



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. 33

LORD'S DAY 13 AUGUST 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:6-7

1 Chronicles 16:8-11

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 42 – *"Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him"*

RHC 93 – *"To God Be the Glory"*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

*Apostles' Creed **

Apostle's Creed

Responsive Reading

Psalm 76

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 76 verses 1-9
(to the tune of Cleansing Fountain, RHC 173)

Announcements &

John Poh

John Poh

Memory Verse

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 471 – *"A Christian Home"*

Scriptural Text

1 Corinthians 7:1-13

Jeremiah 29:1-14

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Marriage, Family & Faithfulness

Serving God & Community

The Lord's Supper

Dr Carl Martin

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 194 – *"Alas! And Did My Saviour Bleed?"*

RHC 450 – *"To the Work!"*

Benediction/3-Fold

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Amen **

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

BIBLICAL COUNSEL FOR THE BACKSLIDING

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 6th August 2017

Introduction

Living in an enticing and compromising world, one of the real dangers in our daily personal walk with the Lord is backsliding or spiritual declension. It is a slow process of waning in our love for God, His Word and His people. It is often caused by a competing love for the world, the cares and burdens of life, deceitfulness of riches and a corresponding loss of interest in spiritual things. No interest or hunger and thirst for the Word or fellowship, for prayer or worship and no resistance against sin are symptoms of a lukewarm heart and possible backsliding to come. A person can be coming to church on Sunday for worship regularly and be backsliding at the same time.

Backsliding is a serious sin warned against throughout the entire Bible. Prophets like Hosea and Jeremiah were called of God to admonish and reprove a whole backsliding nation.

A sad revelation of the condition of the people was this: *“my people are bent to backsliding from me”* (Hosea 11:7; 13:9; 4:6; 5:5; 7:8; 9:11). It is a lamentable fact today that many churches are languishing today because the members are backsliding in the pews and slipping into worldliness and indifference to God. We are constantly bombarded by the allurements of the world and work, the attractiveness of riches and worldly pleasures and enticing temptations parade themselves daily before us in our office and in the world. The Christian, if not careful, will slowly be conformed to the world, backsliding slowly into spiritual indolence, lack of desire for fellowship, worship, prayer and the Word. A sense of worldliness and selfish ambition fan the downslide into spiritual inactivity and oblivion. Hosea stated clearly : *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”* (Hosea 4:6). Ignorance of the Word and dullness to spiritual things and a veneration of idols and worldly things and even work and wealth can be the causes of backsliding for Christians. What then, if any, is the remedy of such an urgent spiritual malady? Is there any spiritual antidote or assistance from the Lord? There are four things most needful as a panacea for treating the condition of backsliding. We will enumerate them here briefly.

Firstly, the first step to remedy of backsliding takes place **in the inner closet of secret private prayer** (2 Chronicles 7:14). It stems from a heart of true evangelical repentance. It is the prodigal son (Luke 15:18) who must say, *“I will . . . go to my father.”* It includes, according to Louis Berkhof, a volitional, intellectual, emotional aspect. In prayer, commit to the Lord your waywardness and ask Him to forgive you and restore you to fellowship and communion. J. R. Beeke said, “We may distinguish at least five steps in true repentance: a) searching out sin, b) grieving for sin, c) confessing sin, d) fleeing from sin, and e) bowing under divine punishment” (J. R. Beeke, *Backsliding Disease and Cure* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987], 56). **True evangelical repentance involves a conscious turning away and forsaking of sin** (the Greek *metanoeo* means to change one’s mind, *BAGD*, 511) **and a turning to God in confession and never to do it again** (Acts 26:20; Ezekiel 14:6).

Secondly, the believer **must avail himself to all means of grace** (Malachi 3:16; Hebrews 10:24–25). By this, we mean church worship, coming to the Lord's Supper, hearing the Word, fellowship, Bible study and corporate prayer. There is power in these ordained avenues of Christian fellowship and worship to stir up our souls to godliness, faith, righteousness and sanctification and the believer must not be slack in availing himself to these blessed opportunities of growing in the faith and the fear of God.

Thirdly, it is **a return to daily Quiet Time and devotion, in Bible reading and prayer**. Our personal devotion to the Lord is a mark of spirituality. Do you spend quality time with the Lord in prayer, confessing your sins, interceding for others, praising and worshipping Him (Psalm 3:5; Mark 1:35)? Do you have a systematic Bible reading programme and do you strive to apply biblical principles in your daily living? This will keep you from backsliding or vice versa. You need to be disciplined and determined to grow in godliness, holiness and Christian piety. Nothing short of a desire for God and a holy hatred for sin will keep you away from constant temptations. **Cultivate a healthy fear for God** (2 Corinthians 7:1) **and a sense of accountability to Him** (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Finally, it is faithful commitment to God **in the church in edifying service and fruitful ministry** (1 Peter 4:10–11). Involvement breeds commitment. Avail yourselves to come to worship and serve God in His ministries, the Young Adults Fellowship, Youth Fellowship, Neighbourhood Bible Class, Sunday School, Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting, worship and to attend the church camp. How can you combat against worldly influence, if not to be in good Christian company and fellowship? Make a conscious effort to seek God first and be part of the ministry of the church to bring the gospel to others, to intercede for one another, to encourage and strengthen the faith of other believers. This is a sure check against personal backsliding if you put the Lord first in your own life and honour Him with your time, talent and treasure in the ministry. **There is a balm of Gilead for backsliding sinners** in the all-sufficient blood of Christ; for sin-black creatures, a blood-red satisfaction and a white-robed righteousness is available (Romans 5:8–11).

How can we check against this spiritual decline? In summary, the following are suggested steps towards this end.

Directions for Preventing Backsliding

1. Be well grounded in the devotion and directions of true religion (know your Bible and obey it) (Mark 1:35).
2. Get every sacred truth which you believe into your heart and see that all are digested into holy love and practice (James 1:22).
3. Take heed of the depravity of your soul and the sin of presumption and take heed lest you think you know better than God and fall away slowly and subtly (Psalm 19:13).
4. Take heed of the company that you mix with, that they be godly men and not worldly companions who will mislead you (1 Corinthians 15:33).

5. Be watchful against the sins of covetousness, malice, hatred and anger that can draw us deeper into other sins (Colossians 3:5-13).
6. Take heed lest the world or any thing steal your heart away from your God (Matthew 6:21, 23).
7. Keep a strict discipline and control of your fleshly appetite, thoughts and senses (1 John 2:15–16).
8. Keep as far as you can from temptations and all occasions and opportunities of sinning (remember Joseph in Genesis 39:9). Have a healthy fear of God.
9. Make not a small matter of the beginnings of your backsliding (Proverbs 28:13). Confess and repent of your sins daily.
10. Pray and search the Scriptures and ask for strength and patience over testings, tribulations and trials (1 Corinthians 10:13)
11. Remember the grave consequences of sin and the loss of favour and fellowship with God. It is too high a price to pay (Isaiah 59:1–2).
12. Remember that the Lord is always near to forgive us if we repent and return to Him sincerely forsaking our wayward ways (Luke 19:9-10).
13. Know that when we backslide, we can lose our spiritual influence to witness for Christ, to edify and exhort others.
14. Be sensitive to the prompting and leading of the Holy Spirit as He guides us against the impending sin of backsliding. Obey Him in everything and do not rebel against it.
15. Recall the prodigal son and how readily he was accepted by his father when he returned and was willing to renounce his past ways. This is the case with God, our loving heavenly Father (Luke 15:11-30).
16. Beware of the deceitfulness and allurements of the adversary who promises worldly pleasure but deliver a lie. We are not ignorant of his diabolical devices. Put on the full Armour of God always (Ephesians 6:10-18).
17. Be vigilant, alert and watchful at all times against the seductions of the devil (1 Peter 5:8).
18. If we have backslidden, we need to repent and heed the prophet's admonition in Hosea 14:4, 7, *"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. . . . They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon."*

We are vulnerable to the wiles of the evil one daily. We need to constantly put on the full Armour of God and examine ourselves to check if we are straying from the Lord and if we are then make a conscious effort to repent and return to the Lord daily (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Conclusion

God is mindful of our backsliding and let us come to God's throne for clemency and restoration. If you have backslidden, return to the Saviour who loves you and who redeemed you and who will be a comfort and balm to you if you forsake your sins (Proverbs 28:13). **Did not our Saviour says, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely"** (Hosea 14:4)? The Lord revive the early church in Acts 2:38 which says, 'Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.'

May the Lord awaken and revive our hearts to seek Christ first with greater heights of devotion to Him. Amen.

- Rev Jack Sin

(NB. Read J. R. Beeke, *Backsliding Disease and Cure* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987 for a deeper study on this subject.)

APOSTLES' 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 16th August 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 19th August 4pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 13/08/2017</u>
Message	The Gospel and Your Family	The Voice of Assurance	Chairman: John
Text	1 Corinthians 7:10-15	Jeremiah 29:15-23	Organist: Anthony

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. • Church Maintenance Day: Saturday 19th August, 11am. All are encouraged to come and help do maintenance to the church building. 	<p>Ushers: Tom / Jonathan</p> <p>Sunday School: Rachael</p> <p>Lunch: Jonathan</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott / Jonathan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 20/08/2017</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Matthew</p> <p>Ushers: John / Yetta</p> <p>Sunday School: Rachael</p> <p>Lunch: Tan Family</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott / Joel</p>

<p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £608.00; Lunch: £47.00</p> <p>Attendance - Morning: 27 (A) 6 (C), Evening: 12 (A) 1 (C)</p>	<p>Church Maintenance Fund</p> <p>Total: £3,490.50</p>
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SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 79

Q: Which is the Tenth Commandment?

A: The Tenth Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT COVET thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:17

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><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></p> <p>Colossians 3:17</p>	<p><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></p> <p>Romans 15:4</p>	<p><i>"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."</i></p> <p>Matthew 4:4</p>