



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. 47

LORD’S DAY 22 NOVEMBER 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 9:1-2

Psalm 116:1-2

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 29 – “*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*”

RHC 16 – “*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 138

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 138 verses 1-8
(to the tune of Bethlehem, RHC 251)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 416 – “*Wherever He Leads I’ll Go*”

Scriptural Text

Ruth 1

2 Kings 4:8-37

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

Ruth

The Shunammite’s Son

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 355 – “*Day by Day*”

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

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Dr Stephen 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 DEADLY BONDAGE OF BITTERNESS

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger - 8th November 2015

Introduction

Proverbs 14:10 says, 'The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.'

Satan has an effective weapon to destroy and at least undermine relationships within the family, the church or even in the workplace. **It preys on our weakness to slowly develop hatred, anger, resentment and even bitterness against one another and we are all vulnerable.** Let us examine this together and see how we can manage this with the help of God and His Holy word:

Reason for Bitterness

One possible cause of bitterness is rebellion or disobedience to God's will. Let us give an example from the Old Testament when God gave the children of Israel bitter ("Marah") water to drink (i.e. they were without water for 3 days), it was a beautiful analogy of salvation, to guide and teach them a lesson of dependence on Christ alone, God told Moses to place in the bitter pools to make them sweet. Naomi wanted to be called "Marah" or Bitter (Ruth 1:20). She blamed God and others for her unhappiness instead of examining herself and repenting of her sins. Like Naomi, many times we are angry at the others instead of seeking God to use that person who has wronged us to teach us and mold us and submit to His holy will and His purpose. Joseph, on the other hand, was a testimony of a right response to horrible injustice. He treated his brothers with gracious outstretched arms and loving forgiveness when they came to Egypt seeking his help 23 years after betraying him into the hands of the Ishmaelite (Genesis 50:19, 20). There was no bitterness or wrath or a vengeful spirit. He said that while they meant his captivity for evil, God meant it for good to save many from the famine. **Joseph recognize the providential hand of God in the situation and on his life and he was greatly used of the Lord for His glory.**

Another possible reason for bitterness is refusing to forgive others Ahithophel was David's wise counsellor whose advice was often accepted. They enjoyed a close friendship but one day when David needed him most when his son Absalom tried to take over the kingdom and to destroy his life, Ahithophel chose to abandon David to assist his enemy, Absalom (see 2 Samuel 15-17). Ahithophel advised Absalom to defile all of David's concubines in a tent up on the palace rooftop in the sight of all Israel. It was on that same rooftop where David defiled Ahithophel's granddaughter, Bathsheba and then murdered her husband. Ahithophel was brewing his bitterness at David's wrongdoing even though God had already punished David for those sins, and though David bore the consequences for the rest of his life, Ahithophel schemed a personal vengeance but it failed in the end. His deadly advice to Absalom was to defeat his father David and then to murder him but God intervened. Ahithophel was willing to lead an army in his wrath. He would have succeeded against David if not for Hushai, David's good supporter, who befriended Absalom and gave him bad advice that Absalom followed. Ahithophel, when he heard that his advice was rejected, he was angry that he could not get his full revenge. He later went home and hanged himself and died. Ahithophel's bitterness eventually consumed and killed him (sound like a plot for a Korean drama?). Romans 12:19 says to leave it to God to take vengeance, and He will in his own good time.

Another example of bitterness was Jonah who was angry at the gourd that God allowed to perish when it was God who gave it to him to refresh him in the first place (Jonah 4:1-6). The Lord gave it to him for a while, and then the Lord took it away. Instead of being thankful and submit to the Lord for allowing His gift in our lives for the time we enjoy it no matter how long or short that may be, he was angry and bitter and God had to counsel this pouting prophet with sound reason. Paul in Ephesians 4:31 says, *'Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:'*

Beware of unforgiveness / bitterness that will feed itself even more. If untreated, the decay will continue to fester until we are reduced to a sinful mess and then come the serious consequence.

Bitterness is still a big problem today. Did you have a quarrel with someone in the day? Pray for patience and meekness and resolve it humbly and prayerfully before the Lord and be reconciled with the person. **Do not sleep on your pillow at night with bitterness for a strange bed fellow.**

Result of Bitterness

Bitterness is destructive and has serious consequences later which we often regret as it brings no positive fruit at all to our lives or our relationships. It can develop into hatred, anger and even deadly vengeance. It leads to strained relationships and can degenerate into an unedifying exchange and interaction. It often corrupts others when we are used of the evil one to sow seeds of bitterness through gossip and tale bearing as it affects others adversely. Rather let us heed the godly advice of the author of Hebrews who says, *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest **any root of bitterness springing up** trouble you, and thereby many be defiled"* (Hebrews 12:14, 15).

Remedy for Bitterness

- 1. Thank God that He has provided the panacea for the root of bitterness** We need to search and examine ourselves and then to go sincerely to God's throne to seek for pardon and divine forgiveness first and then to receive God's grace (Hebrews 4:16). Grace is more than just unmerited favour, it is also the ability to be Christ like when humanly speaking, it is impossible. God's grace is sufficient for all of us to forgive and forget the hurt in due time. **We can be transformed from a bitter person to a better person if we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts.**
- 2. Be responsible for the offence / altercation you faced and start with the examination of yourself first.** The person who wronged you may not have to apologise before you are released. Let us first surrender ourselves to God and be released from the bondage through the grace of God and then the offender. **To forgive someone is to release a prisoner free and discover him or her to be yourself.** Think about that.
- 3. Entrust yourself and the offender into the hands of a righteous and just God.** Be at peace with God first and then we will know a restful peace through genuine love and mutual edification. Remember that Christ forgave us first of our manifold sins and we should forgive others as **we practice the content of the Lord's Prayer.** Live a life of contentment, grace, mercy and joy in the Lord.

Paul in Ephesians 5:32 says, *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

Conclusion

Bitterness is like a deadly cancer that needs to be addressed to bring many people out of spiritual, emotional and physical bondage. **Bitterness is a possible means for defilement and some sickness are caused or indirectly made worse by a continual spirit of bitterness.**

God forgives sinners when they acknowledge and repent of their sins. On our own strength, we will fail when we try to get rid of bitterness. God can cleanse us and renew our memory and to help us to put on the new man (Colossians 3:12). Instead of remembering others with malice and wrath, let us ask God to help us to remember them with loving forgiveness. We can go one step further and ask God to search us if we have offended Him and then proper response to the offender. By asking God to examine us and help us to reach out to the offender, we can be set free to serve and love the Lord and relate to others without hindrance. Think about it soberly and do something before it is too late.

Jack Sin

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 26th Nov	No Mid-Week Out-reach 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.
Fri 27th Nov	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony <i>Daniel 12</i> - Mr Richard Monteith	
Sat 28th Nov	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Galatians - A Study of Freedom and Liberty	

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: 22/11/2015</u></p> <p>Chairman: John</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Keene</p> <p>Ushers: Tom / Margaret</p> <p>Sunday School: Keene / Rachael / Hannah</p> <p>Lunch: Nina</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 29/11/2015</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Anthony</p> <p>Ushers: Tom / Joel</p> <p>Sunday School: Rachael / Hannah</p> <p>Lunch: Volunteers</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott</p>
Message	God, Government and Ministry	Eternally Loved	
Text	2 Kings 8:7-15	John 17:24	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<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, Dr David Allen, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Matthew, Jonathan's father, Magdalene, Meredith. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana, Keene, Joel. • Pray for those on travels this week: Sharon, Elliora, Odelia, Yetta, Dr Martin, Keene. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister. Thank God that his visa application has been approved. • Ladies Fellowship will be held after lunch today. 	
<p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £729.00, Lunch: £39.92</p> <p>Attendance - Morning: 24 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 17 (A) 2 (C)</p>	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 96

Q: What is the Lord's Supper?

A: *The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his DEATH is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are – not after a corporal and carnal manner – but by faith made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.*

Comments:

The Lord's Supper is so called because it is a feast instituted by our *Lord Jesus Christ*. It is likewise called the *Communion*. The *outward act* in it is eating bread and drinking wine, according to Christ's appointment; and the *inward meaning* of it is the sacrifice of Christ – the broken bread telling of his broken body, and the poured-out wine telling of his shed blood. In itself it is of no value whatsoever, but when received *in faith* it quickens our love to God, deepens our faith in Christ, and promotes the welfare of our souls. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that the bread in the Communion is changed into the *actual flesh* of our Lord; but this is an error. We can only receive Christ by faith.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 11:23, 1 Corinthians 10:16

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”</i></p> <p>Romans 8:28</p>	<p><i>“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”</i></p> <p>Romans 8:29</p>	<p><i>“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”</i></p> <p>Romans 8:30</p>