



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. 36

LORD’S DAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 111:1-3

Psalm 19:1-4

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 93 – “*To God Be the Glory*”

RHC 6 – “*The Spacious Firmament on High*”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 127

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 127
(to the tune of St Peter, RHC 456)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 532 – “*Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*”

Scriptural Text

Luke 17:1-19

Ecclesiastes 3

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

Glorifying God

The Works of God

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 113 – “*It Is Glory Just to Walk with Him*”

RHC 49 – “*How Great Thou Art!*”

*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

THE HIGH PRICE OF UNBELIEF

Adapted from Life BP Church Singapore Weekly - 30 August 2015

We complain whenever we have to pay a higher price for things we buy. But there is a price to pay which we should all be more concerned about: The price one will have to pay if one does not believe in Jesus Christ. Here are three questions that every person should consider carefully:

1. Is it worthwhile not to believe in Jesus in order to gain the praise of men, but lose the praise of God? At the time that Jesus was on earth, there were some who apparently thought that it was worthwhile to do this. John 12:37 – “But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him.”

Here John the apostle expressed his dismay that despite the many miracles Jesus had performed, there were people who still refused to believe in Him. By this time Jesus had turned water into wine at Cana, healed a nobleman’s son without having to visit him, made a man who was paralysed for 38 years walk again, fed 5,000 people with only five loaves and two fishes, opened the eyes of a man who was born blind, and raised up Lazarus after he had been dead for four days. And besides these miracles that were recorded in John’s Gospel, there were also many other miracles that Christ performed.

One would think that these should provide such overwhelming evidence that none would hesitate to believe in Him. Unfortunately man’s heart is so sinful that despite such a strong case for Christ, people still reject Him. And the more they reject Christ, the more difficult it becomes for them to believe later on.

When a person initially refuses to believe in Jesus Christ, his heart somehow becomes hardened to the gospel. This truth is reinforced by a quotation from the book of Isaiah – *“Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.”* (John 12:39,40)

This truth has very serious implications for us. It means that the attitude of unbelief is extremely dangerous to the soul. When unbelief is allowed to take hold, it tends to grow until the heart eventually becomes impenetrable to the gospel of Christ. If you have not believed in Christ yet, please do not harden your heart against Him, for if you do that, the door of your heart may one day become totally sealed off to Him. Be receptive to the truth. Be willing to consider the wonderful offer of salvation from Jesus, and the many miracles which support His claims. Be willing to respond by surrendering your heart to Him.

The message of salvation is like fire. Fire has different effects on different objects depending on what they are made of. If the object is a newly-moulded clay pot, fire will harden it until it becomes so hard and brittle that breaks to pieces when it falls. But if the object is a candle, fire will melt it, causing it to yield itself to the flame and make it burn much brighter. Does the Gospel melt your heart or harden it? Be careful not to have a heart that is conditioned against the wonderful salvation that Christ offers.

You may ask: *“What can possibly condition my heart against being saved?”* The answer is found in John 12:43 – *“For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”* These people were the chief rulers. They believed on Jesus, but their faith was not saving faith, because they refused to confess their faith in Him, out of fear of being ostracized (v.42). Faith that does not produce a willingness to confess Christ publicly is not yet saving faith (Romans 10:10 – *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*)

Many people have conditioned their hearts against believing in and confessing Christ, because they fear what others will think of them. Some are afraid of being ridiculed or rejected. Others are afraid of losing the respect, friendship and love of their closest peers. Are you afraid that if your family comes to know that you believe in Christ there will be plenty of heartbreak and strife in the family? *“Why change things? Why rock the boat? It is not convenient.”*

Whatever the cause may be, one thing must be made very clear: If a person allows this fear to prevent him from receiving Christ, he is being more afraid of men than of God. He wants to please men, and not God. I hope you can see how foolish this is. What should be more valuable to you – God’s approval or man’s approval? Isn’t what God thinks of you far more important than what people think of you? What people think of you will only be good for your lifetime in this world. After that, it will be completely forgotten. But what God thinks of you will last for all eternity, and will never be forgotten!

2. Is it worthwhile not to believe in Jesus to gain worldly wealth, but lose eternal blessings? Another thing that may condition your heart against receiving Christ is the prospect of gaining material wealth. Some will say to themselves: *“Why should I live for things in heaven, or for spiritual things which I cannot see at all? There are so many things for me to gain and enjoy in this present life. I want satisfaction, and I want it now.”*

One of the disciples of Jesus had such thoughts – Judas Iscariot. According to the gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke, it was at this time in the life of Jesus that Judas went to make a deal with the chief priests to betray Him for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 12:14-16).

Why did Judas ‘sell’ his master to the chief priests? Was it not the prospect of making money for himself? Earlier glimpses of Judas show that he was put in charge of finance (John 12:6). The twelve disciples discovered later on that he had stolen from the funds under his care. He was able to cover up his deeds so well that no one suspected him of theft. After he betrayed Jesus, Judas felt so guilty about what he had done that he eventually killed himself. What was the root cause of all this? It was his love for money. *“For the love of money is the root of all evil.”* (1 Timothy 6:10)

Do you know that anyone who refuses to turn to Jesus Christ because of worldly wealth is like Judas? If your pursuit of wealth is the main stumbling block that prevents you from believing in Christ, then you are doing what Judas did, in valuing the 30 pieces of silver more than his loyalty to Christ!

If you adopt the short-sighted policy of living for what you can gain out of this world, instead of living for blessings in eternity, you will end up the same way that Judas Iscariot did. Jesus said, *“What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Matthew 16:26)

3. Is it worthwhile not to believe in Jesus, to lose all obligation to obey God’s Word, but gain eternal judgment? One more thing that may condition a person’s heart against receiving Christ is the desire to live one’s life without being bound by anything at all, and especially without being bound by the Word of God. This desire is the outcome of the independent spirit of our age: “I want to live my life in my own way. I want to be my own master. I want to be free to do whatever I want with my life, without any interference from outside. So don’t come and tell me what I should do or what I should not do with my life. Just leave me alone.”

The truth is that no one is completely free to do whatever he wants with his life, because he is already bound by the sinful nature within him. He cannot be his own master, because sin is already his real master. The freedom that he claims to have is only a freedom to walk in darkness and to abide in darkness.

There is only one way to have real freedom. True freedom of the soul comes from believing in Christ. Jesus said, *“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness.”* (John 12:46) Believing in Jesus Christ is the only way you can be liberated from the darkness of sin, and have true freedom. Those who refuse to listen, or to have anything to do with the Word of God, are only denying themselves this one and only means of being released from the control that sin has on their lives.

The saddest part of all is that they will eventually have to listen to the Word of God on the Day of Judgment. On that day, there will be no more good news for them, but only the bad news of suffering the consequences of rejecting Christ and His Word. *“And if any man hear My words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”* (John 12:47,48)

When a sinner stands before God at the Last day, he can only say to himself. *“If only I knew and believed a long time ago that one day I would be standing here before God and experiencing His judgment, I would have listened and would not have rejected Christ. How could I have been so foolish not to receive Christ and be saved when I had the opportunity to do so? How blind I was to the things that are of real eternal value. All the wealth and fame and power that I was proud of - Where are they now? All are gone forever! There is nothing I can do now. There is no one who can help me. The only one with power to help me is God. But since He is now against me, there is no one I can turn to for help. What a price to pay for my foolish unbelief!”*

Since you know what awaits you now, isn’t time that believe in Jesus Christ? Please think seriously about these three questions: Is it worthwhile to gain the praise of men, but lose the praise of God? Is it worthwhile to gain worldly wealth for a short time, but lose eternal blessings? And is it worthwhile to be free from all obligations to obey God’s Word but to face eternal judgment by that same Word on the Last Day?

If your answer is ‘No,’ then come to Jesus Christ right now, without any more delay! He has promised – *“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.”* (John 6:37) This article appeals to your good sense and shows the logic of believing in Christ. And this call to believe is a loving offer of salvation. But it is not only a loving offer. It is also a command from the Most High God to all sinners: *“Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matthew 3:2).

Rev Charles Seet

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 10th Sept No Mid-Week Bible Study | We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Peter Koy and Shamiso Storey to our worship services last Lord's Day. |
| Sat 12th Sept 4pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Galatians | |

| Next Lord's Day | Morning Service | Evening Service | LORD'S DAY DUTIES |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| <i>Preacher</i> | Mr Paul Biddle | Mr Paul Biddle | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 06/09/2015</u></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> John</p> <p><i>Organist:</i> Anthony</p> <p><i>Pianist:</i> Keene</p> <p><i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Evelyn</p> <p><i>Sunday School:</i> Keene / Rachael / Hannah</p> <p><i>Lunch:</i> Maureen</p> <p><i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers</p> <p><i>PA Crew:</i> Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 13/09/2015</u></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> John</p> <p><i>Organist:</i> Anthony</p> <p><i>Pianist:</i> Keene</p> <p><i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Daniel</p> <p><i>Sunday School:</i> Keene / Rachael / Hannah</p> <p><i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers</p> <p><i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers</p> <p><i>PA Crew:</i> Scott</p> |
| <i>Message</i> | TBC | TBC | |
| <i>Text</i> | TBC | TBC | |

| NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Pre-lunch Bible Study. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Matthew, Jonathan's father, Magdalene. • Pray for expecting mothers: Helen. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travels this week: Matthew, Yangfan, Josias, Dr Martin. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister. |

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| <p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £906.54, Lunch: £43.40</p> <p>Attendance - Morning: 23 (A) 7 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 5 (C)</p> | <p><i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers</p> <p><i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers</p> <p><i>PA Crew:</i> Scott</p> |
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SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 85

Q: What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?
A: To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST – REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE – with the diligent use of all the OUTWARD MEANS whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of Redemption.

Comments:

The Law of God says, 'Do this and live', or 'Do it not and die'. And man cannot do it. He breaks the Law daily in spite of his utmost efforts. But God is merciful, and has provided a way by which we may be saved. That way is here told us. It consists in faith and repentance, which are *inward* means of salvation, with the diligent use of all the *outward* means hereafter to be told.

Scriptural Reference:

Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21

| MEMORY VERSE | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Last Week</p> <p><i>“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.”</i></p> <p>Romans 5:7</p> | <p>This Week</p> <p><i>“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”</i></p> <p>Romans 5:8</p> | <p>Next Week</p> <p><i>“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;”</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:3</p> |