



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. 48

LORD’S DAY 29 NOVEMBER 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 148:13-14

Isaiah 63:7-9

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 42 – *“Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”*

RHC 369 – *“Near to the Heart of God”*

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 139

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 139 verses 1-10
(to the tune of Vox Dilecti, RHC 298)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 136 – *“Come, Ye Thankful People”*

Scriptural Text

Genesis 28

1 Kings 22

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

Beginning at Bethel

The Death of a Reprobate

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 388 – *“O for a Closer Walk with God”*

RHC 402 – *“His Way with Thee”*

*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

LITERATURE AND OUR FAITH

The book, *Treasure Island*, made Robert Louis Stevenson [RLS] rise to fame in 1881. Readers of this book may think of its author as an interesting, adventurous, and carefree story teller, but his inner and private life would betray such expectations. His health went downhill, and he suffered recurring depressions which could not be helped even by alcohol. When his doctor warned him of his health condition, he wrote of himself to his friend: "Of that lean, feverish, voluble and whiskyfied young Scot, who once sparked through France and Britain, bent on art and the pleasures of the flesh, there now remains no quality but the strong language. That, at least, I shall take gravewards: my last word, it's like, will be an excretion."

His father was ever gracious to him even by granting him annual allowances and a house. RLS came back to see his father when he heard of his grave illness, but it was too late and his father could not recognize him anymore. His father had left a small letter to be read at his graveside. The weather on the funeral day was bad, and RLS was so concerned about his own health and left the service without hearing his father's last words. A year later he died suddenly. To him, life was only a "pilgrimage from nothing to nowhere." With all of his mischievous and rebellious life against God, we all will be surprised to know that he was able to recite the Shorter Catechism by heart. The following is the words that his father, Thomas wanted to be heard at his own funeral: "May I be allowed to say very humbly - God knows how humbly - that, believing in Christ, I confidently trust I shall not be disowned by Him when the last trumpet shall sound. My good friends! I hope our friendship is not ended, but only for a time interrupted, and that we may all meet again in that better land which has been prepared for us by our Father and our Saviour, the blessed passport to which has been freely offered to all. Amen."

If I take a little bit of sidetrack, I would like to know the reason why RLS turned himself so much against God. According to his own words, it was the character of Christians who were joyless and spent grim Sundays. It is true that not all of his explanations are convincing, because his own words are contradictory. It is also true that he said so many harsh words against Christians in order to defend his own unbelieving stand and lifestyle. Having said that, there may be still a grain of thoughts we, Christians, need to ponder on. There are many people without Christian faith excusing themselves for their unbelief or rebellion by blaming unedifying, uncharitable, unkind, and uncaring Christians, including disharmonious homes, harsh fathers, bigot mothers, pretentious neighbors, hypocritical church leaders, worldly Christians, and immorality in the church.

RLS and Edmund Gosse were good friends. Both had a godly upbringing at home. However, they often talked about their unfortunate childhoods. Edmund's father, Philip Henry Gosse, was a spiritual and caring father. However, Edmund did not think so. He wrote about his father as a man of morbid conscience. Philip Gosse made a similar appeal to his son as Thomas did to his son RLS. Philip wrote to him, "You say that you have a right to think for yourself . . . Of course . . . but have I not a right to counsel, to suggest, to entreat if I see you choosing fatal error . . . Have I not a right to grieve?" (Ann Thwaite, *Glimpses of the Wonderful: The Life of Philip Henry Gosse 1810-1888*, London: Faber, 2002, 276-7).

Now I come to talk about RLS's father, Thomas' view of the reason of his son's changes. Probably, his thoughts are very helpful to all of us who are concerned about our children's spiritual welfare. I'll quote from Iain Murray's book directly: "Thomas Stevenson had a different understanding of the change in his son. He put it down to the authors he read and the company he kept. The particular writer that damages Louis, he believed, was Herbert Spencer, who had applied the theory of evolution to religion and philosophy. According to this thinking, man is not fallen from an original perfection: rather he is advancing towards it. Certainly RLS acknowledged, 'I came under the influence of Herbert Spencer. No matter persuasive rabbi exists, and few better'" (p. 23). Thus, books and authors did influence on him. However, we cannot neglect another factor of his changes, i.e., his companions. RLS years later wrote to one of his friends, Charles Baxter, "heartless drunken young dogs we were."

Thomas Stevenson did not blame others for his son's changes, but he carried inner pain till he died. Hennessy says that "RLS would 'agonize over what he was making his parents suffer . . . but he would re-assure himself that it was their rigid minds and their bourgeois attitudes that were causative and fundamentally to blame.' As late as 1885 Thomas Stevenson was still supporting his son financially. 'It is fortunate for me I have a father,' RLS wrote that year, 'or I should long ago have died'" (Murray, 24). RLS also wrote to Fanny Sitwell about what his father said to him in September 1873: "A poor end for all my tenderness . . . I have made all my life to suit you – I have worked for you and gone out of my way for you – and the end of it is that I find you in opposition to the Lord Jesus Christ – I find everything gone – I would ten times sooner have seen you lying in your grave than that you should be shaking the faith of other young men" (Letters (Yale), vol.1, p. 312; cited in Iain Murray, *The Undercover Revolution*, 24).

I found an obituary by the New York Times for the death of RLS on December 18, 1894. There is a brief sketch of his life of 43 years. The following is an excerpt from the obituary: "Robert Louis Stevenson's full name was Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson, but the Balfour he had ceased to use. He was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, and the date of his birth was Nov. 13, 1850. His father, Thomas Stevenson, had eminence in connection with lighthouses. For many years Thomas Stevenson was an Inspector of Lighthouses, and retained his activity in that office until near the time of his death, in 1888. . . . When he died his son wrote a sketch of his life, and one of his son's books was dedicated to him, 'by whose devices the great sea lights in every quarter of the globe shine out more brightly.' Thomas Stevenson, like most Scotchmen, had dabbled in theology. In 1877 he brought out "Christianity Confirmed by Jewish and Heathen Testimony, and the Deductions from Physical Science." The work went into a second edition in the following year. Of his Scotch origin Louis Stevenson was always proud. He has said in one of his books that to be born a Scotchman is 'the happiest lot on earth.' But it was a privilege one must pay for. 'You have to learn,' he said, 'the paraphrases and the Shorter Catechism.' . . ."

(<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/bday/1113.html>)

G. K. Chesterton noted that "Stevenson was born of a Puritan tradition, in a Presbyterian country where still rolled the echoes...of the theological thunders of [John] Knox." Calvinism, Catechism, Covenanters, and "Cummy" (RLS's nursemaid Alise Cunningham) - these are the most formidable factors of formation in the little Robert Louis (or "Smout" as he was affectionately called. It meant "small fry"). RLS's maternal grandfather - the boy's namesake - was a Church of Scotland minister whose parish was a few miles from Edinburgh. RLS's favorite childhood game was to pretend that he was a church minister and to preach from a makeshift pulpit (written by James Townsend in <http://faithalone.org/journal/1999i/J22-99e.htm>). RLS was a theologically precocious child! Hunter Davies reported, "Cummy had read him the Bible, from start to finish, three times before he himself could read." How sad a story we have learned about RLS!

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 3rd Dec	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.
Sat 5th Dec	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Galatians - A Study of Freedom and Liberty	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 29/11/2015</u></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Anthony <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Joel <i>Sunday School:</i> Rachael / Hannah <i>Lunch:</i> Nina <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 06/12/2015</u></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> John <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Michael <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Evelyn <i>Sunday School:</i> Rachael / Hannah <i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Joel</p>
<i>Message</i>	TBC	TBC	
<i>Text</i>	TBC	TBC	
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, Rev Lim Chee Boon. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister. Thank God that his visa application has been approved. 			
<p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £446.10, Lunch: £40.00 Attendance - Morning: 30 (A) 6 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 3 (C)</p>			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 97

Q: What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

A: It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgement to themselves.

Comments:

We are here taught the proper qualifications for receiving the Lord's Supper. They are: 1. *Knowledge* sufficient to understand what is represented by it; 2. *Faith* sufficient to believe that as the bread which we eat sustains our bodies, so the Bread of Life which it represents will sustain our souls; 3. *Repentance* from all known sin; 4. *Love* to God and man; 5. A resolution henceforth to act up to every known *duty*..

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 11:28, 29, 2 Corinthians 13:5, 1 Corinthians 5:8

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<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>	<p><i>"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"</i></p> <p>Romans 8:31</p>