



# 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. 22

**LORD'S DAY 29TH MAY 2016**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Evening Service – 4pm*

#### *The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Prelude*

*Call to Worship*

*Opening Hymn \**

*Opening Prayer \**

*Gloria Patri \**

*Apostle's Creed \**

*Responsive Reading*

*Second Hymn \**

*Announcements &*

*Memory Verse*

*Tithes & Offerings &*

*Doxology \**

*Transfer of Membership*

*Scriptural Text*

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Sermon Message*

*Closing Hymn \**

*Benediction/3-Fold*

*Amen \**

*Postlude*

*\* Congregation Stands*

Psalm 106:1-5

RHC 44 – *"We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer"*

Peter Koy

*Glory Be to the Father*

*Apostle's Creed*

Psalm 14

*Psalm 14*

(to the tune of All Saints, RHC 562)

Peter Koy

RHC 262 – *"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!"*

Dr Carl Martin / Rev Jack Sin

Nehemiah 4:1-9

Dr Carl Martin

*Elements in Building the House of God*

**Rev Jack Sin**

RHC 43 – *"God is Still on the Throne"*

Dr Carl Martin

*The Lord Bless You*

Psalm 99:1-5

RHC 50 – *"Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All"*

Peter Koy

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Peter Koy

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Hebrews 13:1-13

Dr Carl Martin

*Biblical Admonitions for the Christian*

**Rev Jack Sin**

RHC 79 – *"God Be With You"*

Dr Carl Martin

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#### **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***

# MARKS OF TRUE CONVERSION

Adapted from Life BP Church Singapore Weekly, Sunday 22nd May 2016

**Acts 2:37-38, 41-42, 46**

There is a widespread tendency to invite people to make easy decisions for Christ, and to assume that they are converted regardless of whether it is supported by evidence. The Bible exhorts us to examine ourselves whether we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). Are there recognisable signs of true conversion? How can seekers tell if they are truly saved?

## **1. Conviction of Sin**

The first mark of grace is the conviction of sin which leads to true repentance (vv.37-38). The early Christian converts were “cut to the heart” as they felt ashamed of and burdened by their sins and yearned for God’s forgiveness. Is there a broken contrite heart (Psalm 51)? If there has been a cool, intellectual acknowledgement of sin or a momentary emotion accompanied by a formal repentance, we may be doubtful that conversion has really happened. Testimonies which make no mention of sin or repentance or begging God for forgiveness are suspect. There must be a humbling before God, some measure of grief and shame over sin, and tenderness at the Lord’s mercy.

Repentance is a reversal of mind – a turning away from sin and to God for salvation. It involves, first, a turning away from sin, a hatred for one’s sin, and a desire to live a holy life. Secondly, it involves a submission to the Lord as the absolute Ruler of our lives. Christ is not only our Saviour, but He came to be the Lord (master, ruler) of our lives. Many people who claim to be Christians may want eternal life and God’s blessings in this temporal life, but have absolutely no desire to yield themselves to do God’s will. They want the world, and they want Christ. They deny that the lordship of Christ is necessary for salvation. They deceive themselves when Christ Himself states in absolutely no uncertain terms that he who comes to Christ must deny self, take up his cross and follow Jesus.

## **2. Understanding Scripture**

In Acts 2:42, the newly converted continued to have strong attachment to the apostles’ doctrine; they persevered or endured. It is a sure sign of grace when someone is hungry for the Word of God. 1 Corinthians 2:14 tells us that the natural man does not receive the things that are spiritual, because they seem foolish to them. Why? An unsaved person does not have the Holy Spirit and therefore cannot understand spiritual things. But when a sinner is converted, he suddenly finds the pages of the Bible glowing with truth, insight and divine wisdom. The Bible describes a new believer as a baby who demands to be fed the milk of God’s Word and will be hungry and not be satisfied unless he gets fed. Conversely if a person who is baptised but tells me he has no desire to attend Bible study or Sunday School, that is a serious ‘red flag.’

## **3. The Family Bond**

In Acts 2, the blood of the family of Heaven runs in the veins of true believers as fellow citizens and members of the household of God. However, if a supposed convert prefers the company of his worldly friends, it is a bad sign. One word of caution should be sounded: teens and youths have a natural desire to hang out with their peers in church. It often happens that false converts respond well to “recreational” type of youth fellowship. This possibility would be increased if the young people’s groups place an undue and unspiritual emphasis on recreational activities. Recreation is not synonymous with fellowship. The church is not a social club, but a family of believers who gather for the ministry of the Word, prayer and service.

## **4. Ability to Pray**

Another clear mark of grace is the practice of prayer. In Acts 2, we see the early believers gathering daily in the study of Scriptures and in prayer. Once converted, they realised they had a Great High Priest in heaven interceding for them. Their hearts are warmed as they unite in prayer and received definite answers to prayer.

The ability to pray is a wonderful sign of grace. A child of God desires to go into God’s very presence crying, Abba Father (Galatians 4:6). A child of God has left behind the petty, selfish and self-centred prayers of the unconverted, and progressed to prayers for power over sin and blessing in witness.

They become more concerned about spiritual things such as unconverted relatives than about their own temporal needs. If people profess conversion and yet panic at every trial, it is doubtful that the grace of prayer has been experienced. Older saints may slip away from prayer, to their shame and loss. True believers take their problems to the Lord in prayer with the confidence in, and in submission to, a good loving Father who hears and answers prayer.

## 5. The New Heart

Acts 2:46-47 describes the converts as having a new, pure and sincere heart. Truly converted people are ready to change their lifestyles to please God. The apostle Paul says, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). This new heart includes a reverential attitude towards worship of an awesome, Almighty and Holy God (verse 43). The new heart is very careful to obey God.

When so-called converts remain addicted to worldly possessions, ambitions, fashions, rock music, and are completely unmoved when advice is given from God's Word, we must doubt that the new heart has been received.

Unfortunately, some believers may over the years grow cold in their love for God, and go through seasons of disobedience. This is a serious Spirit-quenching sin that must be repented of.

## 6. Assurance

The new converts of Acts 2:41-47 possessed a good measure of assurance as they were glad and praising God (vv.46-47). Ephesians 1:13 speaks of the seal of assurance of the Holy Spirit that attests to the believer's true faith. We should not expect new believers to have great certainty and complete assurance. But they will possess an assurance that they belong to God's family such as feelings of peace and a sense of wonder at being heirs of Heaven.

## 7. Attacks of Satan

Although not mentioned in Acts 2, a true believer will experience attacks of Satan. He will wrestle against "the rulers of the darkness of this world" (Ephesians 6:12). Their struggles against remaining sin, the doubts and fears they feel, and their sense of inadequacy and unbelief rob them of their joy and peace they once had in Christ. Satan will often accuse believers and sow seeds of doubt: "how can you be a child of God if you ..." Satan did that to Joshua the high priest in Zechariah 3:1, but Jesus our Great High Priest is our Advocate who defends us and takes away our filth (Zechariah 3:2-5).

The marks of true conversion are: a broken contrite heart arising from conviction of sin, a new understanding of God's Word, a strong attachment to God's people, a new ability to pray, a new heart received, a measure of assurance marked by peace and joy, and the experience of spiritual warfare.

- Rev Lee Hock Chin

References for further reading:

*Seven Certain Signs of True Conversion*  
*How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?*

Peter Masters  
Donald Whitney

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### **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 1st 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 4th June	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Study of Calvin's Institutes - Chapter 8	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TODAY: 29/05/2016</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Peter <b>Organist:</b> Anthony <b>Pianist:</b> Keene <b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Margaret <b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael / Keene / Hannah <b>Lunch:</b> Rachael <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Joel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 05/06/2016</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan <b>Organist:</b> Anthony <b>Pianist:</b> Michael <b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Evelyn <b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael / Keene / Hannah <b>Lunch:</b> Hannah <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Scott</p>
<b>Message</b>	How Does a Church Function?	Behold the Man	
<b>Text</b>	Titus 3:8-11	John 19:4-5	
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 today:</b> Dr Martin will be leading a series of studies for those wishing to become members of the Church.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Pastor &amp; 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, Nana, Grace Lin, Odelia.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Nana, Patricia.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those on travels this week:</b> Beth Martin, Rev &amp; Mrs Sin, John &amp; Family.</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and as he seeks guidance for his PhD studies.</li> <li>• <b>Registry of Members &amp; Gift Aid Forms:</b> Please can all members of the congregation complete and return the forms to John as soon as possible.</li> <li>• <b>There will be Ladies Fellowship after lunch today.</b></li> </ul>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £652.59, Lunch: £49.08 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 32 (A) 11 (C), Evening: 20 (A) 5 (C)</p>			

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 16

**Q: Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?**

**A:** *The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind – descending from him by ordinary generation – sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.*

Comments:

The agreement which God made with Adam did not affect himself alone, but all his descendants. When Adam sinned, therefore, the whole of the human race, except Christ, incurred along with him his punishment – the punishment of death. They 'sinned in him and fell in him'. This result is in strict keeping with the plan on which all the world's affairs are conducted, for we still see children suffering on account of the misdeeds of their parents.

Scriptural Reference:

Romans 5:18-19, 1 Corinthians 15:22

## MEMORY VERSE

Next Week		
<p><b>Last Week</b></p> <p><i>"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:"</i></p> <p><b>Job 19:25</b></p>	<p><b>This Week</b></p> <p><i>"Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength:"</i></p> <p><b>Isaiah 26:4</b></p>	<p><i>"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."</i></p> <p><b>Isaiah 40:31</b></p>