



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. 16

LORD'S DAY 17 APRIL 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn *

Opening Prayer *

Gloria Patri *

Responsive Reading

Second Hymn *

Announcements & Memory Verse

Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *

Scriptural Text

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Message

Closing Hymn *

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Postlude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Isaiah 12

Ephesians 3:14-19

RHC 260 – “*The Church's One Foundation*”

RHC 95 – “*My Savior's Love*”

Peter Koy

Jonathan Kim

Glory Be to the Father

Psalm 8

Psalm 8 verses 1-9
(to the tune of New Britain, RHC 307)

Peter Koy

Jonathan Kim

RHC 382 – “*I Would Be True*”

Jeremiah 17:1-18 / Titus 3:1-2

John 18:33-38

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

The Heart of Christian Activity

Jesus before Pilate

RHC 265 – “*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*”

Insert – “*Our Lord, You Stood in Pilate's Hall*”

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

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.

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.

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.

"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 5)

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 27th March 2016

Last week I considered Paul's exhortations to us about non-conformity to the world and renewal of our mind. At the end of the previous article, I pointed out the potential problem of going only by numbers and statistics. The Scripture does not forget to warn us that even the majority can be wrong. Even in the secular world, we may find some examples. For example, think about many countries suffering under dictatorships. It is quite funny to see that most of them use a democratic voting system to choose their leaders. Do you know the official name of North Korea is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea? Congo is the Democratic Republic of Congo. Before Afghanistan became The Islamic State of Afghanistan, its formal name was the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. If we think of a word, "republic," we will be even more amused. By dictionary definition, republic is "a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch." As a result, citizens or members of a republic are supposed to have a certain equality among them. Well, with that thought, think about the Republic of Yemen, Arab Republic of Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, or the People's Republic of China (Republic of China). Tim Schwarz of CNN reported something about a local election in North Korea on July 21, 2015, in his article, "99.97% of North Koreans turn out for local elections," as following: "North Korea's elections are over, the ballots are counted and we have a not-so-surprising result. With 100% of participants approving the candidates, the word 'landslide' hardly seems sufficient. Turnout was an impressive 99.97% of eligible voters, coincidentally, the exact same turnout percentage to two decimal places as the previous local elections in 2011. For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, democracy is too serious a matter to leave to chance." We must not be surprised by a simple fact that "democracy" or "people's republic" does not guarantee freedom, equal rights, or justice. There is even a possibility that the ignorance of the people causes them to choose dictators as their leaders under democratic systems.

Mere numbers and statistics do not always reflect any degree of the validity of propositions approved by them . We must not forget that every church has its own congregation governed by its own constitution. In such constitutions, there are articles regarding voting systems that decide various church issues. We must not forget that many churches have taken the path of denying the Biblical truths of God over the years and gone into secularism and liberalism. They have also taken democratic values seriously and voted on key issues. As a result, they are where they are and what they are today. When too many professing believers became conformed to the world and not transformed by the renewal of their mind, they formed a majority and changed their own religion! It was the majority that cried for the crucifixion of Jesus. Therefore, though we value majority opinions, we do also recognize that they are also human opinions which must be in subjection to the authority of the absolute truth. We may need to heed to what Kierkegaard had to say: "The trend today is in the direction of mathematical equality" (William Edgar and K. Scott Oliphint, eds., Christian Apologetics Past and Present, Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011, 314). We also need to hear what Jacob Burckhardt, a historian, had to say in 1866, "Even more serious is the steady increase of complete despair about every kind of smallness; anybody who does not belong to a nation of at least thirty million shouts: 'Help us, oh Lord, we are drowning!'" (Letter, September 1866, quoted in Ritter von Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Liberty or Equality, 39). What really matters is whether we are the lovers of truth and keepers of it. Oh, how sadly, preachers of the Word have become men pleasers! Even secular ones have noticed the danger of positioning themselves with popularity and popular ideas. Seneca even said, "I never wanted to please the people. What the people want, I ignore, and what I know, the people do not realize" (Letters to Lucilius 29.10). Sadly and mournfully, prominent church leaders and enthusiastic followers have come to believe in numbers and statistics. Churches have even changed their doctrinal confessions to invite non-believers to come to them.

They have forsaken and forgotten divine authority by choosing popular approval. The SNS has contributed to this trend. People are bombarded with clicks on “likes” or “dislikes” through various social medias. They want to bring them into their churches even for the matters of doctrines and confessions of faith. Where is the authority of “thus saith the Lord”?

Having given all the cautionary remarks about faith in metrics, I need to caution you about the other end. There are extremely conservative people who argue that what they need is only Jesus. Thus, nothing else is needed. Such an expressive faith appears to be good, pious, godly, and heavenly. However, there are at least two pitfalls which may lead this group to the wrong side. (1) The first pitfall is that this group of people probably do not fully understand the Lord’s prayer in John 17, when He prayed for the people who were in the world but not of the world. A simple fact is that the disciples of Jesus are in the world. They are living on earth, not in the eternal kingdom of God yet. It means that they live with various situations. Think about 1 Corinthians that we have been studying during our neighborhood Bible study sessions. In particular, Paul says in 2:2, “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” Having read it, we may have an impression that what we must do as good Christians is to talk about Jesus and His crucifixion all the time. However, if you are familiar with the book, you must know that Paul also talks about church divisions, moral issues, money matters, or marital relationships. In other words, he talks about various issues of life. If I relate it to us, people living in modern days, I have to say that there are issues we must be interested in as the believers of Christ today here on earth. Examples are plenteous. Issues of consumerism and money must be addressed. There is a huge gap between the rich and the poor, which is a great problem that may destabilize the society. There are diseases and vaccinations needed in under-developed countries. There are conflicts of religions in the world. There are refugee issues. There are people living under persecutions and oppressions. The disabled must be supported, and the elderly should be looked after. Tax issues are humongous. It is because tax policies will affect other policies related to social welfare and infrastructure. There are marriage issues, divorce, adoption, child abuse, and so on. The freedom issue is also huge including freedom of speech and conscience. Politics is a big arena of many battles. Of course, art is another area which needs our careful scrutiny. What I am saying is not that we should be preoccupied with such matters but Jesus. Our focus must be on Him, and we are also responsible to look into other things to keep the testimony of Jesus in this world. As long as our attention is not diverted from the Lord Jesus, we also need to look into other subjects. Talking about cultural issues is not worldly.

(2) The second pitfall is the lack of knowledge of Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself said that the Scriptures testify of Him. In other words, if we desire to raise our voices in the name of Jesus, we need to know the Scriptures first. Otherwise, we may talk about our views on various subjects in the name of Jesus, but with some missing points. In other words, while we say that Jesus is all in all, and what we must say is only of Jesus, we do not know Him well enough! What a tragedy and what an irony it surely is! While we are saying things about Jesus, this Jesus could be Jesus minus something. Otherwise, how could someone argue that we must approve and embrace homosexuality with the love of Jesus? How in the world, could anyone say that the ordination of woman to be a pastor is the will of God? People put their thoughts and interpretations of Jesus into the name of Jesus (as a result, there appear to be many brands of Jesus) when they argue for their own causes. The spelling is the same, but the nature and character of these Jesuses are different from the One testified in the Bible. No matter how they emphasize the name of Jesus in their contexts, their Jesus has to justify what they want to say. If I have said of all these things with a critical mind toward liberal theologians, I also cannot but say some critical words toward sincerely serious friends in the Lord Jesus. They also put their own thoughts into the name of Jesus and accuse everyone else but themselves. They tend to condemn everyone who seems to be different in certain things, not essential doctrines. Well, well, well.... that's enough for the day. I'll continue....

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 20th April	7pm	Mid-Week Outreach Bible Study	
Fri 22nd April	4pm & 7pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony Foreshadowings of the Antichrist - Ishmael & Herod - Mr Brian Green	
Sat 23rd April	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Study of Calvin's Institute – Chapter 4-5	
Next Lord's Day		Morning Service	Evening Service
Preacher		Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
Message		God's Power to Change Sinners	Pilate before Jesus
Text		Titus 3:3-7	John 18:33-38
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: Constance, Dr Scott-Pearson, Eyo Benson. Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and as he seeks guidance for his PhD studies. 			
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £796.00, Lunch: £49.00 03/04/16: Offering: £1039.90, Lunch: £59.22 Attendance - Morning: 42 (A) 9 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 5 (C)			
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 10			
Q: How did God create man? A: God created man, male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.			
<u>Comments:</u> We are here told that man was created in the likeness of God. His soul resembles God in being upright and holy, and possessed of reason. None of the other animals were so endowed, and they accordingly were put in subjection to him.			
<u>Scriptural Reference:</u> Genesis 1:27, Ephesians 4:24, Genesis 1:28			
MEMORY VERSE			
Last Week <i>"O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me."</i> Psalm 7:1		This Week <i>"So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."</i> 1 Corinthians 3:7	
Next Week <i>"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."</i> Psalm 9:10			