



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. 20 No. 01

LORD’S DAY 03 JANUARY 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 31:1-3

Psalm 113:1-3

*Opening Hymn **

Insert – *“Standing at the Portal”*

RHC 61 – *“O for a Thousand Tongues”*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 144

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 144 verses 1-10
(to the tune of All Saints, RHC 562)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 67 – *“Praise the Saviour”*

Scriptural Text

2 Kings 8:7-15

John 17:24

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

God, Government, and Ministry

Eternally Loved

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 43 – *“God is Still on the Throne”*

RHC 102 – *“O It Is Wonderful!”*

*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.

REVIVING THINGS THAT ARE READY TO DIE

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger - 27th December 2015

Introduction

We are creatures of our own habits and spiritual discipline is important in a believer's life. There are many good or physical habits (e.g. brushing your teeth and washing your hands before meals). We develop these from youth but many spiritual disciplines are either missing from the Church or the believer's life. In Revelation 3:2 the Apostle John, writing to the church in Sardis, warns us to be watchful and speaks of things that we are to strengthen or else they will die in these last perilous days of manifold distractions. Many are enamoured with secular and work concerns and with the overwhelming presence of the mass and social media, many are distracted and are less sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the spiritual duties required of us, to the nourishment of our souls and that of others.

Consider the following four areas of the Christian life or the church that are ready to die anytime if we do not do anything about it soon.

Intercessory Prayer and Supplications

Corporate Intercession is one of the spiritual things that seems "ready to die" (or is already dead) in many churches today. Many who will make time to attend a play or musical or watch Youtube or be on the virtual chatrooms, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for hours but will not come to the mid week church prayer meeting. At most churches' prayer meetings, only about 10% of the number church membership roll is ever present. One fellow pastor shared with me that his church prayer meeting attendance is just about 5% of the total congregation on Sunday. Many have no time nor burden for fervent personal or corporate prayer, being encumbered with many cares of the world. The prayer meeting is frequently small and attended by the retired or the elderly. Is there anything more important than an appointment with God?

How shall the languishing and poorly attended prayer meeting be strengthened? First, let the church leaders set a priority to be regularly in attendance at the church prayer meeting. Example shows the way, then let there be more fervent prayer among the stewards first, more spiritual exercise, more sacrificial and selfless service among the leaders of the church. Include the sound and convicting preaching of God's Word on prayer. Let each one ask and share personally with the spiritual things that genuinely burden their heart and intercede with great importunity for one another (Ephesians 6:18, James 5:16).

Secondly, let young men and women pray and let older men set aside time and give priority to personal and corporate prayer. Let special matters for prayer be mentioned by members and friends at an early stage (i.e. the preaching of the gospel, the salvation of souls). Care enough to say or email or WhatsApp to one another and encourage one another to come for the church prayer meeting (or Sunday School or service) or say "we are praying for you."

Pray fervently for the spiritual growth and vitality of the church prayer meeting in your private or family prayers. Be a man or woman of prayer yourself, and always set it a priority at the Church prayer meeting as a priority. **Strengthen the prayer meeting by your presence, for a church without strong corporate prayer support of the people is a feeble church.** Therefore let us Watch unto prayer and pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Fervent Evangelism and Missions to Lost Souls and Discipleship

Spiritual nonchalance in sharing the gospel to lost souls lingers among many churches. One of the marks of spiritual revival is the eager use of every opportunity to speak a clear word of personal witness of the blessedness of our eternal hope and glorious salvation. The earnest readiness and testimony of a redeemed soul to tell others of his Saviour is one of the joyful signs of the revival of the well of living water within a redeemed soul. When was the last time you gave a tract or said a word for Christ? We were greatly enthused and excited to witness the testimony of a 81 year old lady from the Chinese service as the Lord laid the burden on her hearts for us to visit her home on her birthday and shared the gospel with her children.

But nowadays such zeal for souls is a very rare grace. Most Christians seem to have sunk into a mere routine; to imagine that they have done the duty expected of them if they attended Church for an hour and a half once a week. They are so busy with earthly interests that there is little evidence that Heaven is real to them. They do little or next to nothing to help lost men destined for hell to save them by God's mercies and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), contented with, being saved themselves (as we hope), they make no effort to reach out to souls. We go out for evangelism every Sunday afternoon to different workers dorms and one Sunday, thank God for 12 new friends who came for the Chinese service and 4 will be baptised next Easter. What a joy and privilege it is to be a herald of the good news for Christ!

Recently, I was preaching at a certain church Sunday School retreat and one secondary 4 girl came to know Christ as her Saviour after hearing the word and through the witness of her friend. If every Christian would speak a word for Christ to some soul and would make one real effort to bring an unsaved person under the power of the life-giving Gospel or would make it the prayer and the aim of life to win a soul to the Saviour, what a transformation it will be to some hearts, and tremendous joy, strength and vitality would come to Christian gospel missions and outreaches, when many believers through the Sunday worship services and other Christian meetings!

At the recent Children's Christmas Gathering, we thank God for the opportunity to share the gospel with 2 children and one of them responded positively and they came back to church on Sunday with her sister and grandmother. Our labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58). By God's grace and enablement, let us strengthen ourselves in this dying virtue, for He that winneth souls is wise (Proverbs 11:30).

Personal and Family Devotions

There remain many covenant homes where "Piety of the home" (1 Timothy 5:4) is ready to die. There has been no more potent influence for God in many families as in the wonderful edifying habit of the 17th century English Puritans who never failed to catechise their children and have a regular family altar. Richard Baxter would visit homes in Kidderminster to spend time with children and youths in catechising. **It has helped many young children in the past to develop a reverence for the Lord, a delight in Scriptures and for prayer.** But today, many young are enthralled by the Play stations, X Boxes, computer games and worldly pleasures (and we encouraged them by buying more instead of Christian books) than with the Word of God. It is good to see two christian books reviews done by our children this month .Will any parent do the same to encourage their children to read sound christian literature? I was at a Christian book store recently and met a father and mother and their 9 year old daughter there and he was buying some books from both themselves and her as well.

After preaching at a church service recently, a 12 year old girl came up to me and asked me to sign on her book which she has summarise the message for the Sunday as taught by her parents. What a good way to pay attention and to remember and to learn effectively at a Sunday service. Short notes are better than long memories.

Many who bear the burden in Christian work throughout the world often had foundations of godliness laid in their lives by the regular use of the Bible in the homes during their childhood and youth (2 Timothy 3:15). Today, there are few memories of those assembled as a family kneeling together while the head of the covenant house, having read a portion of the Holy Word, seek for a blessing on them all through prayer to the Lord like Job of old (Job 1:5).

The fallen and morally corrupt world invades our personal and home life and we allow it willingly. God's people are strangely content to let go of this means of bringing our sons and daughters to the truths of God and equipping them for the day with prayer. Many are busy laying up for themselves temporal wealth that may become a useless to them in their eternal life one day (we share this with a greatly burdened heart knowing of some teenagers whose neglect of God is partly due to this parental spiritual negligence at home). The Chinese built a great wall for thousands of kms to ward off the barbarians from entering and attacking them. But finally the enemies got through. How? They bribed the guards at the gates along the great wall. The Chinese spent so much time and effort to build a strong physical wall but they forget to build the character of those who kept the wall. It is a tragedy that **many fathers are successful in building up a financial fortune or career for their children but they forget to build up spiritual foundations in their children's heart in God's holy laws and precepts with fear and trembling!"** What an irony! I pray that this could be reversed one day by the mercies of God!

Biblical Thoughts and Actions

There is another thing ready to die now and is soon becoming a lost art, it is the sound and prudent Christian mind. The causes that have operated so disastrously against family devotions do so with equal deadliness against individual and corporate piety. We are to love God with all our minds as well (Matthew 22:37, 38).

With the seduction of Hollywood and MTV, unedifying movies and its reality shows, our morality is at an all-time low with homosexuality being sanctioned by many nations. From the immoral corruptions of the flesh, we are embattled with many evil and malevolent thoughts and actions daily. Pornography, worldly popular music, drugs, HP games, liquor drinking and dancing have perverted many lives. Our thought life is our spiritual measure of godliness (Proverbs 23:7). The public life of any man depends on his moral purity and spiritual power, derived from his private communion with God and his private thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5, Philippians 4:8, 9). We need to shut the door and pray to the Father in secret (Matthew 6:6) and be refreshed in our minds. The quiet habit of browsing through the green pastures of the inspired Word as milk and meat brings great spiritual reward for the mind of the redeemed soul. The shining face like Moses that reflects the glory of God nowadays when someone has met the Lord in the morning is often missing. Our thought life needs to be renewed by the diligent reading and meditation of the Lord's Word and not by worldly preoccupations (Romans 12:1, 2).

Instead there are distracted hearts and sad countenances because men do not take time to listen to God's voice in the Word or to refresh their souls at the wellspring of His Truth in His holy word or read edifying Christian literature. Recently we encouraged 4 of our church children to borrow a book each and to read it during the holidays and we pray that more parents will do the same for their children. Instead they relish worldly pleasures without the fortification of God's armour (Ephesians 6:10-18), the illumination of a mind who is willing to enter into the closet of communion with God and gets his thoughts Christ-ward.

Prayerfully and conscientiously seek to change all these; **ask the Lord for help to strengthen your thought life with spiritual and moral virtues that are sadly ready to die today.** Deliberately, set aside time and fix your heart and mind on His word and, give the Lord each day opportunity to speak to your soul in His Word (Philippians 4:8, 9).

Like the Psalmist who says, I will meditate in Thy precepts, and have respect unto Thy ways (Psalm 119:15) and not only say it, but do it and prove Him if He will not give to you His divine blessing.

Conclusion

There are vital things that are ready to die today in the church and covenant homes. **Will they be extinct or still extant in your lives? Will they bury you or will you be revived by dealing with them first?** Is there a place for prayer and Christian witness in your busy schedule? Is your life characterised by spiritual lethargy or nonchalance, worldliness and the pursuit of just temporal earthly goals only? Many Christian parents are caught up with their work and their children's academic studies that they neglected the spiritual wellbeing of their souls and the sacred duties of a Christian to God's church and a daily healthy walk with God and the salvation of their family members.

It is our sincere prayer that this article will stimulate and awaken us to the grave necessity of seeking, glorifying and serving Christ first; in worshipping the Almighty God with all our heart and mind, witnessing to souls for Him, not forgetting the privilege joy of prayer, service, stewardship and the spiritual nurture of the souls, in both the church and the covenant home. Something to think about soberly and to act upon before it is too late.

Rev 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 7th Jan	7pm	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 9th Jan	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>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 03/01/2016</u> <i>Chairman:</i> John <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Keene <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Evelyn <i>Sunday School:</i> Rachael / Hannah / Keene <i>Lunch:</i> Hannah <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott
<i>Message</i>	The Letter to Titus	When God Became Known	
<i>Text</i>	Titus 1	John 17:25	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	NEXT WEEK: 10/01/2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations". • 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, Bethany. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana, Keene. • Pray for those on travels this week: Josias, Paul Tay. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister and as he continues his PhD studies. • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Matthew <i>Ushers:</i> Joel / Yetta <i>Sunday School:</i> Rachael / Hannah / Keene <i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Joel
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £613.72, Lunch: £41.00 Christmas Collection - £1359.57 Attendance - Morning: 30 (A) 9 (C), Evening: 17 (A) 3 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 102

Q: What do we pray for in the Second Petition?

A: In the Second Petition – (which is, THY KINGDOM COME) – we pray, That Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of Grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it, and that the kingdom of Glory may be hastened.

Comments:

A Kingdom means a people who are ruled by a king. Now, there are three kingdoms mentioned here: the *kingdom of Satan*, or those who obey Satan; the *kingdom of Grace*, or those who obey God; and the *kingdom of Glory*, or those who will reign with Christ in glory. In this petition we ask that the first of these be destroyed, that the second may prosper, and that the time of the third may speedily arrive.

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 68:1, Psalm 51:18, Revelation 22:20

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week		Next Week
"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;" Philippians 2:10	This Week "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps." Proverbs 16:9	"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" Titus 3:5