



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. 33

LORD’S DAY 16 AUGUST 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 36:5-7

Psalm 31:1-3

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 36 – *“High in the Heavens, Eternal God”*

RHC 348 – *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 124

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 124
(to the tune of Martyrdom, RHC 194)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 399 – *“I Am Thine, Dear Lord”*

Scriptural Text

Colossians 4:18

John 17:16

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

“Just a Letter Carrier?”

This World is Not Your Final Home

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 448 – *“The King’s Business”*

RHC 548 – *“Sweet By and By”*

*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

RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger - 21st June 2015 - Elder Dr Lim Yew Cheng

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2

Introduction

I have no intentions of remaining in Evangel BP Church one day longer than God's appointed time. Leadership in a church is a demanding and challenging ministry but a joyful one. It is not trivial but awesome. You may ask - Why a spirited effort to establish a Bible-Presbyterian Church and a Reformed Seminary? It is an uphill task. Why try to swim upstream against the tide of a downstream world? Have I counted the cost? Yes, brethren. I have but I have a God who is faithful and able. In Him I will trust. How can one hold back when it stems from a conviction of its truth? How can one resist when there is a love for authentic gospel? How can one stifle a passionate desire to share that which is good?

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15). I ask myself, as I also ask the ministers of the Word, "We keep harking the need to raise a generation of bible-believing leaders but what are we doing about it?" Need we not act? If we need to, should it not be now? Collectively the response is - we need to and we need to act now.

Action Involves Selection

The responsibility of selection is just as awesome. For long I have reflected on this issue and have for long desired for the leadership to be handed to a younger generation of leaders. We need God's wisdom. We must be careful not select novice, lest they be puffed up with pride. We must not do it in a haste. God help us identify those, who are godly and have a pastoral heart. They need to be convicted and to be committed. They need also to be teachable. They need to count the cost. They need to know that they are not in a playground but rather in a battleground. They need to be willing to take up the Cross and follow Jesus. Gracious God, please grant to us such, who would shy away from spotlight and to be willing to be only servants of an illustrious Master.

A Core Group

God does not mobilize a great number to do His work, for then men will gloat and glorify themselves rather than glorify God. This was what the Lord said unto Gideon, *"The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me"* Judges 7:2. The Lord proved His point when, with a mere token force of 300 selected men, Jehovah enabled the Israelites to rout the immense army of the Midianites " ... *By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: ..."* (Judges 7:7)

This account of Gideon's defeat of the **Midianites** in Judges 7:1-8:21 teaches one precious lesson that God does not depend on **large** numbers of people to accomplish His goals. God's work must be done God's way by the power of His might. The arm of flesh must necessarily fail. It can only prevail by the Spirit of God. *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."* (Zechariah 4:6).

Pulpitry

The importance of Discipling Next Generation Leaders cannot be underestimated. Having being blessed by the pulpitry of Reformed Theology for decades, I am convinced that the emphasis on the centrality of the Word of God cannot be neglected. Preaching has fallen on such hard times in these days. It has become story-telling time or selling ones wares. Preachers have become crowd pleasers, dishing out what the listeners would like to hear. Listeners call for the tune and preachers dance to it! Wrong. We need to resist the culture of preaching what listeners like to hear. We need to resist the challenges of media ecology and nurture a generation of preachers and listeners who delight in the Word and revive expositional preaching.

We need to identify the main needs and challenges of raising up the next generation? This is awesome but a pleasant task. The pulpit must be carefully guarded at all cost. To preserve the gospel for posterity, we remain committed to raising a generation of younger leaders who would be steadfast to gospel centredness - *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."* (2 Timothy 2:2).

This is awesome ministry, demanding nothing less than the following imperatives:

- Gospel centred preaching
- Time to disciple
- Character
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- Good bible teachers
- Commitment
- Priorities

It is beyond the scope of this article to be able to discuss them all. I would only share my thoughts on Gospel centredness. What then is gospel centred preaching?

1. Salvation is all of Grace. It is the Gospel of Grace

What I mean is that it is a gospel that does not tinge grace with law. We can ill afford to preach the gospel of works. True gospel has absolutely nothing to do with goodness or religiosity. It is justification by faith. Call it exclusivity if you like but this is the irrefutable theological equation - Christ plus everything equals nothing; Christ plus nothing equals everything. This is authentic gospel. O, yes. The Psalmist is right when he penned this sacred assertion *"The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me."* (Psalms 138:8)

"The Psalmist was wise, he rested upon nothing short of the Lord's work. It is the Lord who has begun the good work within us; it is he who has carried it on; and if he does not finish it, it never will be complete. If there be one stitch in the celestial garment of our righteousness which we are to insert ourselves, then we are lost; but this is our confidence, the Lord who began will perfect. He has done it all, must do it all, and will do it all. Our confidence must not be in what we have done, nor in what we have resolved to do, but entirely in what the Lord will do. Unbelief insinuates - "You will never be able to stand." (Spurgeon)

What glorious truth. This is authentic gospel. Therefore, the onus is on us that, when we disciple someone, it must always be emphasized that authentic discipline is based on authentic gospel.

2. The Utter Depravity of Man

There could not have been a better description of the utter depravity of man than what is captured for us in Romans 1:22-28. Man is so utterly depraved that God had to give them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity. Men dishonor their own bodies between themselves. They are guilty of the most grotesque immorality, by exchanging natural relations for those that are contrary to nature. This is justified by claiming that such people are genetically predisposed! Depraved man is also guilty of the most abominable idolatry. Why? In his worship, he reaches the height of folly by worshipping the creature instead of worshipping his Creator. His mind is also so perverted that he would change the truth of God into a lie. Can a man be more damned than when God had to give him over to a reprobate (debased) mind to do what they ought not to do? Justice demands it. The Righteous God, in His wrath, would have to deal with such. Sinners would have to receive in themselves the due penalty for their error.

3. The Wrath of God

Our great problem is not just me or sin, but God because He is not happy with us. *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"* (Romans 1:18). But an even greater problem is that we have even lost the fear of God. The fear of God is a neglected truth, causing men to turn away from the worship of the true and living God to the worship of other beings. We forget that the fear of God is a choice and that true worship comes with an encounter with God that produces the fear of God, as exemplified by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 6: 1-9. In this passage, Isaiah sees God and almost immediately his vision of God is clouded by the smoke that fills the room. That brief glimpse of God that is revealed to him shakes him to the core. Because of that vision Isaiah, already God's prophet, ends up calling out that he is ruined because he is "a man of unclean lips" and he has seen the Holy Other.

Not only do we fail to worship God, some have in their rage, imagined a vain thing of even putting the fear of men into God Himself! *"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed..."* (Psalm 2:2) Is it any wonder then to expect this response from God, who laughs in derision *"He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision"* (Psalms 2:4).

Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of slumber and to realize the implications of sinners falling into the hands of an angry God. It is time that we pray like the prophet Habakkuk *"O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: ...in wrath remember mercy."*

May our young never depart from these ancient landmarks. It is not a request. You can turn down a request but this is a commandment of God. Why we should walk in **the old paths**? To all in the faith, this is NOT an option. In them we find the blood of Christ to justify. In them we find the **Word of God** to satisfy and in them we find the power of the Holy Spirit to sanctify. The Lord is not requiring us to go to just any path but the old path. It is a clear path as well as the correct path.

God help us. Amen.

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 20th Aug | 7pm | Mid-Week Bible Study | We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Catherine Douds to our worship services last Lord's Day. |
| Sat 22nd 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 | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 16/08/2015</u></p> <p>Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Anthony Ushers: Margaret/Yetta Sunday School: Keene / Rachael / Hannah Lunch: Hannah Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Keene</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 23/08/2015</u></p> <p>Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Keene Ushers: Tom / Yetta Sunday School: Keene / Rachael / Hannah Lunch: Hannah Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott</p> |
| Message | Securing a Faithful Ministry | Your Word is Truth | |
| Text | Colossians 4:18 | John 17:17 | |
| 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, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Jonathan's father. • Pray for expecting mothers: Helen. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travels this week: Matthew, Yangfan, Michael, Daniel & Maureen, Tan Family, Josias. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister. • Thank God for the safe arrival of baby Meredith Anne Kim. Both Magdalene and Meredith are doing well. | | | |
| <p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: TBC Attendance - Morning: 19 (A) 2 (C), Evening: 11 (A) 2 (C)</p> | | | |

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 82

Q: Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A: *No mere man since the Fall is able, in this life, PERFECTLY to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.*

Comments:

The Law of God being thus laid before us briefly in the Ten Commandments, the question arises – Is any person able to keep this Law. This answer declares to us that there is none. It says that every person breaks the Law daily in thought, word, and act. The only exceptions to this general rule are – Jesus Christ, Adam before the Fall, and the saints now in heaven.

Scriptural Reference:

Ecclesiastes 7:20, Psalm 14:3

MEMORY VERSE

| Last Week | This Week | Next Week |
|---|--|--|
| <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> | <p><i>“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”</i></p> <p>Romans 5:12</p> | <p><i>“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”</i></p> <p>Romans 5:6</p> |