



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. 06

LORD'S DAY 05 FEBRUARY 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 31:1-5

Psalm 119:145-152

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 348 – *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

RHC 215 – *"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

Keene Chen

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 49

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 49 verses 1-11
(to the tune of Bethlehem, RHC 15)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

Keene Chen

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 389 – *"Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord"*

Scriptural Text

Malachi 4:4

John 21:24

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Aren't we Forgetting Something?

His Testimony Is True

*Closing Hymn **

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

RHC 382 – *"I Would Be True"*

*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.

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

TEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR GOD-HONOURING WORK LIFE

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 15th January 2017

Introduction

(adapted and edited from *Work and Leisure in the Life of a Christian*, Cornelis Van Dam and Kristen Kottelenberg Alkema, Burlington, 2004, 3-12)

We all spend a great part of our time each day in secular work and it is important to know the biblical guidelines on work as a Christian. Here are some helpful precepts for us to note.

1. God works and we are called to reflect His image.

The ancient Greeks celebrated a life of contemplation and reflection as being a higher form of work than that of menial labour. "It is true that both occupation and leisure are necessary but it is also true that leisure is higher than occupation, and is the end to which occupation is directed The feelings which play produces in the mind are feelings of relief from exertion: and the pleasure it gives provides relaxation. Leisure is a different matter : we think of it as having in itself intrinsic pleasure, intrinsic happiness, and intrinsic felicity. Happiness of that order does not belong to those who are engaged in occupation; it belongs to those who have leisure. Those who are engaged in occupation are so engaged with a view to some end which they regard as still unattained" (Aristotle, "The Politics" as quoted in Mielaender 2000, 59).

God knows and requires honest hardwork. The connection between human work and divine work is established explicitly in the giving of the law on Sinai : '*Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:). For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it*' (Exodus 20:9, 11).

Leland Ryken summarizes the significance of work when he writes : "Throughout the Bible, God is portrayed as an extremely active worker. In itself, this affects how we view human work. If God works, work is good and necessary. It is as simple as that. God's work is a model for human work, showing us that human work in the world is worth doing in a purposive, enjoyable, and fulfilling manner" (Ryken 1995, 165).

2. God derives satisfaction from His work.

It is one thing to take note of the fact of God's work. It is even more instructive, however, to reflect on God's attitude towards His own work. It is clear from the Scriptures that God does not work because He has to, or to fill the time, or for some other reasons of necessity. God derives satisfaction and pleasure from the work of His hands. His work is fulfilling and meaningful and we should do the same. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, '*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*'

There is no substitute for the feeling of satisfaction and contentment that comes at the moment when you just know that what you have done is very good in the eyes of God.

3. God provides for us through His work.

The tensions and anxiety that we face in connection with work belong to this life, but that does not mean that the connection between work and our provisions will not continue in the millennium in the earth. Isaiah provides us a hint of this when he says : '*And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them*' (Isaiah 65:21-23). Thank God for the financial provisions through our work for our families and the church and society.

4. God has commanded man to work, and to work within the framework of His commands.

5. God holds us accountable for our work and expects to be acknowledged through it.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 says, 'Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.' We neither own our work, the gifts that we possess which we use to work, nor the rewards that we are able to accumulate as a result of our work. They are all gifts of God. Therefore, we ought to give honour and glory to God, who is the rightful owner of everything and we are just stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

6. God provides particular gifts designed to meet particular needs in the advancement of His kingdom.

7. The fall of man has radically affected our work.

Work has become toil: thorns and thistles frustrate our efforts, and the fallen man seeks to glorify himself rather than his Creator through his work. We are to see God through the rewards of our work. The curse of the fall not only contributes to the drudgery and tediousness of work; it also has resulted in various vices and temptations that are particularly felt in the workplace. Some become preoccupied with the satisfaction and the rewards of work and turn it into idolatry. Others seek to avoid its unpleasant aspects and fall victim to the vice of laziness but work is not a curse and can be a joy as well in the will of God.

8. Work is not only an individual, but also a social activity.

Work is a social activity and experience and expertise is cultivated by working with others. Tubal-cain was an *'instructor of every artificer in brass and iron'* (Genesis 4:22), suggesting that the iron workers of early civilization received an apprenticeship under watchful eyes.

Our work does not normally take place in a vacuum. Work by its very nature is generally accomplished in partnership with others. God gave Eve as a helpmeet already in Eden, and we see throughout the Scriptures the pattern of working together established as normative. In the New Testament, the image is used several times of a body, with various workers in God's kingdom assigned different tasks according to their gifts.

9. God takes pleasure in beauty and the Scriptures do not simply focus on the functional and utilitarian aspects of work.

Given our natural inclination to highlight the economic dimensions of work, we should take note that Scriptures does not present work simply in its utilitarian function. We already have seen how God delights in His work and derives satisfaction from it, not because of what it accomplishes, but for the sake of the work itself. Let us work productively and creatively with our hands to honour God and contribute and care for the society in a practical way.

10. Christ also worked as part of his active obedience, and the believer's work through Christ is part of obedience.

The first principle we highlighted was the pattern of work as established by God and the satisfaction He derives from His work. The subsequent principles were mentioned to highlight the different dimensions of this pattern as revealed in the Scriptures. We ought to emulate the Spirit of Christ in our work today.

Conclusion

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 says, 'For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.'

Pray for a fruitful year of delightful labour that we may glorify God through our secular work.

Rev Jack Sin

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 8th 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 11th Feb	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: 05/02/2017</u>
Message	There's a Great Day Coming	Books and the Book	Chairman: John / Keene
Text	Malachi 4:5	John 21:25	Organist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Anthony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations". • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Study of the Book of Psalms: at 3pm, Dr Martin will lead a Bible Study on the book of Psalms, using the book "<i>The Flow of the Psalms</i>" by Palmer Robertson. • Sunday Evening Video Series: After Evening Service today there will be a Video Series on "<i>Mastering Your Money</i>". • Church Maintenance Fund: The Church needs to undergo some significant repairs in the coming months; a Maintenance Fund has been set up for anyone wishing to offer a love gift to assist with the costs. • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. 			Ushers: Tom / Evelyn
			Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael
			Lunch: Hannah
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Scott / Joel
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 12/02/2017</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £1044.70; Church Maintenance Fund: £110 Attendance - Morning: 45 (A) 11 (C), Evening: 14 (A) 1 (C)</p>			Chairman: John
			Organist: Anthony
			Pianist: Keene
			Ushers: Jonathan / Joel
			Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael
			Lunch: Volunteers
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Scott / Anthony
			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £2,180

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 52

Q: What are the reasons annexed to the Second Commandment?

A: The reasons annexed to the Second Commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

Comments:

The special reasons added why we should observe this commandment are: 1. God is our Sovereign (I, the Lord); 2. God is our owner (thy God); 3. God is zealous for his own worship (am a jealous God).

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 95:3, Exodus 34:14

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace."</i></p> <p>Proverbs 11:12</p>	<p><i>"There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand."</i></p> <p>Proverbs 19:21</p>	<p><i>"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."</i></p> <p>Proverbs 3:13</p>