



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. 30

LORD'S DAY 24 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 63:1-5	Psalm 95:6-7a
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 55 – <i>"Our Great Savior"</i>	RHC 18 – <i>"Come, Thou Almighty King"</i>
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Peter Koy	Joel Benjamin
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 22	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 22</i> verses 1-5, 23-28 (to the tune of All Saints, RHC 562)	---
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Peter Koy	Joel Benjamin
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 351 – <i>"He Leadeth Me"</i>	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Jeremiah 17:11	John 19:25-27
<i>Pre-Message Hymn</i>	---	RHC 195 – <i>"O Love Divine"</i>
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Aborted Opportunities</i>	<i>The Women at the Cross</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 411 – <i>"Stand Up for Jesus"</i>	RHC 551 – <i>"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"</i>
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	---
<i>* Congregation Stands</i>		

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 8)

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 1st May 2016

Though we do not identify Christian culture with Christianity or the kingdom of God per se, we must not ignore the importance of Christian culture in society today. We may be wondering why there are still some Christian cultural influences staying with us in society in general, though the Christian faith is not honored by society. We must admit that these are none other than the testimonies of the faithfulness of past generations. They are tokens of the impact that the forefathers of the Christian faith had upon the society in which they lived. They had shown their fellow countrymen the way that Jesus lived and the way He wanted His disciples to live. In contrast, the reason why Christianity is mocked and Christians are scorned by the world today is because the way of life that Christians have adopted is not the same as those of faithful generations before or that which is described in the Bible. What they do is different from what they say or what the Bible says. Then, the blame does not necessarily rest upon the world, but upon Christians. Consider a few countries known as Christian countries. For example, there are many Christians in America, and thus they want to call her a Christian country. Australia is one such example too. If we carefully look into such categorisation, we will find that such countries do have a Christian cultural heritage. However, the citizens of these countries do not live the life of biblical Christians, or to put it more precisely, they do not practice the way of life set by Jesus. This way of thinking could be applied both to believers and unbelievers. The unbelievers of Jesus are not in question here, because they reject any association with Jesus. However, it turns out that believers are not much different from unbelievers in terms of their way of life. They call themselves Christians, but their way of life is as worldly as non-believers. Thus, they are not able to shape their own Christian culture at all. Instead, they have become followers of worldly culture, which has brought many changes into Christian churches, from music to messages.

A problem cracks into Christian churches right from here. The world sees Christian culture as a plausible measurement of Christian faith and religion. When the world finds that there is either no such thing as Christian culture or that so called Christian culture is as worldly as its own, it cannot find any credibility in Christianity, or at least it does not find any reason to uphold Christianity as the only, absolute truth. By knowing that Christian culture is more than a culture but a way of life, Christians have to come to a serious awareness that the plausibility of their faith is directly related to the way of their Christian life before the eyes of the world.

It poses two significant problems to Christians who desire to demonstrate and form a Christian culture and to spread it to the society in which they are living. The first problem is at the personal level. As individual Christians, they must confess that they have not made efforts for personal sanctification. Or, they have failed to be better people in terms of Christian virtues and integrity. They have not been holy as their Father is. They have not been loving and affectionate to their neighbours as they should have been, as the Lord commands. In a word, they have failed to be the light and the salt to the ones around them. What they say is Christian, but what they do is not. The second problem is in the corporal level. As a body of the believers, the church has not been doing well. We have heard about the moral and ethical corruption of churches and their ministers. We as Christians feel despair when such shameful news reaches to our ears. The world has certain expectations of a true religion, or Christianity, and Christian churches have not reached that level. In some cases, they are worse than the world. These two levels of failures have produced two unwanted consequences: one, the world discredits the Christian faith all together; two, the world misinterprets the failures of believers as the limitation of God. Thus, it finds no reasons to believe in Him. We find a simple application from what James has to say in James 1:20, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" When faith is not practiced and demonstrated in works, it is effectively dead. The world sees it, and who wants to be a follower of a dead faith and religion? While most of us are mourning over dwindling Christian influence in society, we have forgotten that the primary cause of the demise of Christian influence is in our own way of life. We have not lived as we preach. We have not lived out what we confess. We have not practiced what we believe.

Here, do I not deny the difficult conditions set around us that keep us from moving forward and upward for sanctified life. Though we are living in a more advanced society today, more conveniences and choices do not necessarily help us to be holier and godlier. From shopping to recreation, there are too many choices, which were not available to previous generations. There is an inundation of information from books to internet about everything. Movies, games, music, art, or anything we can name is at our finger tips. Besides, we are living in a globally mobile age. We can be reached globally anywhere we go, at any time. Though we may desire to leave certain things or influences behind, we may not be able to run too far away from them. Even in churches, lots of programs are offered for people's choices. Of course, travelling is much easier than before. There are too many distractions and attractions that take our minds away from God and His truth. Thus, there are more and more challenges to the believers of God in the modern world than before. Challenges will eventually bring changes within our society. These changes will not be favourable to Christians but unfriendly, if not antagonistic. They will bring a two pronged attacks: (1) They will reject Christian values and moral. We are and will be told that Christian values are not for all people. Christian morals are for Christians and not applicable to all mankind. Thus, moral issues like marriage and divorce have already seen many changes. (2) They will bring new laws, rules, and moral codes. Rejection of Christian values is not enough for the world. It will bring its rules and values and make legislations accordingly. It means that Christians will be demanded to oblige to follow the rules, though they are not in accordance with the Biblical laws. Under the pretext of freedom, liberty, and even human rights, we have witnessed many turnarounds in art, literature, music, and in issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage. They are only a few examples.

While discussing such dangers and pitfalls of human efforts to remove the boundaries set by the Lord, we must not have only two compartments in our thoughts. We should avoid a thinking pattern that whatever Christians are doing and saying is good and holy, while whatever the world or other religious teachers are saying is bad, wrong, and even evil. Such a fallacious thought often elevates sinful Christians to be honoured, simply because they claim to be Christians, while it despises and disrespects honourable people simply because they are not Christians. We may need to consider what St. Augustine had to say, "All truth is God's truth." In fact, all men, whether believers or unbelievers, are made with the image of God. Thus, though they are spiritually dead and not restored in Christ, the unbelievers can still have good qualities in terms of kindness, generosity, even graciousness. In the same token, we must say that some immature Christians have failed to display such qualities in their character and way of life. Thus, God has left a room for hope and peace even in the darkest era. We expect that we will find many good (not in theological terms), gracious, kind, compassionate, and merciful friends and helpers amongst the unbelievers. Many will stand up for justice and fair treatment of all men. It is interesting to know that even gangsters have their own kind of justice and generosity. Therefore, there is no reason for Christians to be people with permanently miserable and unhappy looks in the world. Instead of eying on other's problems and blaming the world for weakened Christian influences, we'd better look inside of us and live a life as true followers of Jesus Christ.

- 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 27th 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.
Sat 30th 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	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 24/07/2016</u></p> <p>Chairman: Peter / Joel Organist: Keene Pianist: Mrs Martin Ushers: Tom / Evelyn Sunday School: Rachael / Hannah / Keene Lunch: Mrs Martin Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 31/07/2016</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Keene Pianist: Joel Ushers: Tom / Margaret Sunday School: Hannah / Keene Lunch: Rachael Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott</p>
Message	No "Instant" Spiritual Maturity	Finished!	
Text	Jeremiah 17:15-18	John 19:28-30	
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. • Baptism Class, 5:30pm today: Dr Martin is leading a series of classes to prepare those who wish to be baptised. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and as he seeks guidance for his PhD studies. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch next Lord's Day. • Dessert Fellowship: This will be held after evening service next Lord's Day. • Baptism Service, Sunday 7th August 2016: Those interested in preparing for baptism, please speak to Dr Martin. • Church 20th Anniversary, Sunday 14th August: Please invite friends and family to join us in our celebration. 			
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £582.55, Lunch: £45.50 Attendance - Morning: 43 (A) 6 (C), Evening: 17 (A) 3 (C)			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 24

Q: How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A: Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Comments:

A prophet is a man who declares the will of God; and we are here told that this is what Christ, as our prophet, does for us. He does so by his Word, for the whole Bible is his; but inasmuch as the mere reading of the Bible is not sufficient of itself to make a man wise unto salvation, he likewise bestows his Holy Spirit, that so the Word may profit those who hear it.

Scriptural Reference:

Hebrews 1:1-2, John 16:13

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"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

This Week

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Revelation 22:12

Next Week

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Psalms 23:1