



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. 18

LORD’S DAY 03 MAY 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 47:6-9

Psalm 77:11-15

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 226 – “*The Lord Is King!*”

RHC 15 – “*How Shall I Sing That Majesty*”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:1-16

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 119 verses 1-8
(to the tune of Evan, RHC 379)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 384 – “*My Jesus, I Love Thee*”

Scriptural Text

Joshua 7

Romans 4

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

The Valley of Trouble

Our Great Salvation

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 429 – “*We Have Not Known Thee as We Ought*”

RHC 80 – “*The Day Thou Gavest, Lord*”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

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

From the pastor's heart...

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 12th April 2015

A few weeks ago, I recommended you, especially men, to read a book, *Disciplines of a Godly Man*, written by Kent Hughes. Though it is written for men, it is also helpful to ladies. In this book, he deals with the topic of church attendance, which is a pertinent issue to the believers today. I have met professing Christians who are spiritual nomads, who refuse to settle down in any one church, i.e., home church. They are roaming around from church to church. Thus, they are church goers and worshippers too, but they simply do not want to commit themselves to any particular local body of believers. I personally think that they miss out on a lot of spiritual blessings. They neither receive consistent Bible lessons nor enjoy long term Christian fellowship. They do not submit themselves to any church's discipline, which means that they will lose out opportunities for corrections of their wrongs. They do not learn to commit themselves to any ministry. Thus, they follow their own preferences and depend on their own personal judgments. Of course, they do not follow the biblical pattern of Christian churches in the New Testament. Their learning is pick-and-choose. Thus, they stay in one church as long as they like to, and when they change their minds, they disappear. Of course, no ministry can be built with such nomads. I understand that it is not fair to blame them for such behaviors, because they must have their own reasons, very legitimate reasons, including unreliable Church leaders, wavering church teachings, and spiritual apostasy in general. Despite all these excuses, I still believe that the Bible provides us with a very high view of local churches and church ministries. It is desirable for the believers of Jesus Christ to find their home churches and to commit themselves to their ministries faithfully. Kent Hughes aptly explained his thoughts about church attendance in his book. I am going to quote a few sections from his book to highlight the points. He said, firstly, about the current problems as follows:

“Church attendance is infected with a malaise of conditional loyalty which has produced an army of ecclesiastical hitchhikers. The hitchhiker's thumb says, ‘You buy the car, pay for repairs and upkeep and insurance, fill the car with gas - and I'll ride with you. But if you have an accident, you are on your own! And I'll probably sue.’ So it is with the credo of so many of today's church attenders: ‘You go to the meetings and serve on the boards and committees, you grapple with the issues and do the work of the church and pay the bills - and I'll come along for the ride. But if things do not suit me, I'll criticize and complain and probably bail out - my thumb is always out for a better ride.’ This putative loyalty is fueled by a consumer ethos - a ‘McChristian’ mentality - which picks and chooses here and there to fill one's ecclesiastical shopping list. There are hitchhikers who attend one church for the preaching, send their children to a second church for its dynamic youth program, and go to a third church's small group. Church hitchhikers have a telling vocabulary: ‘I go to’ or ‘I attend,’ but never ‘I belong to’ or ‘I am a member.’ Pollster George Barna supports this, saying: ‘[T]he average adult thinks that belonging to a church is good for other people, but represents unnecessary bondage and baggage for himself.’ So today . . . we have a phenomenon unthinkable in any other century: churchless Christians. There is a vast herd of professed Christians who exist as nomadic hitchhikers without accountability, without discipline, without discipleship, living apart from the regular benefits of the ordinances. . . . The tragedy is compounded because statistics indicate that men are far less committed to the Church than women - inevitably producing a shriveled leadership. As to why the Church has fallen on such hard times, historians tell us that an overemphasis on the ‘invisible’ Body of Christ by evangelical leaders produced an implicit disregard for the visible Church.”

He argues that unchurched Christians are unbiblical. He says, “membership in an invisible Church without participation in its local expression is never contemplated in the New Testament. Another reason for the de-churching of many Christians is the historic individualism of evangelical Christianity and the grass-roots American [or western countries] impulse against authority. The natural inclination is to think that one needs only an individual relationship with Christ and needs no other authority. Such thinking produces Christian Lone Rangers who demonstrate their authenticity by riding not to church, but out to the badlands, reference Bible in hand, to do battle single-handedly with the outlaw world. Such a cavalier disregard for the doctrine of the Church is eccentric, to say the least. It disregards not only Scripture, but the consensus of the doctors of the Church. . . . Augustine could not conceive of one being regenerated yet consciously separate from the visible Church.” It is important for us to know the general sentiment and understanding amongst the forefathers of faith about [visible] church(es). For example, Augustine said “The deserter of the Church cannot be in Christ, since he is not among Christ’s members.” Martin Luther similarly stated, “Outside this Christian Church there is no salvation or forgiveness of sins, but everlasting death and damnation; even though there may be a magnificent appearance of holiness. . .” (Robert H. Fischer, ed., *Luther’s Works*, Vol. 37, Philadelphia: Mullenberg Press, 1961, 368). “John Calvin echoed Cyprian’s thought that the evidence of having God as your Father is having the Church as your mother. In fact, he subtitled chapter 1 of book 4 of his Institutes “The True Church with Which as Mother of All the Godly We Must Keep Unity.” And in his commentary on Ephesians he wrote, “The Church is the common mother of all the godly, which bears, nourishes, and governs in the Lord both kings and commoners; and this is done by the ministry. Those who neglect or despise this order want to be wiser than Christ. Woe to their pride” (David W. Torrance and Thomas F. Torrance, eds., *Calvin’s Commentaries, The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians, Philippians and Colossians*, Volume 3, trans. T. H. L. Parker, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974, 181).

The Westminster Confession of Faith powerfully testifies of the importance of local churches in chapter 25.2 as following: “The visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.” Especially, the last statement is even quite harsh as it says, “out of which [visible church, or local churches], there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.” Of course, it does not mean that going to church saves anybody. It simply indicates that it is God’s design for the believers to be gathered to worship Him and to find His will in His churches [visible churches], because the church is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15). Acts 2:47 is significant in this regard: “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” More and more people came to the Lord in Jerusalem through the apostles’ preaching ministry. The Lord added these people to His church. Thus, the saved came to the church in Jerusalem, and the church grew.

I cannot say more words to what Kent Hughes has already said about Christian life than as follows: “The entire Christian life is about commitment - first and above all to Christ, but also to the Church, to family, to marriage, to friendship, to ministry. None of these will ever flourish apart from commitment” (Kindle reading location 3103). Settling down in one Bible believing home church is a matter of commitment. Would you like to be a lone ranger or a member of a body of believers in a local church?

Lovingly,
Your Pastor

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 07 May No Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Esther and Mitzi to our worships services last Lord's Day.
Sat 09 May No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting (Next meeting on 16 May – every alternate week)	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	<u>TODAY: 03/05/2015</u> Chairman: John Organist: Keene Pianist: Matthew Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn Sunday School: Keene / Rachael Lunch: Nina Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Jonathan
Message	The Counsel of Gamaliel	The Sinner's Help	
Text	Acts 5	Psalm 121	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: Mr Charles Scott-Pearson will conduct today's pre-lunch sharing session. • 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, Toby, Ellie, Kalel, Maureen. • Pray for expecting mothers: Sharon, Magdalene, Helen. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travel: Anthony & Helen, Dr Martin. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as interim minister. • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology: 7th-9th July 2015. Theme - "Pathway to Power". 	<u>NEXT WEEK: 10/05/2015</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Keene Pianist: Matthew Ushers: Tom / Daniel Sunday School: Keene / Rachael Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £484.78, Lunch: £31.60 Attendance - Morning: 25 (A) 3 (C), Evening: 14 (A) 2 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 66

Q: What is the reason annexed to the Fifth Commandment?

A: *The reason annexed to the Fifth Commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.*

Comments:

The Fifth Commandment stands at the head of the second table of the law. It requires us to honour our parents, to render due respect and obedience to all who are superior to us, and, in a word, to pay heed to the claims of those who are *related* to us in any way.

This commandment bids us always show a certain respect to those above us in station, and requires certain duties to be discharged to all, whether above, beneath, or equal to us. It forbids us to refuse to pay honour to whom honour is due, or to neglect to discharge any of the duties we owe to our friends or neighbours. The special reason it gives for its observance is that God has promised to lengthen the days of those who keep it.

Scriptural Reference:

Ephesians 6:2-3

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."</i> Matthew 22:37	<i>"This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."</i> Matthew 22:38-39	<i>"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."</i> John 1:17