



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. 26

LORD'S DAY 26 JUNE 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 33:1-3

Psalm 46:10

Opening Hymn *

RHC 66 – *"Fairest Lord Jesus!"*

RHC 346 – *"Be Still, My Soul"*

Opening Prayer *

John Poh

John Poh

Gloria Patri *

Glory Be to the Father

Apostle's Creed *

Apostle's Creed

Responsive Reading

Psalm 18

Second Hymn *

Psalm 18 verses 1-2,6,30-32, 49
(to the tune of Kilmarnock, RHC 561)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *

RHC 256 – *"The Bible Stands"*

Scriptural Text

Titus 3:12-15

John 19:12-15

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Building Fellowship – Keeping the Faith

Who Sentenced Jesus to Die?

Closing Hymn *

RHC 359 – *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

RHC 185 – *"Hallelujah, What a Saviour!"*

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

ABIDING IN CHRIST

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 5th June 2016

How intimate is our relationship with Christ? What are the benefits of an intimate relationship with Christ? Jesus, while addressing His disciples in John 15, draws their attention to this very topic. Jesus, in chapter 14, told them what He would be doing for them. Once He had accomplished His mission on earth, He would be ascended to heaven. From heaven, the Lord will send the Holy Spirit, the Great Comforter (v 16) and He shall abide with them and teach them all things (v 26). Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would help them remember what He had been teaching them. As a result, they would have in their lives deep and lasting peace (v 27). Now in chapter 15, the Lord tells His disciples what they would be doing for Him. They should maintain their union with Christ. Jesus, in order to explain this, uses the analogy of a grapevine. Jesus is like the main vine. The disciples are compared with branches. The Father tends the branches like a gardener to make them fruitful. The branches are all those who claim to be followers of Christ. The fruitful branches are true believers who by their living union with Christ produce much fruit.

The analogy teaches the nature of the union. The connection between the vine and the branch is a living one. No external, temporary union will suffice; no work of man can effect it; the branch, whether an original or an engrafted one, is such only by the Creator's own work. As a result, the life, the sap, the fatness, and the fruitfulness of the vine communicate themselves to the branch. It is the same with the believer too. His union with his Lord is no work of human wisdom or human will, but an act of God, by which the closest and most complete life-union is effected between the Son of God and the sinner. *God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts* (Galatians 4:6). The same Spirit becomes the life of the believer. In the unity of that one Spirit, and the fellowship of the same life which is in Christ, the believer is one with Christ. As between the vine and branch, it is a life-union that makes them one.

It is in this explanation that Jesus uses the expression, 'abide in me.' In verses 4-5 we read, *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

These two verses explain our deep relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The key of these verses is abiding in Him. What does this phrase mean? (1) It means believing that He is God's Son. In 1 John 4:15 we read, *Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.* (2) It also means receiving Him as Savior and Lord. John 1:12 says, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* (3) Again, it means doing what God says. In 1 John 3:24, the Apostle John says, *And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.* (4) It also means continuing to believe the gospel. John says in 1 John 2:24, *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.* (5) And finally, it means relating in love to the community of believers, Christ's body. John in his gospel says, *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you* (John 15:12).

The Apostle Paul uses the Greek preposition *sun* ('together') many times to describe the union believers have with Christ. Believers are crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20), dead (Colossians 2:20), buried (Rom 6:4), quickened or made alive (Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:13), raised (Colossians 3:1; Ephesians 2:6), seated (Ephesians 2:6), and glorified (Romans 8:17) together with Christ.

When we abide in Him, we will be able to bear much fruit. That is what is expected as the result of union with Christ. We are able to bear the fruit of faithfulness in the work given us to do, in our daily toil, the denial of ourselves to all ungodliness, steadfastness and endurance in trial and temptation, and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

Without Christ our life is empty, as the Lord said, *'without me ye can do nothing.'* In the world and in the life of sin men may be active enough. But the fruits they bear are ever vanity, i.e., nothingness. The fruits and results of sin shall all perish. Only that which bears the stamp of eternity can really be called fruit. Therefore, it is absolutely true that apart from Christ, we accomplish nothing in life - nothing for our own higher good, nothing for the advancement of the kingdom of God, and nothing for the higher life of our fellow-men.

On the other hand, we can do all things through Christ which strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). Here are the negative and positive descriptions of one's life: without Christ, nothing; in Christ, all things are possible. There is given in Him divine strength, because there is given divine life. Therefore, no one can boast. We can through Christ. He alone is the source of spiritual life and strength for fruit-bearing. All true disciples need this. Their own strength is but weakness, but in Christ, the weak and feeble have brought forth much fruit.

There is a great danger of not abiding in Christ. In verse 6, the Lord says, *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.* It is true that although it may appear outwardly one with the tree, a branch which is not naturally and healthily connected with the stem soon becomes withered and falls. This reminds us that apart from Christ, there can be no true spiritual life.

While the union of Christ and His Church endures, there are instances that people lose touch with Christ, and finally are cut off, who are called reprobate (Hebrews 6:4-6). There are lost sheep who stray from the fold and perish (2 Timothy 4:10).

When we commit our ways to Christ and abide in Him, the Lord says, *my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you* (v 7). This is the result of living union with the true Vine. Living union with Christ leads to fruitfulness and blessedness. Abiding in Him and having words in us teach us to pray in accordance with the will of God. With the abiding in Christ, our self-will is kept down, the thoughts and wishes of nature are brought into captivity to the thoughts and wishes of Christ. Like-mindedness of Christ grows upon us - all our working and willing become transformed into harmony with His. Everything is yielded to the power of His life in us that it may exercise its sanctifying influence on our wishes and desires.

What a beauty of abiding in Christ! This is a deep relationship, a union that would transform our lives - our ways and wishes and our entire being. May the Lord help us.

Rev Dr George Skariah
Covenant BP Church
Bangalore, India

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 29th June | 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 2nd July | 4pm | Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Study of Calvin's Institutes | |
| Next Lord's Day | Morning Service | Evening Service | LORD'S DAY DUTIES |
| <i>Preacher</i> | Dr Carl Martin | Dr Carl Martin | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 26/06/2016</u></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> John</p> <p><i>Organist:</i> Anthony</p> <p><i>Pianist:</i> Joel</p> <p><i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Keene</p> <p><i>Sunday School:</i> Rachael / Keene</p> <p><i>Lunch:</i> Maureen</p> <p><i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers</p> <p><i>PA Crew:</i> Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 03/07/2016</u></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan</p> <p><i>Organist:</i> Anthony</p> <p><i>Pianist:</i> Anthony</p> <p><i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Evelyn</p> <p><i>Sunday School:</i> Rachael / Keene</p> <p><i>Lunch:</i> Maureen</p> <p><i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers</p> <p><i>PA Crew:</i> Scott</p> |
| <i>Message</i> | Now, Who's in Charge? | Behold Your King | |
| <i>Text</i> | Jeremiah 17:1-18 | John 19:15 | |
| 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. • 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 John ASAP. • There will be Ladies Fellowship after lunch today. • Baptism Service, Sunday 7th August 2016: Those interested in preparing for baptism, please speak to Dr Martin as he will be leading a series of classes. • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology: 5th to 7th July 2016 Theme for this year is <i>Calvary & Covenant</i>. | | | |
| <p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £710.00, Lunch: £57.59 Attendance - Morning: 43 (A) 13 (C), Evening: 19 (A) 5 (C)</p> | | | |

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 20

Q: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A: God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a REDEEMER.

Comments:

Man did not obey God's law, and so he was condemned to death, both of body and of soul. But it was not the will of God that the world should perish, and so there was another covenant made, but this time with Christ, called the Covenant of Grace, by which God undertook to deliver those who should believe in his Son, and give them everlasting life. This is the Gospel, or Good News of God to men; and it is called the Covenant of Grace, because it proceeded from God's free mercy, and not from our deservings.

Scriptural Reference:

Genesis 3:15, 2 Timothy 1:9

MEMORY VERSE

| Last Week | This Week | Next Week |
|--|---|---|
| <p><i>"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."</i></p> <p>Jeremiah 33:3</p> | <p><i>"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."</i></p> <p>Psalms 18:2</p> | <p><i>"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."</i></p> <p>Philippians 4:6</p> |