



# 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. 32

**LORD'S DAY 06 AUGUST 2017**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Evening Service – 4pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 145:10-13

Psalm 47:6-8

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 49 – *"How Great Thou Art!"*

RHC 43 – *"God is Still on the Throne"*

*Opening Prayer \**

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 75

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 75*

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(to the tune of All Saints New, RHC 438)

*Announcements & Memory Verse*

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 113 – *"It Is Glory Just to Walk with Him"*

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*Scriptural Text*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Jeremiah 29:1-14

*Pastoral Prayer*

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Sermon Message*

*Owned and Occupied*

*Finding God*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 120 – *"Now I Belong to Jesus"*

RHC 473 – *"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"*

*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.

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

# **FINISHING WELL MEANS STARTING WELL**

**Adapted from Covenant BP Church Weekly, Sunday 30th July 2017**

At the past Retirees' Bible Study, we started on a new series of messages entitled "The Christian Life - Beginning and Ending Well."

It was a topic that the committee wanted to have to prepare our retirees' for their inevitable promotion to glory.

What legacy do we leave behind as Christians? How well have we run the race? What are some things we must do to finish well?

It was made clear that we would not focus on issues such as retirement plans, preparing a will, or leaving an earthly legacy behind. It would focus mainly on spiritual preparedness - which also has earthly repercussions.

And while there are many spiritual components, 5 stood out.

1. Making Sure of Your Salvation - Are You Sure You've Started Well?
2. Continuing Well - Are You Growing in Knowledge?
3. Continuing Well - Are You Growing in Godliness?
4. Continuing Well - Are You Growing in Service?
5. Dying Well - How Do You Know You Can End Well?

These components were drawn from Paul - who in his last days was confident that he had started well and would finish well.

## **Paul Started and Finished Well**

Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 - *"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

Here, Paul was at the end of his life. He was about to die anytime at the hand of Caesar - *"the time of my departure is at hand."* And he was ready to die - *"I am now ready to be offered."*

The reason he was ready was because he had completed his work. His work was 3 fold - *"he had fought a good fight, he had finished his course, and he had kept the faith."*

He was confident that he was going to heaven - *"henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day."*

Every Christian must have these components if he is to finish well. You can only finish well if you are ready to die at anytime. And you can only be ready to die at anytime when you are confident you are going to heaven and you have been pursuing the things that God has called you to do.

The Christian must have fought the good fight. This refers to a fight against self and sin. Hebrews 12:4 - *"Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."*

The Christian is to fight against sin because he has been freed from sin. 1 John 3:9 - *"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."* Therefore a Christian is to grow in godliness.

The Christian is also to finish his course. This course or race refers to the race toward Christian maturity. Philippians 3:12,14 - *“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

The Christian must grow in maturity. And this can only be achieved by knowledge. Ephesians 4:11,13 - *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”*

Paul was ready to die because he had grown in maturity, in knowledge, and as a full grown Christian, he was serving God.

The Christian must also keep the faith. This means we must keep on believing Christ and his Word and upholding it. Luke 11:28 says, *“But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.”*

Jesus himself said that it is necessary to hold fast to the end. Matthew 24:13 - *“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”*

Because of all these markers in his life, Paul was confident that he would finish well. Naturally there are exceptions - the thief on the cross neither had the time or the opportunity to grow in knowledge and maturity - but he had genuine faith. That was enough to save him. He started well.

### **Have You Started Well?**

If keeping the faith is so important, then having the faith is basic. To end well, you must have at least started well.

There are many who believe themselves saved but are actually not. Some are “outed” in this life.

For example, there are those who receive the gospel with joy and believe for a season. But their belief is not saving faith. When the temptations or persecutions come, these fall away. This is what Jesus taught in the Parable of the Sower.

Examples of these abound in the Scripture - Judas Iscariot, Simon the Magician, and Demas. They abound in church history too - most of the Israelites in the wilderness were disallowed from entering the promised land because of unbelief; and the apostates in the early church who recanted Christ to avoid death. All of us know at least one person who professed to be Christian but no longer follows Christ now. Hebrews 3:19 - *“So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”*

But for those not “outed” in this life, because of their cultural Christianity, they will find that they are not Christians on Judgment Day.

Matthew 7:21 - *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”*

False belief and profession is not uncommon. Some believe that a sinner’s prayer, or their baptism, or their church attendance have turned them into Christians.

This is why it is important to make sure of your salvation - to know that you have started well; to know that you have heeded Jesus’ commands in Mark 1:15 - *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”*

Have you started well? Have you truly believed the gospel and repented of your sins? You can’t finish well without it.

- Rev Mark Chen

# 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 9th August    7pm <b>Mid-Week Outreach Bible Study</b>	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 12th August    4pm <b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b>	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<b>TODAY: 06/08/2017</b>
<b>Message</b>	Marriage, Family & Faithfulness	Serving God & Community	<b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan
<b>Text</b>	1 Corinthians 7:1-13	Jeremiah 29:1-14	<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 "<i>Building Firm Foundations</i>".</li> <li>• <b>Study of the Book of Psalms (3pm):</b> Dr Martin will lead the study using the book "<i>The Flow of the Psalms</i>" by Palmer Robertson.</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies.</li> <li>• <b>Lord's Supper:</b> We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ushers:</b> Daniel / Evelyn</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Maureen</p> <p><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>PA Crew:</b> Scott / Joel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 13/08/2017</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> John</p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Anthony</p> <p><b>Pianist:</b> Joel</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Jonathan</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>PA Crew:</b> Scott / Anthony</p>

<b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £1010.40; Lunch: £39.30; Baalah: £50.00 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 31 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 12 (A) 1 (C)	<b>Church Maintenance Fund Total:</b> <b>£3,490.50</b>
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## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 78

**Q: What is forbidden in the Ninth Commandment?**

**A:** *The Ninth Commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name..*

Comment:

This commandment refers to our *words*. It commands us to be careful to speak *the truth* at all times, to stand up for it when it is assailed, and to seek to advance it by all means in our power. And it forbids us to do anything which might make others believe what is not true – which is *lying*; and especially where anyone's character is concerned – which is *slander*. In ordinary intercourse the rule is, Speak the truth in love. In witness-bearing the rule is, Speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Scriptural Reference:

Ephesians 4:31, Psalm 15:3

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."</i> <b>Deuteronomy 31:6</b>	<i>"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."</i> <b>Colossians 3:17</b>	<i>"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."</i> <b>Romans 15:4</b>