



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. 21 No. 27

LORD'S DAY 02 JULY 2017

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 92:1-2	Psalm 95:1-3
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 2 – "O Worship the King"	RHC 317 – "The Solid Rock"
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 70	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 70 second version</i> (to the tune of Crimond, RHC 344)	---
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 109 – "Jesus Is All the World to Me"	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	1 Corinthians 4:8-13	Jeremiah 25:15-38
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Whose Fool are You?</i>	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 106 – "Christ Liveth in Me"	RHC 442 – "Soldiers of Christ Arise"
<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.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." - Proverbs 4:23

CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT HYPOCRISY - PART 2

Adapted from New Life BP Singapore Weekly, Sunday 18th June 2017

Praying to Be Heard (vs. 5-8)

The second of Jesus' examples of religious piety and the one he deals with at greatest length is prayer. He assumes his disciples will pray, but he is concerned about how prayer is done. Jesus warns us not to seek man's praise, assures us that those who do will get only an earthly answer, commands us to perform such acts privately, and promises that God, who hears in secret, will reward us openly.

Jesus warns of two wrong types of prayer.

1. *Ostentatious prayer (vv.5–6)*

In synagogue services public prayer was customarily led by a male member of the congregation who stood in front of the ark of the law and discharged this responsibility. A man could easily succumb to the temptation of praying up to the audience/congregation. The acceptable clichés, the appropriate sentiments, the well-pitched fervency, all become tools to win approval, and perhaps to compete with the chap who led in prayer last week.

But whenever a person prays in order to enhance his own reputation, God is not listening.

We have an example of this in Christ's parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The Pharisee "*stood up and prayed about himself*" (Lk 18:11). He had his reward; he was noticed by the people standing by. They must have said, "Look at that Pharisee! How pious he is!" Yet Jesus said that it was the tax collector who was justified. He did not call attention to himself but rather "*stood at a distance,*" praying, "*God, have mercy on me, a sinner*" (v. 13). He had his reward in heaven.

2. *Repetitious prayer (vv. 7–8)*

The second kind of wrong prayer is repetitious prayer, which Jesus identifies as characteristic of Gentiles or pagans. The prayers of the priests of Baal in the days of Elijah are an example. They called on Baal "*from morning till noon,*" calling louder and louder and even "*slashed themselves with swords and spears*" (see 1 Kings 18:25–29). But Baal did not hear them.

Jesus is not condemning long prayers in these verses since he himself spent long nights and many hours in prayer. What he is condemning is "*vain repetition.*" Sadly, many prayers are like this. Indeed, we can even be idle in our repetition of the so-called Lord's Prayer, which follows these verses.

What, then, is to characterize our prayers?

Jesus mentions two things. First: *“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly”* (6:6). We will comprehend Jesus’ point better if we each ask ourselves these questions: Do I pray more frequently and more fervently when alone with God than I do in public? Do I love the secret place of prayer? Is my public praying simply the overflow of my private praying?

How, then, should we pray? Jesus himself gives us a wonderful example, usually referred to as “The Lord’s Prayer,” but more appropriately designated “The Lord’s Model Prayer.”

The final *“act of righteousness”* Jesus discusses is fasting. In the Jewish calendar there were certain special fasts in which everybody participated. These took place in connection with the high feast days, such as the Day of Atonement or the Jewish New Year. Fasts might also be called when, for example, the autumn rains failed to appear; these fasts, too, would be national in scope. In addition, many individuals would fast at other times, allegedly for reasons of moral and religious self-discipline, and especially as a sign of deep repentance and brokenness before the Lord.

But what began as spiritual self-discipline degenerated into an occasion for pompous self-righteousness. Some would wear glum expressions on their faces, go about their business unwashed and unkempt, and sprinkle ashes on their head, all to inform peers that they were fasting. What was once a sign of humiliation became a sign of self-display.

The issue is not how often we should fast. It is how we fast and why. *“But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; Thou thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. (vv. 17–18)*. As far as the “how” is concerned, we are to do it privately before God and not to seek attention from men. Once the believer has told someone about his fasting, God is looking the other way. However, God is conscious of all forms of self-denial for His sake and is pleased with His faithful servants.

Conclusion

The question is raised in its most practical form: Whom am I trying to please by my religious practices? Honest reflection on that question can produce most disquieting results.

Genuine piety is superlatively attractive. But the real beauty of righteousness must not be tarnished by sham. May God help us!

- Rev Gabriel Gan

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 5th July	7pm	Mid-Week Outreach Bible Study (To be held at Metropolitan Tabernacle)	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 8th July	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 02/07/2017</u> <i>Chairman:</i> John <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Joel <i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Evelyn <i>Sunday School:</i> Rachael <i>Lunch:</i> Maureen <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott / Anthony <u>NEXT WEEK: 09/07/2017</u> <i>Chairman:</i> John <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Matthew <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Joel <i>Sunday School:</i> Rachael <i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott / Anthony
Message	Kingdom Power	A Seventy Year Gap	
Text	1 Corinthians 4:14-20	Jeremiah 25:13-14	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "<i>Building Firm Foundations</i>". • Study of the Book of Psalms (3pm): Dr Martin will lead the study using the book "<i>The Flow of the Psalms</i>" by Palmer Robertson. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology: 4th-6th July 2017. The theme this year is "<i>Our Glorious Reformation Legacy - 500th Anniversary</i>". 	

Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £357.70; Love Gift: £150; 18/06/17 Offering: £961.10; Maintenance Fund: £100 Attendance - Morning: 36 (A) 2 (C), Evening: 11 (A) 1 (C)	Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,490.50
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SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 72

<p>Q: What is the Eighth Commandment? <i>A: The Eight Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.</i></p> <p><u>Scriptural Reference:</u> Exodus 20:15</p>

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."</i> Luke 11:9	<i>"For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."</i> Luke 11:10	<i>"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion."</i> Psalm 71:1