



# 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. 42

**LORD’S DAY 18 OCTOBER 2015**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Evening Service – 4pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 86:9-12

Isaiah 40:9-11

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 1 – “O Worship the King”

RHC 59 – “Shepherd of Eager Youth”

*Opening Prayer \**

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 133

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 133*  
(to the tune of Arlington, RHC 83)

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*Announcements & Memory Verse*

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 361 – “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

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*Scriptural Text*

1 Kings 17:1-24

John 17:18

*Pastoral Prayer*

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Sermon Message*

*The God Who Calls and Cares*

*Going into the World for Jesus’ Sake*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 353 – “God Will Take Care of You”

Insert – “So Send I You”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

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\* 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**

## **THOUGHTS ABOUT GIVING - PART 2**

One of the problems in giving is found in the spirit of pride. We all theoretically know that we must be humble. However, in practice, givers are consciously or unconsciously experiencing a sin of pride, though at different levels. Some people say that we should learn to be humble. It is true, though we cannot deny that pride cannot be removed by teaching at all. It is because we can be proud of anything we have learned. It is no wonder that Paul describes an act of giving as a powerful work of the grace of God.

As we studied last week, it was the Corinthians who gave, but it was God who got the thanks! The human givers received thanks only indirectly. This particular understanding removes one of the most serious problems in human relationships between the haves and the have-nots. If the givers recognize that the ultimate giver is God and they are only the channels, they should know that no one is better than or superior to others who happen to be receivers. The receivers are not inferior to the givers, because the only true giver is God Himself. It leads us to further thoughts of giving.

In the treatise *On Benefits*, Seneca wrote, "In the case of the benefit, this is a binding rule for the two who are concerned – the one should straightaway forget that it was given, the other should never forget that it was received." Probably all of us have heard it at least once before, somewhere. This common experience may be an indicator that his advice was wise. Givers must forget, and receivers must remember. Our question is whether this wonderful advice can be a working principle. Givers' forgetfulness refuses a significance of receivers' gratitude. Why is it necessary for us to remind someone of something that he has already forgotten? Even if receivers desire to remind their givers of what they have done for them, the overall tone of this idea seems to encourage ingratitude from receivers. On the other hand, if receivers practice to show and express their gratitude to their givers, it may feed the arrogance of givers. Thus, though we may agree with Seneca in principle, we are doubtful that this principle may be workable in reality.

Paul's teaching on giving may resolve the tension in this seeming contradiction. It is because givers recognize them only as channels of God's blessings, while receivers give thanks to God directly and human instruments indirectly. Thus, givers are thankful to God for the fact that He has used them to share His blessings with others and keep themselves humble. Receivers are grateful and do not feel ashamed that they have received from God through other people. Givers will be delivered from the vice of arrogance through their giving, and recipients will remember the gifts and give thanks to God who has given them the gifts and human channels. In this way, there is true equality shown between givers and receivers under the same conviction that both are God's creatures.

### **The toughest obstacle in giving**

There is a wide range of obstacles that keep us from giving; including selfishness, covetousness or even jealousy. Therefore, I should have titled this paragraph as "one of the toughest obstacles in giving." A reason why I chose a phrase, "the toughest obstacle in giving," is because I am going to talk about one particular obstacle that pulls us down not to give, even though we are willing givers and desire to give. Though we have means to give and even a spirit of giving, one particular problem often prevents us from being cheerful givers. This particular hindrance is none other than recipients' ingratitude. Should we give gifts to people who do not appear to be grateful?

The recipients' ingratitude has two problems: their ungrateful heart and the wounded pride of the givers. Givers would say that their hard work and sacrificial contributions toward the needs of the needy are neither appreciated nor recognized. There is even no "thank-you" from the receivers. From the receivers' point of view, they could argue that givers are exaggerating about their sacrifices or they are giving either reluctantly or arrogantly. It is more than possible that givers hurt and insult receivers with inappropriate words and attitudes. In such cases, the injury outstrips the benefit. We all need to know that we must not only give but also give well.

However, these thoughts still cannot remove our question about a recipient's ingratitude. Should we give gifts to the ungrateful people, though they have needs and we can meet their needs? If enemies are hungry and thirsty, should we feed them? They are just enemies. I must admit that there are difficult cases I cannot ignore. It is true that sometimes givers give for their own pleasure, while receivers do not feel like receiving. On the other hand, sometimes even a gift well given is received ungratefully. Probably, ingratitude by receivers is like a deadly weapon to dissipate the passion and zeal of givers. Should we continue to give to such ungrateful people?

Before we come to any conclusion through our logic, we ought to consider the matter from God's perspective, because our role model is God Himself. We ought to imitate Him as His followers. God gives to the ungrateful, and so should we. It will help if we remember that it's God who gives when we give. We need to deflect gratitude that comes to us anyway. We are not its proper addressees but God is. And if we are convinced that gratitude doesn't properly belong to us, then ingratitude doesn't touch us. We are not disrespected by ingratitude, and our pride is not injured. The ingratitude of recipients, wrongs not us but the gift-giving God – the God whose goodness "gladly loses its good deed on the unthankful." (Martin Luther, *Luther's Works*, ed. Harold J. Grimm, vol. 14, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1957, 106)

During the Nazi occupation of France, citizens of the small Huguenot community of Le Chambon saved the lives of many Jews by hiding them from their persecutors. When pressed to say why they courageously risked their own lives for others or when praised for their moral greatness, they were genuinely puzzled. "How can you call us 'good'?" they responded to the author of *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*, a book that offers an account of their extraordinary generosity. "We were doing what had to be done . . . You must understand that it was the most natural thing in the world to help these people." (Philip Hallie, *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed: The Story of the Village of Le Chambon, and How Goodness Happened There*, New York: Harper & Row, 1979, 20 – 21). Volf, Miroslav raises a question in his book, *Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace*: "how is it possible to be a good tree growing in a forest of bad ones, as the Huguenots of Le Chambon certainly were?" He continues, "We are good trees who bear good fruit, wrote the apostle Paul, because 'we live by the Spirit', whose fruit our gift giving is." (Galatians 5: 25) The Spirit counters our indolence as givers by molding our character to conform to Christ's and employing our talents for the benefit of others. The Spirit also gives us hope."

Lovingly,

Pastor Ki

# 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 22nd Oct	7pm	Mid-Week Outreach 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 24th Oct	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Galatians - A Study of Freedom and Liberty	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<b><u>TODAY: 18/10/2015</u></b>
<b>Message</b>	Our God at Work	God's Greater Work of Sanctification	
<b>Text</b>	2 Kings 6:1-7	John 17:19	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<b><u>NEXT WEEK: 25/10/2015</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-lunch Bible Study:</b> This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations".</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor &amp; Mrs Ki, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Dr David Allen, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Matthew, Jonathan's father, Magdalene, Meredith, Elliora.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Nana, Keene, Joel.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those on travels this week:</b> Yangfan, Elizabeth Gill</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister. Thank God that his visa application has been approved.</li> <li>• <b>Ladies Fellowship after lunch next Lord's Day.</b></li> <li>• <b>The Church will be holding its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.</b></li> <li>• <b>Please remember to turn your clocks back on 25<sup>th</sup> October.</b></li> </ul>			
<p><b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £374.50, Lunch: £40.49  <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 21 (A) 6 (C), Evening: 14 (A) 5 (C)</p>			
<b>SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 91</b>			
<p><b>Q: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?</b>  <i>A: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation - not from any <u>virtue</u> in them, or in him that doth administer them - but only by the <b> blessing of Christ</b>, and the <b> working of his Spirit</b> in them that by faith receive them.</i></p> <p><u>Comments:</u>                      We are here taught the proper way of using the sacraments. We must pray for the blessing of Christ on them. It was he who appointed them and it is he alone who can make them of benefit to our souls. In themselves the sacraments are of no value, nor can the minister (notwithstanding what the Roman Catholic Church says) give them any power whatever apart from Christ.</p> <p><u>Scriptural Reference:</u>                      1 Corinthians 11:29, 1 Corinthians 3:7</p>			
MEMORY VERSE			
<p><b>Last Week</b>                      "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;"  <b>Ephesians 6:14</b></p>	<p><b>This Week</b>                      "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;"  <b>Ephesians 6:15</b></p>	<p><b>Next Week</b>                      "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."  <b>Ephesians 6:16</b></p>	