



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. 46

LORD'S DAY 13 NOVEMBER 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 47:6-7

Psalm 119:105-112

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 28 – *"The God of Abraham Praise"*

RHC 258 – *"Lord, Thy Word Abideth"*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

Keene Chen

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

*Apostle's Creed **

Apostle's Creed

Responsive Reading

Psalm 38

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 38 verses 1-4, 21-22
(to the tune of St Peter, RHC 456)

Announcements &

John Poh

Keene Chen

Memory Verse

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 384 – *"My Jesus, I Love Thee"*

Scriptural Text

Malachi 3:4-6

John 20:24-29

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Here Comes the Judge

Demands, Doubts, Doubles

The Lord's Supper

Dr Carl Martin

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 200 – *"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"*

RHC 87 – *"I Know Whom I Have Believed"*

Benediction/3-Fold

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Amen **

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

THE GOSPEL, THE HOPE OF MANKIND (PART 16)

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 4th September 2016

I stressed the importance of the Spirit of God in the affairs of the world in the previous article. The reason is rather simple: it is because man is not the master of the universe. He is not even a master of his own life. The God whom we serve is sovereign, and is able to do all things according to His will and nothing can frustrate His will from being executed.

For too long, man has claimed his power to form a culture. Thus, his life story begins and ends with "I will" as Lucifer did in Isaiah 14. He believes that he can make anything according to his plan, purpose, and intention. I admit that he may be able to achieve something for a while. However, what he aims at may exist for a while but not forever. It is because human knowledge is not complete, and he does not understand everything. Incompleteness of his knowledge and understanding inevitably causes his achievement to be brittle and eventually shattered. Rather, culture is a composition of many small things energized, activated, and worked out in every corner of human society over short or long periods of time. Of course, if man follows his interest and instinct, he cannot but reflect his sinfulness in his culture, and every bit of this same trend from the world brings forth a large scale of its own culture, which is sinful. The point I am trying to make is that culture is not necessarily a product of designs and intentions of any particular individual's plan or movement. It also cannot be a product of man who masterminds it.

From this small thought, we can move on to a bigger, useful thought, to understand the role of the Gospel and individual believers' roles in this ungodly culture and society. In Matthew 13, we find many parables about the kingdom of God. One of the characteristics of the kingdom of God in the parables is that it has a small beginning but grows to full maturity. There are two important thoughts we must have in relation to the kingdom of God and Christian culture.

First, we must not focus too much on our dreams, purposes, or intentions to make Christian culture possible through our efforts alone. There have been many movements to change the world, or to bring Christian culture into the world. However, they have been short-lived. Whenever they have died out or suffered with diminished influence, both Christians and the world have seen them as a failure of Christian faith and religion. We have failed to see that we cannot mastermind world affairs. Even if our desires to change the world and to nurture Christian influences in culture are noble and commendable, we must recognize that we cannot depend on our desires, efforts, intentions, huge organizations, or movements to bring forth the kingdom of God. We must forsake our self-help and self-reliance spirit. Instead we must depend on God and His wisdom. Psalm 127:1 says, "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

Second, we must see the importance of the faithfulness of individual believers. This thought begins with the fact that the kingdom of God grows. Sowers sow seeds, and they grow bigger and bigger till they provide enough branches, leaves, and covers for birds to make their nests in them. Interestingly, there is a parable of wheat and tares. They are growing together till the final separation has to be made at the harvest. T. S. Eliot aptly insisted: "Culture is something that must grow; you cannot build a tree, you can only plant it, and care for it, and wait for it to mature in its due time; and when it is grown you must not complain if you find that from an acorn has come an oak and not an elm tree" (Christianity and Culture, New York: Harcourt, 1976, 196). OS Guinness explains it: "as the seeds of faith ripen in countless lives into the fruit of the Spirit, and the people of God grow, ripen and bear more fruit in ways that defy all expectations" (Renaissance, Kindle Loc., 1494). His further insight is commendable: "Put differently again, Jesus tells his followers to seek first God's kingdom, 'and all these things will be added to you.' We are to trust and obey God, and to follow his call in every inch of our lives, in every second of our time, and with every gift with which we have been endowed. And we are then to leave the result as well as the assessment to God" (Ibid., Kindle Loc., 1505).

The second point is quite crucial to our understanding of the believers' roles in culture. It has been a common wish and desire of all men and women that they become the best in the areas they make in their lives. If we limit our thoughts to Christians only, we can see the issues and problems of such thoughts. Of course, there is merit in it. Who would say that it is wrong to be the best in our fields of work? Who would say that we should not pursue being the best in our work and specialities? Problems come when this desire is the only goal and purpose of life. Vince Lombardi said, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." The noble thought to become the best in the fields of our work eventually pushes us to become self-serving people, which is a way to idolatry, envy and jealousy, and even obsession. We will end up either arrogant or regretful. Christian parents tell their children to become the best, while forgetting to tell them that their chief end must be to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. They have forgotten to tell their loved ones that they must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. They have forgotten to tell them that, if they seek first the kingdom of God, then He will add all these things to them. We lose our smart and capable young people because, though they have potential to be great, they fail to be faithful to God.

We have tried (at least our churches or certain segments of Christian camps have tried), to change worldly culture, and to form Christian culture to be influential, by doing all kinds of innovative and creative projects, programs, and even using propaganda. However, we have forgotten a simple truth again and again that the Gospel is the power of God. We have used many other powers to change the world and its culture, but have not used the power of God much. With the pretext that we need to change our worldly culture, the Gospel has been modified, diluted, and even mutilated. Too many Christians are concerned that the rigid preaching of the Gospel repels the people from coming to church. They often argue that we should accommodate them by offering things more to their liking, from music to soft talk. Instead of being faithful as individual believers of Christ by holding onto the Gospel and its power, we have given way to the tempting thoughts of the world. We have again forgotten that God will bless us and our works when we live, do, and work according to His will. We have not considered seriously that what is required of us is faithfulness to God.

Let me introduce you to Guinness's remarkable story: "One of the newer Oxford colleges is Linacre College, founded in 1962 and named after Thomas Linacre. He is hardly known today, but in his time in the sixteenth century, he was the pre-eminent Renaissance scholar in England, court physician to King Henry VIII, founder of the Royal College of Physicians, and the honored teacher and friend of both Erasmus and Sir Thomas More. As a scholar and fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, Linacre was well versed in both Greek and Latin, but he lived before the Reformation, when the Bible was restricted to the clergy. So he had never read it in depth. One day a friend who was a priest gave him a copy of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and he studied them in full and in the original language for the first time. Linacre thought for a while, and then handed them back to the priest with the remark, "Either these are not the Gospels, or we are not Christians!" Not long afterwards, Linacre's brilliant student Erasmus made the same point in his scathing and subversive indictment of Christian corruption, In Praise of Folly. And it was not much longer before, in 1517, a young Augustinian monk (Martin Luther) hammered ninety-five theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg to protest the same gap between Christ and his Church, and the protest movement that became the Reformation began."
- Rev Timothy Ki

Apostle's Creed

*I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost.
the holy catholic* church;
the communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body;
And the life everlasting.
Amen.*

**meaning the universal Christian church--
all believers in Jesus Christ*

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 16th Nov 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 19th Nov 4pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 13/11/2016</u> <i>Chairman:</i> John / Keene <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Michael <i>Ushers:</i> Keene / Yetta <i>Sunday School:</i> Hannah/Rachael <i>Lunch:</i> John & Sharon <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Joel/Anthony
Message	Return to the Lord	Why John's Gospel was Written	
Text	Malachi 3:7	John 20:30-31	

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: Dr Martin will continue the series of studies aimed at those wishing to become church members. • Baptism instruction classes: Any who are interested in being baptised, we are scheduling a series of Baptismal classes in the coming weeks. Please speak to Dr Martin for more information. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Church Maintenance Day: Saturday 19th November, 11am. All are encouraged to come and help do maintenance to the church building. • Church Maintenance Fund: The Church needs to undergo some significant repairs in the coming months; a Maintenance Fund has been set up for anyone wishing to offer a love gift to assist with the costs. 	<u>NEXT WEEK: 20/11/2016</u> <i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Matthew <i>Ushers:</i> John / Yetta <i>Sunday School:</i> Hannah/Rachael <i>Lunch:</i> Nina <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott / Anthony
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £737.50, Lunch: £42.74 Attendance - Morning: 36 (A) 9 (C), Evening: 19 (A) 4 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 40

Q: What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A: The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was THE MORAL LAW.

Scriptural Reference:

"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, not having the law, are a law unto themselves." Romans 2:14

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."</i> Psalm 37:4-5	<i>"Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith."</i> Proverbs 15:16	<i>"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."</i> Proverbs 16:18