



# 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. 05

**LORD’S DAY 31 JANUARY 2016**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Evening Service – 4pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 8

Psalm 18:1-3

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 49 – “How Great Thou Art!”

RHC 56 – “Jesus! The Very Thought of Thee”

*Opening Prayer \**

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 148

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 148 verses 1-6*  
(to the tune of Ballerma, RHC 130)

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*Announcements & Memory Verse*

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 380 – “Close to Thee”

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*Scriptural Text*

Titus 1:16

John 8:2-5

*Pastoral Prayer*

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Sermon Message*

*God’s Verdict on Empty Professions*

*With Whom do you Stand?*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 429 – “We Have Not Known Thee as We Ought”

RHC 406 – “Who Is on the Lord’s Side?”

*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.

# ARE YOU LISTENING TO THE SERMON?

*Adapted from Life BP Church Singapore Weekly - 12th October 2014*

A sermon is a message from God to you which comes through a human messenger. It is food for your soul. If you have the right attitude towards listening to sermons, you will not find them boring at all. Unfortunately some find it hard to endure a long sermon. After returning from church one Sunday a little boy said, "You know what, Mummy? I'm going to be a preacher when I grow up." "That's fine," said his mother. "But what made you decide that you want to be a preacher?" "Well," said the boy pensively, "I'll have to go to church on Sunday anyway. And I think it would be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit still and listen."

The longest sermon on record was preached in 1976 by Rev Robert Marshall, a minister of a church in Michigan. He preached for 60 hours and 31 minutes! The shortest sermon was preached by a chaplain at Paine College, Georgia. His topic at one college chapel hour was, "What does Christ answer when we ask, Lord, what's in religion for me?" The complete content of his sermon was just one word: "Nothing." He explained later that the one-word sermon was meant for people 'brought up on the gimme-gimme' gospel. When he was asked how long it took him to prepare the sermon he said, "Twenty years."

A good sermon takes hours of work to prepare. The preacher studies the Scripture text carefully, meditates on it and prays for God to show him what He wants to say to the congregation. He may put in ten hours or more of work just to compose a single sermon. And when he goes up to the pulpit he yields his mind and heart to the Holy Spirit to deliver the sermon. When we know the amount of effort put into a 40-minute sermon, the least we should do is to pay full attention to what is preached.

Some have a habit of falling asleep during sermons. If you have such a habit, please try to do something about it, e.g. retire to bed early on Saturday night. And remember this: The preacher's preaching can only be a valid excuse for falling asleep if it puts others to sleep as well.

Some suffer from amnesia after listening to a sermon. A few hours later, they can't remember what was preached at all – not even the sermon topic or the Scripture text. What they hear does not register in the brain or reach the heart – nothing is retained.

If you have been attending church regularly for two years, you would already have heard over 100 sermons by now. Can you remember the sermons you heard? What benefits have you received from them? If you cannot remember what you have heard or have not gained anything from them, why is this so?

Sermon-listening will not benefit anyone who is unwilling to put in the necessary effort. Jesus sometimes preached in parables – both to reveal as well as to conceal (Matthew 13:10-13; 34-35). Those who were diligent would eventually understand the meaning of the parable or they would take the trouble to seek for it. Those who were not diligent would not bother to find out the meaning and just prefer to forget what they have heard.

Listening to a sermon is not the same as listening to a lecture or a lesson. Unlike lectures, sermons are not meant just to provide you with new information. They are meant to move the will and the heart rather than to inform the mind. They are designed to call God's people to obey Him, and to train their conscience to recognize sin in their lives. Because of this, the same truths are often presented in different sermons, but in different ways and using different approaches of appeal or challenge.

In sermon after sermon we are instructed to love God and our fellow man; we are warned against sin and its consequences; we are presented with the person and teachings of Christ – how He died on the cross to take away our sin and how He resurrected from the grave. Why do we need to have such information repeated to us so many times? Because while all these things may be known very well in our minds, our wills and our hearts cannot grasp them permanently. Thus we need constant reminders and appeals to apply them.

When you listen to a sermon, please don't say, "I already know all this, and I have heard it so many times before. Why should I listen to the same thing again?" This will only switch your mind off to the rest of the sermon. Instead, say to yourself, "Even though I already know what I am about to listen, I believe that there is a personal message from God for me in this sermon. Perhaps it will reinforce and confirm what I have heard before. I must therefore give it full attention."

If your attitude and effort in listening to sermons improve, your soul will be greatly enriched and blessed by them. But if you have a negative attitude, whatever benefits you could have gained will be lost forever. Satan seeks to deprive people of the benefits of the sermons they hear.

We know this from the parable of the Sower – *“And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up...When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.”* (Matthew 13:4,19) Don't let the devil succeed in doing this to you. Let the seed of God's Word sink deeply into your heart so that it will not be snatched away. Your effort in listening to sermons can be categorized into three parts:

### **What to do *before* the sermon is preached**

1. Heart preparation – Pray that God will give you a teachable heart: *“Speak Lord, for Thy servant heareth”* (1 Samuel 3:9). Pray also for the preacher – that God may use him to speak to you, and that he may be able to make the message plain and easy for all to understand.
2. Mind preparation – *“Gird up the loins of your mind.”* (1 Peter 1:12) Look first at the sermon topic and text before it is preached. Read the Scripture text in your Bible beforehand. Remain alert throughout the sermon and do not doze off.
3. Will preparation – Convince yourself that there is something in every sermon you hear that is meant personally for you. Prepare to surrender yourself to God's will – whatever it may be – and do not allow your will to stand in the way of doing His will. Some try to evade what God is saying to them by thinking of people for whom the sermon they hear would be most appropriate, and they make plans to get recordings or transcripts of the sermon for them. When listening to sermons, think first about how it applies to yourself before thinking about how it applies to others.

### **What to do *when* the sermon is preached**

1. Keep your Bible open so that when the preacher makes any reference to a verse in the passage, you can see it immediately in front of you.
2. Listen not only with your ears, but with your eyes as well. The preacher communicates both with his voice and body. Observe his facial expressions and movements. Keep your eyes on him at all times, but don't be distracted either by the peculiarities of the preacher (e.g. his big nose, or the unique design on his tie) or his strange accent.
3. Record down the main points and verse references he mentions in a notebook. This will help you to stay focused. The notes can also be useful for future reference. Don't daydream or allow your thoughts to wander astray.
4. Let God speak to you through the sermon. According to Dr Philip Ryken, *“Through the inward ministry of the Holy Spirit, He uses His Word to calm your fear, comfort your sorrow, disturb your conscience, expose your sin, proclaim God's grace, and reassure you. But all these are matters of the heart rather than of the mind, so listening to a sermon can never be merely an intellectual exercise.”*

### **What to do *after* the sermon is preached**

1. Thank God for what you have heard (cf. Luke 17:12-19).
2. Reflect on it. This is what the time of quiet meditation at the end of the worship service is for. Whatever God impresses upon your heart, settle it immediately. Tell the Lord – *“I hear what You have just said loud and clear, and I now fully resolve to obey it, with Your help.”* If the sermon has brought conviction of sin, confess it immediately. If it has highlighted a virtue that you lack, decide to cultivate it. If it has shown you a command that you need to obey, act upon it right away. If it has revealed a promise of God to trust in, put your faith in it fully and act on the promise. James 1:22 tells us – *“Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”*
3. Clear up any doubts or things that you did not understand in the sermon. Ask the preacher or a mature Christian who heard it to explain them to you. The preacher will be very happy to answer such enquiries because he knows that people are paying attention and are interested in the sermon they have heard.
4. Share the lessons you have gained from it with others. Expressing them in your own words ensures that you have understood them. It also aids retention in the memory.

Finally, the way to know if you are really listening to sermons is by the way you live. Your life should reflect the sermons you have heard. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians who had heard his preaching, *“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”* (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

- Rev Charles Seet

# 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 3rd Feb              | 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 6th Feb               | 4pm | Bible Study & Prayer Meeting<br>Galatians - A Study of Freedom and Liberty |  |

| Next Lord's Day | Morning Service                | Evening Service            | LORD'S DAY DUTIES               |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Preacher</b> | Dr Carl Martin                 | Dr Carl Martin             | <b><u>TODAY: 31/01/2016</u></b> |
| <b>Message</b>  | The Modelling of Godly Leaders | The Bitterness of Betrayal | <b>Chairman:</b> John           |
| <b>Text</b>     | Titus 2:1-10                   | John 18:5-9                | <b>Organist:</b> Anthony        |

| 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>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor &amp; Mrs Ki, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Dr David Allen, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Matthew, Jonathan's father, Magdalene, Meredith, Toby, Ellie, Odelia.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Nana, Keene.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those on travels this week:</b> Margaret.</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister and as he continues his PhD studies.</li> <li>• <b>Chinese New Year Carry-in Lunch next Lord's Day:</b> Please speak to Sis. Rachael if you wish to contribute a dish.</li> <li>• <b>Please note that there will be no prayer meeting on Sat 13th Feb. Instead members of the church will be attending the TBS Thanksgiving Service. Please see Sis. Rachael or Hannah for more details.</b></li> </ul> |  | <b>Ushers:</b> Keene / Yetta<br><b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael / Hannah / Keene<br><b>Lunch:</b> Shami<br><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers<br><b>PA Crew:</b> Josias<br><br><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 07/02/2016</u></b><br><br><b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan<br><b>Organist:</b> Anthony<br><b>Pianist:</b> Keene<br><b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Evelyn<br><b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael / Hannah / Keene<br><b>Lunch:</b> CNY Carry-In<br><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers<br><b>PA Crew:</b> Joel |
| <b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £1646.80, Lunch: £52.52<br><b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 30 (A) 16 (C), Evening: 17 (A) 7 (C)  |  |   |

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 106

**Q: What do we pray for in the Sixth Petition?**

**A:** *In the Sixth Petition – (which is, AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL) – we pray, That God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.*

Comments:

*Temptation* means anything that would induce us to sin. And in this petition we ask one of two things from God – either that he would take all temptation away from us, or that he would enable us to resist and overcome it.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 26:41, Psalm 19:13, 2 Timothy 4:18

## MEMORY VERSE

|   | This Week  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Last Week</b><br>"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."<br><b>Romans 3:10</b> | "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."<br><b>Hebrews 4:12</b> | <b>Next Week</b><br>"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."<br><b>Nahum 1:7</b> |