



# 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. 43

**LORD'S DAY 23 OCTOBER 2016**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Evening Service – 4pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Proverbs 3:5-6

Psalm 93:1-4

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 348 – *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

RHC 30 – *"All Creatures of our God and King"*

*Opening Prayer \**

John Poh

Joel Benjamin

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 35

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 35 verses 24-28*  
(to the tune of St Anne, RHC 21)

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*Announcements & Memory Verse*

John Poh

Joel Benjamin

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 390 – *"Something for Thee"*

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*Scriptural Text*

Malachi 2:16

John 20:21-23

*Pastoral Prayer*

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Sermon Message*

*The Crippling Impact of Divorce*

*Sent by the Spirit*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 389 – *"Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord"*

RHC 469 – *"The Regions Beyond"*

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

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\* 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 15)**

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 14th August 2016

In my previous article, I briefly mentioned that the Western churches have ignored or neglected the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Of course, we cannot miss the point that many churches have misunderstood the person and work of the Holy Spirit, which has resulted in unbiblical, unsound, and even weird stories and practices. Nonetheless, nothing should keep us from longing for the filling of the Spirit of God. There is no way for us to talk about the Gospel as the hope of mankind, apart from Him. It is because He is the Promised One by the Lord in John 16:13-15, "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*"<sup>14</sup> *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*"<sup>15</sup> *All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*"

## **Rely on the Spirit of God**

The necessity and privilege to depend on the Spirit of God must give us two clear thoughts.

(1) Man is not his own master. The *Noah Webster's 1828 English Dictionary* defines the word, "master," as "A man who rules, governs or directs either men or business," or "The owner; proprietor; with the idea of governing." In other words, 'master' is a person who should be able to do what he intends to do. He must be able to plan and execute it to happen. However, man is not in such an honorable position. In real life, he may have many thoughts and he also knows that he is not in full control of everything. Biblically speaking, Proverbs 16:1 testifies it well: "*The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.*" Though man may have all the right instruments, means, and opportunities to succeed, he has all potentials and possibilities to fail, too. It is simply because he is not capable of handling and planning, and executing everything to make things happen as he wishes. Though a Christian man has the Gospel, desires to proclaim it, and has knowledge of it, he alone cannot achieve anything. T. S. Eliot said quite interestingly as follows: "Culture can never be wholly conscious—there is always more to it than we are conscious of; and it cannot be planned because it is also the unconscious background of all our planning" (*Christianity and Culture*, New York: Harcourt, 1976, p. 170). Pride has a place in man on the way of destruction. Man is designed to depend on his true Master. Man who has dreamed and prayed to change the world and its culture is not a person who believes in him. He is a person whose trust and confidence are in God alone. The dependence on the Spirit of God awakens the believers of Jesus Christ that they must be humble and submissive to His guidance. God used Moses, Samuel, David, Jeremiah, Elijah, or even Mary who were all humble people. They were not even volunteers of the Lord's Work. They trembled at the callings of the Lord. They were surprised by the Lord's summons.

(2) The Spirit of God is the source of all power and abilities. Zechariah 4:6b says, ". . . *Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*" The Spirit of God distributes diverse spiritual gifts. His manifestation is given to every man to profit all (1 Corinthians 11:4, 7). Only when the Spirit of God comes upon man, does he receive power to be a witness of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8). The apostles' effective ministry depended not on how great their talents were but on the coming of the Spirit of God. Os Guinness made a good example to illustrate this very point in his book, *Renaissance* (Kindle location 1444), as follows: "So yes, we strive for excellence. We know that nothing less than our best is worthy of our Lord."

Our concern is always to achieve our utmost for his highest. We know that leaders have more influence than followers, that the center of a culture has an influence that far outweighs the periphery, that kings outweigh commoners, that the rich can get far more done than the poor, and that the well-educated know far more than the average person. We know all that, we respect all that, and we take it seriously—and yet, and yet. So we are also always ready for the surprising voice, the far-from-obvious leader, the last-person-you-would-ever-think would be the key player. And yes, we are always ready to recognize God’s nobodies and God’s fools. For these may be the truly anointed ones prepared to be seen and treated as nobodies and fools for Christ’s sake, whom God uses far more than we who are the obvious ones for God to use.” Man is empowered by the Spirit of God, which offers him a sufficient reason to depend on Him.

## **Focus on the Gospel**

Serious Christians are concerned about secular culture and anti-Christianity sentiment of the world. They are also anxious that churches have lost their members and that many churches are even closed. Out of their concerns, they have devised many ways to bring people into their churches. There are many conferences teaching the concerned Christians about how to organize worship styles, how to make more positive messages, or how to do better in church marketing. It is true that mega-churches have hired consultant firms to get their suggestions to attract more people. Their reasoning behind such practices sounds right: they are doing it for the glory of God; churches without people are useless, churches must have more attractive messages, churches must be changed according to the spirit of the modern age, etc. In other words, they have noble goals and aims to achieve. Then, they strive to reach the goals and to meet the targets. For example, they are sad that the contemporary culture is worldly and secular. Christian young people go to secular music concerts and are excited. Why can’t Christian churches provide the same opportunities to them so that eventually Christian messages can be heard and the world is exposed to Christian culture? They plan to bring desired results to the world by using various means, methods, and plans.

Hence we must see a fallacy in this sort of thought and mentality. Let us return to the first century. The Lord Jesus left the world to return to glory and His disciples were left with the Spirit of God. The first century world was full of idolatries, and Christians were persecuted and not welcome. The world was obviously non-Christian, and its culture was ungodly and nonspiritual. In this kind of spiritual, social, and cultural climate, what did the apostles do to bring Christian culture into the world? What kind of efforts did they make in order to bring a birth of Christian civilization into the world? What did they do to change the world? Did they change music, government policies, revolution, Christian psychology, or worship styles to accommodate the minds of the world? No, none of these means were employed. Listen to John Baillie, saying, “There is a sense, then, in which the ages to whom we owe our Christian civilization valued that civilization less highly than we do today. They valued it indeed, but gave it only a secondary place. It may be said to have come into being as a by-product of something immeasurably more to be treasured” (*What is Christian Civilization?*, London: Christophers, 1945, p. 60). My point is that all of us have missed the real point. We have lost the confidence and trust that our forefathers had in the Gospel. We need to chew and digest Romans 1:15-17 again and again: “*So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.*”<sup>16</sup> *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*”<sup>17</sup> *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*” I’ll continue . . . .

- 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 26th Oct 7pm <b>Mid-Week Outreach Bible Study</b> <b>Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony</b> Fri 28th Oct 7pm <i>"Foreshadowings of the Antichrist - Nimrod"</i> Mr David McMillan Sat 29th Oct 4pm <b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b>	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.

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<b><u>TODAY: 23/10/2016</u></b>  <b>Chairman:</b> John / Joel <b>Organist:</b> Anthony <b>Pianist:</b> Matthew <b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Keene <b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah/Rachael <b>Lunch:</b> Maureen <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Scott / John  <b><u>NEXT WEEK: 30/10/2016</u></b>  <b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan/Keene <b>Organist:</b> Anthony <b>Pianist:</b> Michael <b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Margaret <b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah/Rachael <b>Lunch:</b> Rachael <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Scott / Anthony
<b>Message</b>	The Verdict of History	Sent with Power	
<b>Text</b>	Malachi 2:17	John 20:22	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-lunch Bible Study:</b> This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations".</li> <li>• <b>Basic Bible Knowledge Class, 3pm:</b> Dr Martin will continue the series of studies aimed at those wishing to become church members.</li> <li>• <b>Baptism instruction classes:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>7 Laws of the Teacher, 5:30pm:</b> Dr Martin will continue the series of studies after evening service.</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies.</li> <li>• <b>Ladies Fellowship:</b> This will be held after lunch next Lord's Day.</li> </ul>	
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £484.70, Lunch: £38.00, Book Sale: £27.65 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 44 (A) 10 (C), Evening: 13 (A) 1 (C)	

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 37

**Q: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?**

*A: The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately **PASS INTO GLORY**; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.*

Comments:

Having learned the blessings which true Christians receive from God in this life, we are now taught the blessings they receive when this life is ended. 1. The *soul* is then made perfectly holy, or free from all sinful tendencies, and taken at once to heave; 2. The *body* rests in the grave in union with Christ till the last day.

Scriptural Reference:

Revelation 21:27, Luke 23:43, 1 Thessalonians 4:14

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<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."</i> <b>Proverbs 3:5-6</b>	<i>"And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation."</i> <b>Psalm 35:9</b>	<i>"Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds."</i> <b>Psalm 36:5</b>