



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. 42

LORD'S DAY 16 OCTOBER 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Isaiah 66:22-23

Psalm 113:1-4

Opening Hymn *

RHC 81 – *"Lord of the Sabbath"*

RHC 80 – *"The Day Thou Gavest, Lord"*

Opening Prayer *

Jonathan Kim

Keene Chen

Gloria Patri *

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 34

Second Hymn *

RHC 35 – *"Through All the Changing Scenes of Life"*

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Keene Chen

Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *

RHC 134 – *"Why Do I Sing About Jesus?"*

Scriptural Text

Malachi 2:14-17

John 20:19-23

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

The Erosion of Marriage

Jesus and the Sunday Evening Service

Closing Hymn *

RHC 474a – *"O Perfect Love"*

RHC 459 – *"So Send I You"*

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 14)

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 21st August 2016

In the previous article, we considered that God is sovereign and man must be faithful to Him and His work. Both thoughts are important for us to understand the role of the message of Christ to change the world and its culture.

All truth is God's truth

Today, we need to begin with a delicate thought of the relationship between the knowledge and scholarship of the world and the Christian truth. Many people have an idea that they contradict to each other. If a Christian holds unto such a view, then he will do his very best to run away from any knowledge but the knowledge he has gained from the church. If a non-Christian holds the view, then he will despise the Church and all Christian messages. However, there is one fallacy in this way of thinking. It is because all truth must be God's truth. Otherwise, where can we find truth? God's "knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to Him contingent, or uncertain . . ." (*Westminster Confession of Faith 2.2*). Therefore, it is unthinkable that any truth is unknown to God, and Christian truth has limits and weaknesses. The God of truth is the origin and source of all truths. Man has discovered, appreciated, and understood them over the years. Of course, Man has rejected and refused that all truths belong to God. However, his objections cannot be properly justified, because he is only a man with limits and imperfections. Unless man claims his knowledge to be perfect, he knows that his objections to God's truth have their inherent weaknesses.

On the other hand, even if a man sees and knows that all truths are God's truths, problems do not go away. It is because he also has his own limits as a human being who has a corrupt old nature and powerful influence of the original sin. He is also susceptible to human errors, unintended consequences of his weak nature, and natural inclinations to sin. Most of all, there is an undeniable truth that God's thoughts are not man's thoughts, and God's ways are not the same way as man's ways. Thus, though man knows and deals with the truths of God, he is still susceptible to misunderstand them and to make wrong conclusions. It is not a problem with the truth of God but with the fathomless limits of man. If I borrow an expression from 1 Corinthians 13, man sees through a glass, darkly or dimly now on this side of life. Man sees only in part now. What I am saying is that it is not possible for us to fathom the knowledge and mystery of God to the extent of perfection. It gives us ample room not to know the fullest truth of God and not to understand the truth of God as God sees it. Therefore, we cannot deny a reality that we are prone to make errors, though we have the truths of God both in Christian Church and in secular scholarship. This reality must make us humble. It is the foolishness of man that claims the knowledge of truth apart from God. It is also the foolishness of man that claims the perfection of the knowledge of God's truth in this side of life.

The proposition that all truths are God's truth prepares and motivates us to pursue His truth in two ways. (1) Faith in God and dependence on Him cannot be overly emphasized. It is because God is sovereign and His ways are mysterious to us. Apart from our humble submission to Him and sincere desire to receive help from His Spirit, we will never be able to know and understand His truth clearly. The more we desire to know the truth, the more we should desire to have an intimate and personal relationship with God. (2) An eager pursuit to gain knowledge is also required. The universe is a creation by God. Everything in it is also His creation. Therefore, finding and discovering the unknown things from God's creation is a good way to understand the truth of God. Christian spirituality does not praise ignorance of man. Pursuing knowledge requires exercise of our minds. We get ideas from our minds by thinking. For almost a year, we studied about how ideas and thoughts have changed the world.

As Blaise Pascal said in his *Pensees*, man is a fragile being like a reed, but he is a “thinking reed.” I am not praising ideas or thoughts as the champions of our existence. However, I cannot deny its importance. For example, when God saw mankind and said in Genesis 6:5, “*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*” Unregenerated mind brings forth evil imaginations continually. Our sanctified mind by the help of the Spirit of God must be properly used and exercised. Careful observations in nature (universe, human bodies, animals and plants . . .) and labs, careful examinations of history and historical sites, or careful studies of the human mind and behaviors could be good means to know the truth of God. We must remember that the fathers of many areas of science were sincere Christians. It is sad to see that the world sees Bible believing evangelical Christians as an ignorant bunch.

The Holy Spirit – the power of the Gospel

We admit that there are formidable foes of the Gospel in the world. They contribute to the frequent defeats experienced by the believers of the Gospel. However, there are two reasons we must not be disheartened.

(1) Apparent defeats of the believers in the world are not necessarily meant to be defeats. It is because of one simple reason. The thoughts of God are different from the thoughts of man. Thus, there are conflicts between these two thoughts. There are heavenly principles that irk the minds of the world. Thus, the latter refuses to take the former, which is seen as a defeat of the former. However, the rejection of the world is only a sign that the heaven is not the same as the world and there are differences between God’s principles and the offers of the world. Therefore, there is no reason for us to be discouraged when we see the clashes between the two principles. Rather, it must clarify the truth we must follow.

(2) The book of Acts has been known as the book of the Acts of the Holy Spirit. It is true that the book is full of stories of events after events happened to the apostles. Nonetheless, it is not too hard to find that these events are not of men but of God. For example, Acts 1:8 says, “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*” All the works and messages of the apostles were the fruits of the work of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples, there was no book of Acts. The Spirit of God manifested Himself at Pentecost. Philip was led by the Spirit of God and taught an Ethiopian eunuch. Paul’s supernatural ministries were also the fruits of the Spirit of God from Jerusalem to Asia Minor both on the land and in the sea. It was the Spirit of God who broke the barriers between the Jews and the Gentiles in Christ. It was the Holy Spirit who used Paul and Barnabas to turn the world upside down. Yes, we admit that we are weak, and the world is strong. But, we need to recognize that there was no time when the world was weaker than man. Apostles themselves lived in strong oppositions of their Gospel and were persecuted and jailed. But by the Spirit of God they were able to fulfill the missions committed to them. One weakness of many evangelical Christians is that they have neglected the person and work of the Holy Spirit. They try to figure out everything by themselves. It is no wonder that Western churches are on the decline. The power of the Gospel lies in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Rev Timothy 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 19th Oct	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 22nd Oct	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 16/10/2016</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan/Keene Organist: Keene Pianist: Joel Ushers: Tom / Yetta Sunday School: Hannah/Rachael Lunch: Jonathan Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / Jonathan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 23/10/2016</u></p> <p>Chairman: John / Joel Organist: Anthony Pianist: Matthew Ushers: Tom / Keene Sunday School: Hannah/Rachael Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / John</p>
Message	The Crippling Impact of Divorce	Sent by the Spirit	
Text	Malachi 2:16	John 20:21-23	
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. • 7 Laws of the Teacher, 5:30pm: Dr Martin will continue the series of studies after evening service. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. 			
<p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £852.80, Lunch: £49.00 Attendance - Morning: 39 (A) 11 (C), Evening: 17 (A) 3 (C)</p>			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 36

Q: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A: The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Comments:

Here are five blessings enumerated for us, which, in this life, necessarily either go along with or flow from the three just described. They who are justified, adopted, and are being sanctified, enjoy for that reason: 1. Confidence that God loves them; 2. Freedom from the sense of guilt and fear of condemnation; 3. Gladness of heart in feeling that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in them; 4. A greater and greater increase of spiritual endowment; 5. The power of persevering in the enjoyment of all these graces to the end.

Scriptural Reference:

1 John 4:16, Romans 5:1-2, Romans 15:13, Philippians 1:6

MEMORY VERSE

	This Week	
<p>Last Week <i>"For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth." Psalm 33:4</i></p>	<p><i>"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6</i></p>	<p>Next Week <i>"And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation." Psalm 35:9</i></p>