



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. 31

LORD'S DAY 31 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 34:1-3	Psalm 103:1-5
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 15 – <i>"How Shall I Sing That Majesty"</i>	RHC 139 – <i>"One Day!"</i>
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Peter Koy	Keene Chen
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 23	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	RHC 344 – <i>"The Lord is My Shepherd"</i>	---
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Peter Koy	Keene Chen
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 409 – <i>"Take Time to Be Holy"</i>	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Jeremiah 17:15-18	John 19:28-30
<i>Pre-Message Hymn</i>	---	RHC 302 – <i>"When I See the Blood I Will Pass Over You"</i>
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>No "Instant" Spiritual Maturity</i>	<i>Finished!</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 379 – <i>"O for a Faith That Will Not Shrink"</i>	RHC 185 – <i>"Hallelujah, What a Saviour!"</i>
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	---
* 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 GOSPEL, THE HOPE OF MANKIND (PART 9)

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 8th May 2016

When we think of a relation between Christian faith and Christian culture, there are a few things that may surprise us. Let me list a few things. (1) Jesus seems to indicate that it was not His intention to build His own kingdom in this world. John 18:36, "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." If His desire was to make His name popular and to build His own power belt on earth, He would not have said so as in this verse. His birth was literally obscure, and He did not promote Himself to earn more popularity or reputation. He did not go to cosmopolitan areas but ministered quite often around the Sea of Galilee. (2) Jesus told His disciples to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. The context of this teaching is important. Matthew 5:13-16 says, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (a) The scope of the disciples' testimonies and life is the whole world. Jesus helped them see the bigger arenas of their activities. The whole world is their parish. It may imply that their influences must be felt throughout the whole world. (b) The means of achieving this goal is good works in verse 16. If they are not good as the salt, they will be cast out. In contrast, if they are doing good works and the world sees it, then the world (men) will glorify the Father in heaven. Again, it indicates that Christian influence or culture must come from the way of Christian life, by which I mean a good life. (c) It could be understood that a primary reason that the name of the Lord is not honored is none other than professing Christians who do not live up to the life of truth, sincerity, integrity, compassion, patience, and love, according to their confession or Christian faith. Such Christians are indicted of their own dishonorable life. Paul's harsh words against the Jews may have to be echoed in our wounded consciences. He said, ". . . the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you . . ." (Romans 2:24). (3) Jesus and His Word have transformed the world. Though the beginning was small and invisible, the Christian faith has created the most influential culture in human history for a very long time. There is no other teaching, religion, or civilization that has covered more areas/regions than the Christian faith. He has power but did not use it to conquer the world with it. He is the truth itself, but He did not become an Inquisitor to torture and torment all who disagreed with Him. He is pure and holy but did not act as a moral judge to condemn all sinners. He is life, but was killed on the cross. He did not use conventional means to attain to His goals. He was like a sheep led to a slaughter house. He did not take arms to fight back. But His name prevailed and His followers have extended their influences bigger and bigger. His truth transformed the world, and Christian faith has grabbed minds and souls of mankind and made them turn away from sin and seek after His righteousness. It is not just a motto that we ought to return to Christ. Our mind and soul must be fully offered to Him, and our thoughts must be in subjection to His thoughts.

Then, we come back to the square one. We have not honored the Lord as we ought to. What can we find more from our faults and is there any caution we must take to improve our position or condition before the eyes of the world? (1) We need to consider our attitude toward the world. It is closely related to our attitude toward unbelievers including people from other religious persuasions. Whenever people in the world speak against Christianity or express their ill feelings against Christian faith, they name words like Crusade or Inquisition. In some countries, Christianity is labeled as a religion of Imperialism. Whatever words or names they use, every one of them is related to professing Christians' mistreatments of others. There is an attitude of superiority, whether it comes from pride, spiritual eagerness, religious zeal, or even self-imposed moral code. Misdemeanors and so-called religious atrocities have made many people turn their backs against Christianity. There is so much Christian contribution to the betterment of life in general in history, and they are buried under legitimate accusations against all the offences Christians and their churches have made in history. The consequences are found in responses and reactions the world shows today toward the name of Jesus, the messages of Christ, sin, salvation, and all other biblical doctrines.

(2) The world sees Christianity as a cause of all problems today. It is not seen as a solution to the problems it faces today. Also there is another problem. The accusations coming from the world against Christianity come as a result of the confusion over the Christian faith and its cultural influences and practitioners. The so called Christian West has been understood as the same as Christian religion. Thus, all the faults and wrongs Western society has committed are seen as evils committed by the Christian religion. This incorrect view has led the world to be antagonistic to the Christian faith. It produces an unwanted consequence, too. Things that were considered best in the past through positive influences of Christian culture are thrown out, denied, despised, or neglected, which effectively cuts the present generation from its previous generations. There is a historical disconnection. The present generation should not forget all the benefits coming from Christian background. Think of the Good Samaritan story, which is widely used by all men. Hospitals and orphanages are also deeply rooted in the Christian philanthropic spirit. Religious freedom, human rights and universal education are also deeply rooted in the Christian spirit. They are just a few examples.

By now, we must have learnt a few important lessons to remember.

(1) Faith and work must be understood side by side. The fruits of justification by faith are good works, which is the will of God. Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." We know who we are by our fruits. It shows that our good works and good testimonial Christian life are not peripheral but essentials, not only for our spiritual health but also as the correctional antidote for the perverted view of the world toward Christian faith.

(2) Genuine faith cannot but transform us to be better and cleaner vessels for God. Of course, the Spirit of God within us helps and assists us to achieve this goal. At the same time, it is because the power of the truth of God. Faith presupposes that there is its object(s). The object of Christian faith is Christ alone, who has testified that the Scriptures are His testimonies. The Scriptures, the written word of God, helps us know and understand who Christ is. Thus, accurate knowledge of the Scriptures is an important part of our faith. Scripture knowledge also implies that there is understanding of what we know. Paul prayed for such understanding in Ephesians 1:17-18, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints." Hence we must know that knowledge and understanding are important, especially, in relation to the truth of God. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." It means that the Word of God has power to transform us. It is not just a theoretical talk. It has been known to us that ideas change people. Ideas also have consequences, as we have learnt from the history of thoughts classes. If ideas can change and produce results, then how much more the truth of the living God will change us and produce results in us? Isn't it true that the Truth is bigger than ideas? I'll continue....

- 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 3rd Aug	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 Aug	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	<u>TODAY: 31/07/2016</u> Chairman: Peter / Keene Organist: Mrs Martin Pianist: Joel Ushers: Tom / Margaret Sunday School: Hannah Lunch: Magdalene / Jonathan Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott <u>NEXT WEEK: 07/08/2016</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Keene Ushers: Tom / Keene Sunday School: Rachael / Hannah / Keene Lunch: Shami Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Joel
Message	What Hinders You from Baptism?	The Body of Jesus and the Cross	
Text	Acts 8:26-40	John 19:31-34	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: Dr Martin will continue the study on "Building Firm Foundations". • Basic Bible Knowledge Class, 2.30pm: Dr Martin will continue the series of studies aimed at those wishing to become church members. For those seeking membership, a meeting with Rev Lim will be held on 7:00pm 13th August • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after fellowship lunch. • Dessert Fellowship: This will be held after evening worship service. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and as he seeks guidance for his PhD studies. • Baptism Service, Sunday 7th August 2016: Please join us for this special occasion. We will also be observing the Lord's Supper. • Church Maintenance, Saturday 13th Aug: Please come and support the church maintenance and cleaning. • Church 20th Anniversary and Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday 14th August: Please invite friends and family to join us for the anniversary. Also, please note we will be holding the ACM as well. 			
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £558.59, Lunch: £37.51 Attendance - Morning: 38 (A) 8 (C), Evening: 19 (A) 3 (C)			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 25

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

A: Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself A SACRIFICE, to satisfy Divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

Comments:

The duties of a priest were to offer sacrifices and pray for the people; and this is what Christ, as our priest, does for us. When he was here on earth, he offered himself as a sacrifice, and now that he is in heaven, he intercedes for us with his Father. We are here told, likewise, that the purposes for which Christ offered himself as a sacrifice were: 1. To satisfy the justice of God on account of our sin; and 2. To bring us back to God as dear children.

Scriptural Reference:

Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 9:28, Colossian 1:20, Hebrews 7:25

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next 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	"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1	"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1