



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. 22

LORD’S DAY 31 MAY 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 111:1-4

Psalm 91:1-2

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 93 – *“To God Be the Glory”*

RHC 28 – *“The God of Abraham Praise”*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:57-72

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 119 verses 65-72
(to the tune of St Peter, RHC 456)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 321 – *“He Hideth My Soul”*

Scriptural Text

Psalm 130

Luke 18

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

Watching and Waiting in Difficult Times

Approaching God

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 311 – *“Does Jesus Care?”*

RHC 561 – *“Come with Contrite Hearts”*

*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

From the pastor's heart...

A SUBSEQUENT THOUGHT ABOUT PRAYER

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 5th April 2015

In my previous article, I raised a few pertinent questions concerning our prayer life. All of these questions are basically related to certain life experiences. Many fervent prayers are the products of painful and even excruciating life experiences. Not all prayers are answered in such a way that our immediate needs are all met. Trials are still coming upon us, and tribulations are still ongoing problems. One particular matter we considered was that prayer must be confessional because we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. This confession is a confession of faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. Also, it is confessional in terms of our values and priorities. We confess that we are nothing but He is everything. He is the vine and we are the branches. We cannot do anything without Him. We care for Him so much that we pray properly and honorably. Thus, instead of putting our eyes on the things of the earth, we set our affection on the things above (Colossians 3:2). It is possible that some people ask amiss in prayer and do not receive what they ask for from the Lord. Even James raises a possibility that we may pray with consuming lusts. See how serious James was when he warned wrongfully praying brethren in James 4:3-4, *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. ⁴ Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."* Such a warning implies that it is possible for some of us to pray with a totally unacceptable attitude and spirit. Our prayers may be fervent and even dead serious. Our prayers may be persistent and even demonstrate patience. It may be quite a shock to us to know that some people pray with a lustful heart attitude. Of course, not yet-answered prayers can be signs of our inner sinfulness. Sometimes, God wants us to be patient and to persevere for His divine purposes. Despite all such considerations, when we face harsh circumstances in life, we are often disappointed with unanswered prayers. Some of us feel like giving up in prayer. If we do not get answers, then why should we pray? What is the meaning of prayer for such times? Such questions are not light but weighty. How should we look at such questions and such prayers?

Before I give you my thoughts on this matter, I would like to encourage all of you to consider the following statement: "Our trust in God is not based on our circumstances but on the character of God." We believe in God, not according to our circumstances but according to His attributes. This is a fundamental proposition of our faith and religion. Based on this proposition, Paul was able to exclaim in Romans 8:31b, *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* He confessed in 8:37b, *". . . in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."* His powerful conclusion in verses 38-39 should move all of our hearts: *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* With confidence and confession that we trust in God's character, we will look into prayers a bit more.

My concluding thoughts on prayer, are that prayer must be according to the will of God, not our will. When this conclusion is reversed, we get in a panic, because our will is not granted, although we have prayed very hard, for so long. Frustration comes when we realize that God somehow does not show any favor toward us, though we have put so much effort into our prayers. Thus, some of us say, "enough is enough. I am tired of praying to God. Prayer does not work. Why should I pray anymore?" They quit praying. They have prayed hard concerning all the things they have needed. They have prayed with their expectations, but they have not met with satisfaction.

Dear friends, when will you learn and realize that your prayer life and mine is a means that God uses to help us be conformed to His own image? When shall we learn that our prayer life will make us become more Christlike? Prayer is not just a means of receiving something that we desire to have or to do. It is God's instrument to mould our character to be more like Him, holy and pure. Remember that even our Lord Jesus prayed in His last moment, "*not my will, but thine, be done*" (Luke 22:42b). We must examine our thoughts, lives, and characters now. When was the last time our prayers changed us? When was the last time we surrendered to the will of God through our prayer life? Or, are we complaining to God that things are not changed as we wish? When shall we confess that we have failed God and our loved ones because we have failed in our prayer life?

The Lord's prayer teaches us that prayer is to find God's will and to cause us to surrender to His will. Having called on the name of God as our Father which art in heaven, the first prayer is, "*hallowed be thy name.*" It is a prayer that the name of the Lord should be glorified. It is because His name is holy and pure. His name is separated from all profane things. Literally, it is our first prayer that acknowledges the name of God to be revered by all creation. Do we pray that His name will be glorified and sanctified in all things, including our hearts and prayers? It implies that any prayer with a disobedient spirit and sinful heart is not a prayer acceptable to God. It is God's will to hallow His name. The second petition in the Lord's prayer is, "*Thy kingdom come.*" Oh my friend, our prayer is to see the kingdom of God, not our kingdom, established on earth. It is a prayer for the rule of God to be upon all of us and the whole world. Our prayer is not for our rule over all things. We pray for His dominion not our dominion. Again, this prayer teaches us to promote the will of God. Then, the Lord continues to teach us to pray: "*Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*" At this point, we need to pause a bit, take a deep breath and ask ourselves a question: "When was the last time we prayed to God that His will be done in our lives, not our will; not only in heaven but also on earth?" The will or purpose of God is the highest priority in prayer. If we insist on our will in prayer and ask the Lord to permit our will to be accomplished, then we lose the true meaning of prayer. I wonder how often we experience our will being changed to imitate the will of God? Does prayer change us? Or, do we pray to change God and other people? Do we change our will as a result of prayer, or do we demand God to change our circumstances? Have we prayed a prayer as the Lord has taught us, "*Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven?*" The next petition is about daily bread: "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" This prayer means that we need to pray for our necessities. Daily bread does not mean food only. It includes "*desires of thine heart*" (Psalm 37:4). It also talks about any want in our lives (Psalm 23:1). Psalm 37:4 says, "*Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*" Before we can expect our desires to be granted, we are expected to delight ourselves in the LORD. We cannot but relate them to the will of God. How can we delight ourselves in the LORD, unless we are in His will? It is interesting to know that Jesus said that His food was to do the will of Him that sent Him (John 4:34). To pray for daily bread is almost the same as "may Your will be done in my life." The next prayer is for forgiveness of our sins, and deliverance from temptations. Both are also related to the will of God to be done in our lives. The last prayer is, "*For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen.*" All of them are also related to His will.

A lesson we must learn from the Lord's prayer is that it encourages, challenges, and urges us to do the will of God and to be changed into His image. Are you complaining to God that He does not answer your prayers by changing others and circumstances? Well, God wants us/you to be changed according to His will. Prayer must change us before others. When I see changes in you and me, I shall know that we have become prayer warriors. May the Lord enlighten us to be people of true and genuine prayer!

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 04 June	No Mid-Week 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 06 June	No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting		
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 31/05/2015</u></p> <p>Chairman: John Organist: Keene Pianist: Anthony Ushers: Tom / Yetta Sunday School: Keene / Rachael Lunch: Jonathan Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Josias / Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 07/06/2015</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Matthew Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn Sunday School: Keene / Rachael Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott</p>
Message	The Lord Jesus Christ and the Impotent Man at the Pool of Bethesda	Elijah on Carmel	
Text	John 5:1-16	1 Kings 18	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Pre-lunch Bible Study today. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Jonathan's father, Sarah, Matthew, Kalel, Magdalene, Toby & Ellie, Scott. • Pray for expecting mothers: Sharon, Magdalene, Helen. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travel: Dr Martin, Samuel Ki, Mr Cheung. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister. • Ladies Fellowship: There will be Ladies Fellowship after lunch today. • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology: 7th-9th July 2015. Theme - "<i>Pathway to Power</i>". 			
<p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £793.50, Lunch: £46.00 Attendance - Morning: 24 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 4 (C)</p>			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 70

Q: Which is the Seventh Commandment?

A: The Seventh Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

Scriptural Reference:

"Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:31-32

This Week

"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

Luke 11:28

Next Week

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1