



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. 29

LORD'S DAY 17 JULY 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Evening Service – 4pm</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 59:16-17	Psalm 72:12-17
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 22 – <i>"When All Thy Mercies, O My God"</i>	RHC 74 – <i>"For the Beauty of the Earth"</i>
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 21	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 21 verses 1-6</i> (to the tune of Seraph, RHC 15)	---
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 326 – <i>"Like A River Glorious"</i>	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Jeremiah 17:9-10	John 19:23-24
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Heart Reflections</i>	<i>A High Stakes Gamble</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 247 – <i>"Cleanse Me"</i>	RHC 565 – <i>"Have You Counted the Cost?"</i>
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
<i>Postlude</i>	<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 HISTORY OF CATECHIZING (PART 2)

Adapted from Life BP Church Weekly, Sunday 10th July 2016

Is it not so, that a church is only as Christian as its leaders and parishioners? And is it not so, that a household is only as Christian as its head and family members? But the lost art of systematic Bible instruction, coupled with the lack of family religion, impounded by a general and modern distaste for creedal adherence, has caused many a church to lose their Reformed heritage and spiritual standard.

The Second Law of Entropy in physics tells us that all things tend toward disorder. In other words, if left alone, they will become less organized. This is not untrue from a Christian stand point. If left alone without Bible instruction and follow-up, Christians will backslide. If given a weekly dose of instruction (and a *weakly* dose at that), how much better does the Christian fare? The catechetical system was devised to fight spiritual entropy. It is a strong dose of Christian instruction, with all the vital doctrines that a person requires to be spiritually fit and mature. It is akin to a combination of multi-vitamins and designer antibiotics, to be taken in conjunction with a regular diet of healthy foods. If a person is well-versed in the catechism and has a daily devotion with his Lord, imagine his spiritual maturity!

The testimony of the use of catechisms is seen in an anecdote by B.B. Warfield in his *Selected Short Writings*. Dwight L. Moody was once staying with a friend in London when "...a young man had come to speak to Mr. Moody about spiritual things. He was in difficulty about a number of points, among the rest about prayer and natural laws. 'What is prayer?,' he said, 'I can't tell what you mean by it!' They were in the hall of a large London house. Before Moody could answer, a child's voice was heard singing on the stairs. It was that of a little girl of nine or ten, the daughter of their host. She came running down the stairs and paused as she saw strangers in the hall. 'Come here, Jenny,' her father said, 'and tell this gentleman "What is prayer."' Jenny did not know what had been going on, but she quite understood that she was now called upon to say her Catechism. So she drew herself up, and folded her hands in front of her, like a good little girl who was going to 'say her questions,' and she said in her clear childish voice: 'Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.' 'Ah! That's the Catechism!' Moody said, 'thank God for that Catechism.'"

The use of the catechisms among the Reformed Churches raised up a generation of faithful stalwarts of Christendom. So successful were the use of catechisms among Protestants that the Roman Catholic Church observed at their Council of Trent (1545-1563), convened to arrest the spread of the Reformation, that "the heretics (meaning, Protestants) have chiefly made use of catechisms to corrupt the minds of Christians." Even Dr Lancelot Andrews (chairman of the overall translating committee of the KJV) said, "The papists...acknowledge that all the advantage which the Protestants have gotten of them hath come by this exercise (meaning, catechism)."

Catechizing ensures the dissemination of Biblical knowledge to future generations, that nothing will be watered down. The duty is important. In Genesis 18:19, God says of Abraham, "*For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*"

Such instruction is not only in the church, but as mentioned, also at home. In Deuteronomy 6:7, it is commanded by God, "*And the words which I command thee shall be in thy heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently to thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up.*"

And the charge is serious because we are prone to forget. Deuteronomy 4:9 says, "*Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons.*"

And what better means does the modern Presbyterian church have to disseminate the Doctrines of Grace than with the time-tested Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms? Matthew Henry, in his defense of catechisms and confessions, outlined three basic uses for the catechism:

1. Hereby the main principles of Christianity, which lie scattered in the Scripture, are collected and brought together; and by this means they are set in much easier view before the minds of men.
2. Hereby the truths of God, the several articles of Christian doctrine and duty are methodized and put in order.
3. Hereby the truths of God are brought down to the capacity of those who are as yet but weak in understanding.

Richard Baxter said, “Those that will deride all catechisms and professions, as unprofitable forms, had better deride themselves for talking and using the form of their own words to make known their mind to others.” Meaning, if catechisms are unprofitable, what makes us think that we can do better – that our instruction is good enough?

If asked for a definition of God, how many of us can give a comprehensive answer which covers all the attributes of God? If asked what the chief goal of man is, how many of us can answer this profound question with equal profoundness? The catechisms, in particular the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms, give simple answers that make the great depths of Scripture truths understandable to the simplest of us, even the youngest.

What is God? *“God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.”*

What is the chief end of man? *“The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.”*

May the Lord help us to see the good uses of catechisms and to use them to the edification and maturation of ourselves and our children in these days of lack-luster Christianity, lest a further decline of the practice leads to another Dark Ages. Amen.

- Rev Mark Chen

Resources for Catechism:

For catechizing young children:

http://www.reformed.org/documents/index.html?mainframe=http://www.reformed.org/documents/cat_for_young_children.html

The Westminster Shorter Catechism:

<http://www.opc.org/documents/SCLayout.pdf>

The Westminster Larger Catechism:

https://prts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Larger_Catechism.pdf

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 17th July	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.
Fri 22nd July	7pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony <i>Foreshadowings of the Antichrist - Herod</i>	
Sat 23rd July	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Study of Calvin's Institutes	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 17/07/2016</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Mrs Martin Pianist: Joy Ushers: Tom / Yetta Sunday School: Rachael / Hannah / Keene Lunch: Nina Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott <u>NEXT WEEK: 24/07/2016</u> Chairman: Peter / Joel Organist: Keene Pianist: Mrs Martin Ushers: Tom / Evelyn Sunday School: Rachael / Hannah / Keene Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott
Message	Aborted Opportunities	The Women at the Cross	
Text	Jeremiah 17:11	John 19:25-27	

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, 2.30pm today: Dr Martin will be leading a series of studies for those wishing to become members of the Church. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and as he seeks guidance for his PhD studies. • Registry of Members & Gift Aid Forms: Please can all members of the congregation complete and return the forms to Jonathan ASAP. • Baptism Service, Sunday 7th August 2016: Those interested in preparing for baptism, please speak to Dr Martin. • Baptism Class, 5:30pm today: Dr Martin is leading a series of classes to prepare those who wish to be baptised. • Church 20th Anniversary: Sunday 14th August. Please invite friends and family to join us in our celebrations. 	
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £1124.81, Lunch: £66.44 Attendance - Morning: 37 (A) 12 (C), Evening: 18 (A) 6 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 23

Q: What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A: Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Comments:

In the last three questions we were taught the great truth that sinners may be saved. In the following six questions we are taught the way in which our Redeemer works out salvation to his people. He does so, we are told, by discharging the duties of a prophet, a priest, and a king, and thereby delivering us from our threefold misery of ignorance, guilt, and bondage. He performed these duties while he was here on earth, and he still continues to perform them in heaven.

Scriptural Reference:

Acts 3:22, Hebrews 5:6, Psalm 2:6

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7	"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8	"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12