt with honestly and biblically.”*

Assurance of salvation is the realization of what we have in Jesus such as eternal life, forgiveness of sin, and being the object of God's personal care as His children (John 10:27-29; 1 John 5:11-13; Romans 8:9, 16; Ephesians 1:13, 14). Assurance has to do with our comprehension of the facts and provisions of salvation through faith in Jesus. This is a crucial teaching of the Bible because it not only gives assurance of salvation, but it also comes with a greater assurance of God's provision in all areas of life (Romans 8:32).

Sadly, in the church today, many Christians do not have any assurance of salvation. These faithful church goers have been calling themselves *“Christian”* for years but deep within them, there is a lack of assurance of salvation. There is always fear and trepidation whenever the word *“death”* is mentioned. Many of them are uncertain of a place in heaven. Have I done enough to get to heaven? I must be more religious in order to secure a place in heaven. Maybe I should come to the prayer meeting or join a Bible study to increase my knowledge or be involved in any activities to show the Lord that I am a good Christian.

On the other hand, I also noticed many *“presumptuous”* Christians in the church. These Christians speak well and confidently. They know the Bible well. They pray eloquently. They are even leaders of the church. But with regard to the certainty of their salvation, it is questionable.

Here is a warning to such Christians – *“Beware, I pray thee, of presuming that thou art saved. If thy heart be renewed, if thou shalt hate the things that thou didst once love, and love the things that thou didst once hate; if thou hast really repented; if there be a thorough change of mind in thee; if thou be born again, then hast thou reason to rejoice: but if there be no vital change, no inward godliness; if there be no love to God, no prayer, no work of the Holy Spirit, then thy saying “I am saved” is but thine own assertion, and it may delude, but it will not deliver thee”* (Charles Spurgeon). Therefore, let us examine ourselves (Matthew 7:21a; 2 Corinthians 13:5) lest *“Many like Agrippa are but Almost Christians, will find in the end they shall be but Almost Saved”* (Richard Baxter).

Reasons Why a Christian Lacks Assurance of Salvation

1. He cannot remember or point to a specific time of his conversion. Some know the point when regeneration takes place; others are not sure. Is your spiritual birthday that important? Maybe it is important for some of us. But for others, it doesn't matter whether they are spiritually born on this date or that date. Rather, what matters most to them is being a *new* creation (Galatians 6:15).
2. He questions the procedure of his conversion. Some preachers emphasize the need for some form of public confession of faith like going forward at the end of a service or raising your hand or signing a card. If he receives Christ privately, he wonders if he should have made a public confession or prayed a different prayer.
3. He struggles with certain sins. He wonders if a true believer would have these kinds of problems. The real problem is ignorance of man's sinful nature, the spiritual warfare we are in, God's means of deliverance, and the need to grow and mature in Christ.

According to the teaching of the Westminster Confession of Faith *“Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation”* Chapter 18:4 says, *“True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it; by falling into some special sin, which woundeth the conscience, and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation; by God's withdrawing the light of his countenance and suffering even such as fear him to walk in darkness and to have no light: yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith,*

that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may in due time be revived, and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair."

4. He has erroneously been taught that he should look to himself and his works as the primary proof of his salvation. Some churches teach that assurance of salvation is based on the participation of church programs. Genuine assurance of salvation comes from seeing the Holy Spirit's transforming work in one's life, not from participation of church activities. John Calvin warns against looking to ourselves like the Pharisee who stood up and prayed thus, "*God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector*" (Luke 18:11, 12) for certainty of our salvation. We should look to Christ as the *objective* basis for assurance. To look to ourselves produces doubt and detracts from the saving work of Christ. He rejected such self-examination if we will do it like the Pharisees. "*Eternal life is not a reward for effort; it is a gift to those who trust Christ*" (J. Vernon McGee).

5. The primary reason behind a lack of assurance is *doctrinal* misunderstanding and the consequent lack of faith in the finished work of Christ. This means a failure to understand the Word and its teaching regarding mankind, his sin and inability to work for or maintain his salvation, God's perfect holiness, and the finished nature and sufficiency of the work of Christ.

How Can I have Assurance of Salvation?

With the help of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, a person who has truly put his faith in Christ can know his salvation is truly secured eternally. Here are some passages for your consideration:

1. The Testimony of the heart. 1 John 5:11-13 clearly teach the Assurance of Salvation. John said that those who have believed in Jesus have this testimony in their hearts (10), and this is the testimony that God has given them eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Those who have the Son have life and those who do not have the Son of God do not have life (11, 12).

Then in verse 13, John tells us his purpose in writing to the Christian. He said, "*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*" Now the word "*know*" here speaks of an "*intuitive knowledge*," not an "*experiential or a reflective knowledge*." In other words, John was saying that you know it, not by experiencing it, but you know it cognitively (not hope, feel, guess, or think) that you have eternal life.

2. The Testimony of Holy Scripture (John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:47; 10:27-29). Jesus makes it very clear that those who believe in Him hear His voice. In verse 14 of John 10 He said, "*I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*" Jesus knows each and every one of His sheep intimately (John 10:3-5).

In Palestine, sometimes shepherds pen their sheep together in a cave or a sheepfold at night. The next morning each shepherd calls to his own sheep with his own unique guttural cry. Each sheep knows his shepherd's voice and responds to him immediately.

Can you recognize the voice of your shepherd? Then follow him closely. Furthermore, in verses 28 and 29, Jesus talks about the eternal security of our salvation. The emphasis of these verses is that none of his sheep will die in hell and no one is able to snatch them away from the Father's hand. That's Life Insurance!

3. The Testimony of the Holy Spirit

Here is the inner testimony of the Holy Spirit with our spirits that we are truly children of God (Romans 8:16). We are told in verse 15 that we did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "*Abba! Father!*" (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6) Such a cry expresses a close relationship with God.

Dearly beloved in Christ, do you still doubt your salvation? I pray that by the operation of the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the Word, this assurance of salvation may in due time be revived. Amen.

— Secured 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
Thurs 6th Aug 7pm 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.
Sat 8th Aug 4pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting <i>Study on the Life of Joseph</i>	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 02/08/2015</u> Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Keene Ushers: Tom / Evelyn Sunday School: Keene / Rachael / Hannah Lunch: Tom Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott
Message	Sustaining a Faithful Ministry	God's Word, Confrontation or Comfort?	
Text	Colossians 4:16-17	John 17:13-15	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "<i>Building Firm Foundations</i>". • 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, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Jonathan's father, Sarah, Matthew. • Pray for expecting mothers: Magdalene, Helen. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travels this week: Matthew, Yangfan, Michael, Heidi, Daniel & Maureen, Tan Family. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister. • Ladies Fellowship after lunch today. • Lord's Supper next Lord's Day: Please come with hearts prepared. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 09/08/2015</u></p> Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Anthony Ushers: Keene / Yetta Sunday School: Keene / Rachael / Hannah Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Josias
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £830.60 Attendance - Morning: 25 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 20 (A) 2 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 80

Q: What is required in the Tenth Commandment?

A: The Tenth Commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbour, and all that is his.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Timothy 6:8, Hebrew 13:5

MEMORY VERSE		
<p>Last Week</p> <p><i>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.</i></p> <p><i>Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."</i></p> <p>John 15:1-2</p>	<p>This Week</p> <p><i>"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."</i></p> <p>Romans 1:16</p>	<p>Next Week</p> <p><i>"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."</i></p> <p>Romans 1:17</p>