



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: [newlifebplondon @ yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newlifebplondon@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: www.newlifebpc.org.uk

Minister: Dr Carl Martin

Email: [pastor @ newlifebpc.org.uk](mailto:pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk)

"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 20 No. 18

LORD'S DAY 01 MAY 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 108:1-5

Psalm 113:1-3

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 18 – *"Come, Thou Almighty King"*

RHC 4 – *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

*Opening Prayer **

Peter Koy

Peter Koy

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 10

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 10 verses 1-3, 15-18
(to the tune of Bradford, RHC 214)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Peter Koy

Peter Koy

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 111 – *"Only A Sinner"*

Scriptural Text

Titus 3:5-7

John 18:38

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

The Dynamics of Biblical Change

What is Truth?

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 438 – *"The Son of God Goes to War"*

RHC 258 – *"Lord Thy Word Abideth"*

*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.

"Growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" - 2 Peter 3:18

From the pastor's heart...

THE GOSPEL, THE HOPE OF MANKIND (PART 6)

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 3rd April 2016

I ended my previous article with a cautionary thought: even some sincerely serious friends in the Lord Jesus might put their own thoughts into the name of Jesus and accuse everyone else but themselves because of their unique practices or beliefs. There is no intention in my mind to accuse them at all. In fact, I do honor and respect them for their desire to serve the Lord with a clean conscience based on their biblical convictions. However, their sincere religious practice and convictions are not without shortfalls.

There are two problematic areas I cannot but deal with. One, we must consider the matter of a clean conscience. This morning while I was driving to come to my office, I listened to the radio news. I do not recall the names of both the interviewer and the interviewee. They were talking about homosexual marriage issues and a possibility for the parliamentarians to cast their conscience votes, not bound by party policies. My general understanding is that homosexual marriage will be legalized by conscience votes, though rejected by the party-lined votes. In such a case, conscience votes do not seem to be desirable to me. Then, am I an oppressor of the freedom of conscience? Don't I believe in the freedom of conscience? Am I not thankful for the freedom of conscience? Wow, what kind of questions are they? Of course, I am a firm believer of the freedom of conscience. Then, what am I saying here? Am I contradicting myself over this issue of freedom? No, the actual problem is not whether I believe in the freedom of conscience but the kind of conscience we have to have and talk about. There are serial killers who have never repented but are proud of their murders. There are despots and dictators and their accomplices who do unspeakable atrocities with supposedly clean conscience. There are even people who have devised the ways to hurt, harm, and kill people to please their impeccable, perfect, loving, and holy god or gods. They had done these acts of terror with clean conscience. Thus, conscience is not the same to all mankind. A significant problem related to conscience (I mean, religious conscience, in particular, Christian conscience) is that even the professing believers (who are sincere and faithful) may have consciences which are not perfect but twisted and perverted in some areas.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 could offer us a few thinking points: *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”* Paul rebukes the Corinthians over their unnecessary divisions which have brought ill-will, no-affection, disunity, and conflicts. Let us look into their divisions. (1) They were all genuine believers of Jesus Christ. There is no indication whatsoever that they were not the true believers. Paul appealed to them to look unto Jesus. (2) Their leaders themselves were all sincere and faithful ministers of the Lord. Think about Paul, Peter, or Apollos. All of them were approved servants of the Lord. (3) However, there were contentions amongst the Corinthian believers. By now we know that their problems were not Christology or soteriology. We may not know the exact nature of their contentions. However, they must be about certain convictions, practices, or human networks of different groups. Whatever their problems were, Paul did not condemn them as liars, non-Christians, deceivers, or heretics. It is very impressive for us to see how Paul rebuked and fixed the problems. Instead of bringing any particular issue out, he brought their attention to Christ who was crucified for them. He did not mention the problematic private practices and convictions that the Peter-group or the Apollos-group uniquely had.

Maybe such individual groups were allowed to keep their own convictions, as long as they were able to see Christ correctly and biblically. Probably, Paul wanted to correct the Paul-group (appearing that this group was talking about baptisms by Paul himself) that they must not claim him by claiming his baptisms. Though there are certain things we cannot fully know about, it seems that even spiritual and godly believers may differ in some practices and personal convictions, as long as they are not in contradiction to the teachings of the Bible. All I am trying to say is that we should not condemn others because of our conscience, as long as both groups are sincere and faithful believers of Christ, but leave room for disagreement. However, such disagreement should not harm any degree of cooperative work and unity in the body of believers.

Two, now I must say one more thing, which is probably an extension of the previous point. It is about the privatization and fragmentation of the Christian faith amongst the believers of Christ. Probably all of us know the story of Martin Luther who rejected papal authority and had to stand before the Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor. He left a famous remark, "Here I stand." It was a battle cry to defend his biblical truth against man-made religious teachings and practices. However, today there are so many people who use the same statement simply to opt out of any belief or practice that does not suit their petulant preferences. They have read books and spent lots of time for self-studies. They come to their own conclusions, which will bring more and more chain reactions in their belief system. In Luther's days, the reformers had to fight to gain and secure their freedom of worship and faith against false teachings of Rome. However, contemporary Christians use this battle cry to privatize their faith and religion. They believe what they like to believe, and they do not recognize any authority over them. Thus, they are used to circular reasoning beginning with A, moving to B, C, and D, but later coming back to A anyway. There is no end of such circular reasoning, which prevents them from learning. They have lost a teachable spirit. This privatized Christianity has produced lots of undesirable problems.

(1) Privatized Christianity is not accountable to anyone. Though a person is wrong in faith, theology, or life, he is not accountable to anyone, because only he has authority over himself. There is neither church (to which they belong as members of that body) nor overseers to whom he is accountable. Only he is the one who knows what is right and wrong. He is answerable only to himself! Christianity should not be privatized because there are supposed to be Christian communities called the "church." We must understand that local churches are in the will of God. Local church organizations are also instructed by the Lord Himself. Man's wrong doings in local churches should not be a cause of our deviation from the biblical norm of belonging to a body of believers. (2) Privatized Christianity has produced pluralized Christian religion. If individuals are claiming to have their own brands of Christianity because of privatization, then it is inevitable that we cannot but have pluralized Christianity. By not belonging to any body, we are multiplied parts of the Supposed One Body, which are literally and effectually dead parts. (3) This problem of privatized Christianity effectively fragments Christianity. Everyone believes what he feels and thinks is right, and this practice is claimed as an individuals' right. Thus, everyone interprets and applies the Bible according to his or her own ways. We say about the Lord, the Bible, the church, or the will of God, and it is more than possible that we are talking about them in different planes. Fragmentation is a real issue to many sincere believers of Christ. Thus, they rather worship alone at home by listening to messages either from TV, internet, or CDs. As for them, it is a perfect worship because they cannot agree 100% with any church community in the world. Thus, they become "ex-Church" people, while believing in the Lord of the Bible sincerely. They say to themselves that their brand of Christianity is uniquely biblical and should not be compromised. They may think that they are the last Christians on the Planet Earth... I'll continue....

- Rev Okman 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
Weds 4th May	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 7th May	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Study of Calvin's Institutes	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 01/05/2016</u>
Message	What Is The Ascension of Christ?	Choosing a Substitute for Jesus	
Text	Acts 1:9-11	John 18:39-40	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations". • Basic Bible Knowledge Class, 3pm today: Dr Martin will be leading a series of studies for those wishing to become members of the Church. • 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, Ps Pooyan Mershahi, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Matthew, Jonathan's father, Magdalene, Douglas Jr, Grace Lin. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travels this week: Dr Scott-Pearson, Eyo Benson, Jonathan, Magdalene & Meredith. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and as he seeks guidance for his PhD studies. • Registry of Members & Gift Aid Forms: Please can all members of the congregation complete and return the forms to John as soon as possible. • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. 			
<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £753.50, Lunch: £59.00 Attendance - Morning: 42 (A) 16 (C), Evening: 13 (A) 3 (C)</p>			
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 12			
<p>Q: What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created? A: When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of <u>perfect obedience</u>, forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of <u>death</u>.</p> <p><u>Comments:</u> When God made Adam and Eve, he said that if they kept his commands, they should live for ever; but if they broke his commands, they should die. This was the <i>Covenant of Life</i>. God then put forth his first command, which was that they should not eat of a particular tree, called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Their regard for this would show how far they were willing to obey him in all things.</p> <p><u>Scriptural Reference:</u> Genesis 2:16-17; Galatians 3:12</p>			
MEMORY VERSE			
<p>Last Week</p> <p><i>"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."</i></p> <p>Psalm 9:10</p>	<p>This Week</p> <p><i>"For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."</i></p> <p>2 Corinthians 1:5</p>	<p>Next Week</p> <p><i>"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."</i></p> <p>Habakkuk 3:18</p>	