



# **NEW LIFE**

## **BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

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**LORD'S DAY 07 AUGUST 2016**

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

	<b><i>Morning Service – 11am</i></b>	<b><i>Evening Service – 4pm</i></b>
<b><i>Prelude</i></b>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<b><i>Call to Worship</i></b>	Revelation 7:9-12	Psalms 57
<b><i>Opening Hymn *</i></b>	RHC 32 – <i>"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"</i>	RHC 24 – <i>"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"</i>
<b><i>Opening Prayer *</i></b>	Jonathan Kim	Joel Benjamin
<b><i>Gloria Patri *</i></b>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<b><i>Responsive Reading</i></b>	Psalms 24	---
<b><i>Second Hymn *</i></b>	<i>Psalm 24 verses 1-5</i> (to the tune of Lloyd, RHC 563)	---
<b><i>Announcements &amp; Memory Verse</i></b>	Jonathan Kim	Joel Benjamin
<b><i>Tithes &amp; Offerings &amp; Doxology *</i></b>	RHC 309 – <i>"Thank You, Lord"</i>	---
<b><i>Scriptural Text</i></b>	Acts 8:26-40	John 19:31-34
<b><i>Affirmation of Faith</i></b>	Affirmation of Faith	---
<b><i>Pastoral Prayer</i></b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
<b><i>Sermon Message</i></b>	<b><i>What Hinders You from Baptism?</i></b>	<b><i>The Body and The Cross</i></b>
<b><i>Baptism</i></b>	Dr Carl Martin	---
<b><i>Closing Hymn *</i></b>	RHC 234 – <i>"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"</i>	RHC 186 – <i>"Wounded for me"</i>
<b><i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i></b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
<b><i>Postlude</i></b>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	---

\* 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***

# THE SACRED DUTY OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 17th July 2016

## Introduction

The Bible emphasises on sound acceptable Christian service or stewardship to the Lord. Not all service unto the Lord is acceptable if it is done with the wrong motives. Hence, we need to have a sound biblical view on what is truly honourable service to God.

## 1. Resolution to Serve God

We need a strong resolve to serve God. The word “serve” is used twice in Romans 12:1 and 11 respectively. In Romans 12:1, the apostle Paul appeals to us in a meek way (“beseech”) to serve God not because of our talents and strengths, but “by the mercies of God” who has saved us by His covenant grace (Romans 12:1). If a person is not saved, he or she cannot serve God rightly. In Romans 12:11, Paul describes our service to God as “reasonable”, for it is a privilege to serve God. We are to serve the Lord with our physical constitution, that is, everything we have, including our two hands and two feet and our 5 senses. But, **our service needs to be holy, set apart and sanctified when we serve the Lord.**

In Joshua 24:14-15, the word “serve” is mentioned four times in these two verses. The Hebrew word for “serve” is also about worship. Joshua, the son of Nun, was a man of strong resolve who served the Lord without flinching, even in his old age. Joshua and his household served the Lord because of the fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom. Likewise, we are also **to serve in the fear of the Lord, and in sincerity (out of the heart) and in truth (substance and content).** As such, neither can our service be based on falsehood, nor be unto other gods. Further, Scripture commands us **“to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments,** and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Joshua 22:5).

Upon hearing Joshua’s command to serve the Lord God wholeheartedly, the Israelites responded that they would serve and not forsake God (Joshua 24:16-18). However, Joshua replied that the Israelites could not serve the Lord, for He is a holy and jealous God and will not forgive their sins and transgressions (Joshua 24:19). Indeed, Joshua was pointing out how the Israelites would eventually sin against the Lord, such as in Baal worship. The Israelites again responded that they would not forsake the Lord and would serve God (Joshua 24:21). Joshua set up a stone under an oak tree at Shechem, as a witness for the Israelites’ promise to serve the Lord (Joshua 24:22-27). A similar illustration would be marriage vows. If we back down from these vows, the signatures to these vows can be used as witnesses against us.

God is a thrice - holy and jealous God for our own good and His own glory, for we cannot serve God and other gods at the same time. And since God is holy, He commands the terms of service, and hence we serve on His own terms of holiness. We cannot serve God with worldly transgression and compromise. Just as Elijah challenged the 450 Baal prophets on Mount Carmel, let us decide whom we choose to serve today. **When we serve God, it is a spiritual commitment** (Deuteronomy 6:12-13). We should stand by our vows unto the Lord (e.g., marriage or membership pledge to a church). Finally, stewardship or service unto God is not just about doing things for God only (like Martha who was caught up in doing things for Jesus), but also listening and looking unto God and studying His word and prayer (Martha’s sister, Mary, who chose to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to Him was commended).

## 2. Responsibility and Resources to Serve

**We need resources to serve.** Romans 12:6-9 teaches that all of us have at least a grace gift. Some have the ability to preach or teach. Others have the ability to do “ministry”, such as personal service in the diaconate. This “ministry” involves serving tables, whereby the person who serves “waits” at the table to serve people. Some have the ability to “ruleth”, which is to govern or lead with diligence. There are those who show mercy, which could include caring for the sick or bereaved, or having a heart of compassion. In addition, all of us have three Ts: Time (e.g., how do we apportion our time), Talent (e.g., ability to serve God or some to translate the gospel into other languages), Treasure (e.g., substance or money). As we are the custodians, trustees and stewards of gifts and talents (we do not own them), **let us exercise all the gifts and talents with faithfulness.**

**Our service is also to be characterized by godly zeal.** The phrase “not slothful in business” (Romans 12:11) means our service is not to be sluggish. Rather, we serve with zeal as we come to worship the Lord. Magdalene and Mary were aflame with zeal as they ran to tell the apostles of the empty tomb they saw. With zealousness, we would be “fervent in spirit” as we serve the Lord. In Romans 12:11, the Greek word for serving is rooted in slavery. Of course, slavery in Roman times was different from the terrible slave system in the 1600-1800s, for Roman slaves were treated fairly well (in spite of abuses within the Roman slave system).

In Acts 20:19-20, we learn the importance of responsibility in service which is very costly, not withholding anything back that would edify the saints, but **to give of ourselves fully, serving with all humility and sacrifice.** Thus, let us be fervent and not half-hearted as we serve God (Romans 12:11-12).

## 3. Rewards for Faithful Service

Our Lord Jesus is fair and He knows and rewards some in due time. **The reward for faithful service could be *more work*.** The reward for work well done was more work to do for Him in the millennial kingdom (Luke 19). The great reward of God to the man is pleasing God. With this in mind, let us think of ways to serve, even if it is a simple role, such as driving, cooking, ushering, picking up trash in the church or washing cups or dishes, for this is pleasing in God’s sight. Be faithful in small things and He will reward us with others. **We need to be productive and fruitful in our lives and gospel outreach.** While we do not serve for rewards, we are assured that for those who are true servants of God, we will receive our eternal reward from God one day at the judgement seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10) for our godly service if we are found to be faithful (2 John 8, 1 Corinthians 3:13).

## Conclusion

To **seek first the kingdom of God and be a faithful steward of the manifold grace of God** is the fundamental choice that every Christian makes after they first repent and are converted by the Spirit of God. After that, the aim of our Christian lives is to worship, serve and glorify God till He comes and this is our privilege and sacred duty.

- Pastor 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
Weds 10th Aug	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 13th Aug	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Study of Calvin's Institutes	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TODAY: 07/08/2016</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan / Joel  <b>Organist:</b> Anthony  <b>Pianist:</b> Keene  <b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Keene  <b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael /  <b>Lunch:</b> Hannah / Keene                      Shami  <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers  <b>PA Crew:</b> Joel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 14/08/2016</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> John / Keene  <b>Organist:</b> Anthony  <b>Pianist:</b> Joel  <b>Ushers:</b> Joel / Yetta  <b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael /                      Hannah / Keene  <b>Lunch:</b> Carry-In  <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers  <b>PA Crew:</b> Scott</p>
<b>Message</b>	TBC	TBC	
<b>Text</b>	TBC	TBC	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-lunch Bible Study:</b> Dr Martin will continue the study on "Building Firm Foundations".</li> <li>• <b>Basic Bible Knowledge Class, 2.30pm:</b> Dr Martin will continue the series of studies aimed at those wishing to become church members. For those seeking membership, a meeting with Rev Lim will be held on 7:00pm 13<sup>th</sup> August</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and as he seeks guidance for his PhD studies.</li> <li>• <b>Church Maintenance, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Aug:</b> Please come and support the church maintenance and cleaning.</li> <li>• <b>Church 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August:</b> Please invite friends and family to join us for the anniversary. Also, please note we will be holding the ACM as well.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £946.50,                      Love Gift for Ps Nacha: £761  <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 33 (A) 12 (C), Evening: 20 (A) 6 (C)</p>			

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 26

**Q: How doth Christ execute the office of a king?**

*A: Christ executeth the office of a king, IN SUBDUING US TO HIMSELF, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.*

Comments:

A king is the ruler of a kingdom. Now there is a great kingdom set up on earth, consisting of all God's people, and its ruler is Christ. As such, his duties are here said to be threefold: 1. He makes us willing to obey him; 2. He gives us laws for our guidance and safety; 3. He limits and finally puts down all who oppose us and him.

Scriptural Reference:

2 Corinthians 10:5, Matthew 11:29, 2 Timothy 4:18

## MEMORY VERSE

Next Week		
<p><b>Last Week</b>                      "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."  <b>Psalm 23:1</b></p>	<p><b>This Week</b>                      "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."  <b>Psalm 24:1</b></p>	<p>"Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.                      Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day."  <b>Psalm 25:4-5</b></p>

## **The Word Made Flesh**

*The Ligonier Statement on Christology*

We confess the mystery and wonder  
of God made flesh  
and rejoice in our great salvation  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
the Son created all things,  
sustains all things,  
and makes all things new.  
Truly God,  
He became truly man,  
two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary  
and lived among us.  
Crucified, dead, and buried,  
He rose on the third day,  
ascended to heaven,  
and will come again  
in glory and judgment.

For us,  
He kept the Law,  
atoned for sin,  
and satisfied God's wrath.  
He took our filthy rags  
and gave us  
His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King,  
building His church,  
interceding for us,  
and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord;  
we praise His holy Name forever.

Amen.