



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. 44

LORD'S DAY 30 OCTOBER 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 91:1-2

Psalm 119:57-64

Opening Hymn *

RHC 46 – "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

RHC 82 – "This Day at Thy Creating Word"

Opening Prayer *

Jonathan Kim

Keene Chen

Gloria Patri *

Glory Be to the Father

Nicene Creed

Nicene Creed

Responsive Reading

Psalm 36

Second Hymn *

RHC 36 – "High in the Heavens, Eternal God"

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Keene Chen

Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *

RHC 355 – "Day By Day"

Scriptural Text

Malachi 2:17

John 20:22

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

The Verdict of History

Sent with Power

Closing Hymn *

RHC 429 – "We Have Not Known Thee as We Ought"

RHC 442 – "Soldiers of Christ, Arise"

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

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

THE SOLA SCRIPTURA PRINCIPLE

Adapted from Life BP Church Singapore Weekly, Sunday 27th October 2013

Today, churches all over the world remember the Protestant Reformation which began in 1517. We ought to thank God for this movement because we are now enjoying its results. The most important result was the restoration of the authority of Holy Scriptures, embodied in the guiding principle, *Sola Scriptura*, which is Latin for "by Scripture alone." Let us trace the events that led to this.

Prior to the Reformation, the Roman Church made itself the supreme authority over the Scriptures and exalted man-made traditions above the Scriptures. It kept the Scriptures from the people and placed its priesthood between the Scriptures and the people. The overall effect of this was the loss of the authority of the Scriptures in the lives of people.

In the latter part of a 12th century Peter Waldo, a French merchant, began to advocate the *Sola Scriptura* principle. His followers used nothing but the Scriptures for their preaching. However, for doing this they were excommunicated and persecuted.

In the 14th century, God raised up John Wycliffe, a Bible scholar at Oxford University. Wycliffe was much influenced by the *Sola Scriptura* principle. He became very bold in using the Bible to expose all the false teachings and practices of the Church. He also made the first English translation of the Bible. The Church bitterly opposed this translation, declaring that by it the Scriptures had been desecrated, that the pearl of the Gospel was now being scattered and trodden underfoot by swine. But God protected Wycliffe and he was able to continue his work. To promote Bible-reading, he established a group of itinerant preachers who went throughout England distributing the Scriptures while evangelizing and preaching the Gospel. For the impact that he made, Wycliffe became known as the 'Morning Star of the Reformation.'

In the 15th century God raised up John Huss in what is now the Czech Republic. Influenced by the writings of Wycliffe, Huss began to use the *Sola Scriptura* principle in his teaching and preaching. This immediately brought severe persecution. Although he was promised safe conduct to present his case at the Council of Constance, he was betrayed, condemned and burned at the stake.

Despite the efforts of these early reformers, the Roman Church still held on firmly to its supreme authority and kept Europe under its traditions and false teachings. The *Sola Scriptura* principle received full attention only in the 16th Century.

Martin Luther

A German monk named Martin Luther was browsing through the books in his monastery's library when he accidentally found a copy of the Bible. This raised his curiosity to a high degree: He read it with great excitement and was amazed to find what a small portion of the Scriptures was being taught to the people. So he devoted himself to study the Scriptures well in order that he would be able to teach its wonderful truths to the people. He also made the first German translation of the Bible.

After completing his training at the monastery, Luther began his ministry at Wittenberg. There he used the *Sola Scriptura* principle fully both in teaching at the university and in pastoring the church.

The spark that ignited the Reformation was the sale of indulgences. These were defined as the *'commutation for money of part of the temporal penalty due for sin, of the practical satisfaction that was a part of the sacrament of penance which also required contrition on the part of the penitent and absolution from a priest.* This is just like paying a fine to be let off from being jailed.

People were taught that if a person's sins were not satisfied by penance in this life, he would have to make satisfaction for them in Purgatory, where it is alleged that Christians endured great torments for a long time before entering heaven. The only solution was to buy indulgences for themselves. For a sum of money, the Pope could use his authority to shorten a person's time in Purgatory. There is no biblical basis for this.

In 1467 a papal bull extended the privilege of indulgences to include the souls who were already suffering in Purgatory, provided their living relatives purchased the indulgences for them. A person could now buy indulgences for himself – to keep himself from going to Purgatory, or for a deceased relative – to help him escape more quickly from Purgatory.

Indulgences became a roaring business which financed the building of St Peter's cathedral in Rome. They were sold at great discounts by skilled salesmen. One of them, Johann Tetzel, used a catchy jingle: *'As soon as the coin into the coffer rings, the soul out of Purgatory springs.'* His sales talk even included such blasphemous statements as *'The Lord our God no longer reigns, He has resigned all power to the pope.'*

When Tetzel started selling indulgences in a town near to Wittenburg, Martin Luther felt bound by his commitment to God and the Bible to speak up against it. He wanted to protect his congregation and students from being fooled and robbed of their money by the sale of indulgences. He wrote out a list of 95 statements, or theses against it with an announcement that these statements will form the basis for a public debate. He nailed them to the door of the church, which also functioned as the notice board of the church and university. This was done on the 31st of October, because the next day was All-Saints day when the church hall would be packed with his students and church members for a memorial service. The debate would take place just after the service.

Little did Luther know what far-reaching impact his 95 theses would have. Within four weeks they were copied out and sent throughout Germany and surrounding countries. Many became bold to speak out against the unscriptural teachings and practices of the Roman Church. This grew into the Protestant movement which eventually reformed the Church and broke away completely from Rome. With one voice they all sounded forth the well-known watchword of the Reformation: *"By Scripture alone (Sola Scriptura), by Faith alone, by Grace alone, Christ alone, glory to God alone."* Today, *Sola Scriptura* continues to be the first and most important guiding principle followed by all Protestant churches.

The Church Growth Movement

Today the Church is faced again with issues which violate the *Sola Scriptura* principle. The modern-day Church Growth Movement advocates the use of worldly techniques or carnal methods to increase church attendance. The basic philosophy is: As long as a method works in the world, it can be used to obtain results for the church. One church installed a special effects system costing half a million dollars that can produce smoke, fire, sparks and laser lights in the auditorium. The church had sent its staff to Las Vegas to study live special effects used in its entertainment halls.

By employing such techniques some churches are able to fill huge auditoriums with thousands of people several times a week. When we see this we might think: Since these techniques work and produce such good results, Shouldn't we change with the times? Why not keep our sermons short – only 10 minutes – so that we can have time for more meaningful activities, and people will have more to look forward to in each worship service?

Do not be fooled by the growth that such methods bring, as they are superficial. There is no real change in the hearts of sinners and no accompanying change of life. There is no holiness and fervent obedience to God that distinguishes the people of God from the people of the world.

Without following the Holy Scriptures, all our efforts will fail. Even if we are most zealous and fervent in serving the Lord, it will all be wasted effort if carried out without it. The Apostle Paul testified that before he was saved he was the most zealous Pharisee of his times. *"Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless."* (Philippians 3:6). And yet for all his efforts, the Lord gave him not a word of commendation, but a stern rebuke: *"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?"* (Acts 9:4) How shocked he must have been to learn that all his efforts to please the Lord were actually persecuting Him! Paul later wrote concerning his fellow Pharisees – *"For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge."* (Romans 10:3) He should know this well since he was once like them.

Without the right knowledge, all our best efforts are but filthy rags in God's sight. Whatever zeal or sincerity we have would be misdirected if what we do is not according to what God has given to us in His Holy Scriptures. So let us always seek the knowledge of God's Word which He has prescribed for doing His work.

The Authority of the Scriptures in Our Life

This also applies to the way that we conduct our life. With regard to marriage, the Scripture teaches that we should not be unequally yoked (2 Corinthians 6:14). Unfortunately many Christians today think otherwise and marry unbelievers. The Scripture teaches fathers to take responsibility for the spiritual nurture of their children (Ephesians 6:4), but many hardly spend time with their family because of work.

The Scripture teaches that we should lay up our treasures in heaven and not on earth. But many Christians are pursuing earthly treasures, taking huge loans which they cannot afford to service. The Scripture teaches us not to love the world neither the things that are in the world, and to be modest in our dressing, etc. But many today are compromising with the world – its manner of dressing, its music, and its values.

Let us be convinced that we must bring our life and every decision we make under the authority of the Word. Let the Scriptures have the final say over every area of our life. We will not go wrong if we rely on the Scriptures as our authority and guide. May God help us to be faithful in applying the *Sola Scriptura* principle in everything that we do.

- Rev Charles Seet

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
Maker of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God,
begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of
the Father, God of God,]
Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
By whom all things were made
[both in heaven and on earth];

Who for us men, and for our salvation,
came down and was incarnate
and was made man;
He suffered,
and the third day he rose again,
ascended into heaven;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And in the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

The *Nicene Creed* is a Christian statement of faith, It gets its name from the First Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.), where it was initially adopted.

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 2nd Nov 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 5th Nov 4pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 30/10/2016</u> Chairman: Jonathan/Keene Organist: Anthony Pianist: Michael Ushers: Tom / Margaret Sunday School: Hannah/Rachael Lunch: Rachael Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / Anthony
Message	A New Day is Coming	Sent with Authority	
Text	Malachi 3:1-3	John 20:23	

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: Dr Martin will continue the series of studies aimed at those wishing to become church members. • Baptism instruction classes: 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. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch today. 	<u>NEXT WEEK: 06/11/2016</u> Chairman: John / Joel Organist: Anthony Pianist: Keene Ushers: Jonathan/Evelyn Sunday School: Hannah/Rachael Lunch: Hannah Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Keene/Anthony

Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £371.60, Lunch: £35.60
Attendance - Morning: 32 (A) 11 (C), Evening: 19 (A) 5 (C)

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 38

Q: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A: *At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full ENJOYING OF GOD to all eternity.*

Comments:

We are here taught that there will be a resurrection, and after the resurrection a judgment. At that judgment those who have believed in Jesus will be blessed in the following ways: 1. They will be raised up with glorified bodies; 2. They will be acknowledge by Christ, the Judge, as his own people, and declared free from all guilt before an assembled world; 3. They will be taken to heaven, where they shall be happy with God for ever.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 15:43, Matthew 25:34, Revelations 21:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:17

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
"And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation." Psalm 35:9	"Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds." Psalm 36:5	"Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:4-5