



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. 42

LORD'S DAY 15 OCTOBER 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 62:1-2

Psalm 91:1-2

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 65 – *"And Can It Be That I Should Gain?"*

RHC 347 – *"Under the Care of My God, The Almighty"*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 85

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 85 verses 1-7
(to the tune of Evan, RHC 379)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 311 – *"Does Jesus Care?"*

Scriptural Text

Job 2:11-13

2 Chronicles 14:1-15

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message

Job's 3 Friends

The Prayer of the Righteous Man

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 261 – *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"*

RHC 359 – *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

Benediction/3-Fold

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Rev Lim Chee Boon

*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

MARKS OF TRUE CHURCH AND CHRISTIANS - PART 1

Adapted from Hope BPC Weekly, Sunday 3rd & 10th September 2017

This message was preached at the 3rd Anniversary Thanksgiving Service of Providence BPC on 13 Aug 2017.

Christian churches have been suffering some setbacks in recent times. The opponents of Christian faith and churches have risen to grab stronger power and positions to make louder voices against Christianity. Such oppositions are not new because the power of darkness has been always vicious and evil toward God and His people since the time of the Garden of Eden. These powerful and unfriendly voices are coming from education sectors, political arenas, music and arts, literature, and science, and so on. The list seems to be very long and gets even longer.

Christians working in organizations and companies have told me that they do not have many Christian colleagues. It seems that Christian influence has been dwindling in society in general. However, the more we see such challenges, the more we must stand on the truth of God, because all men are sinners and they ought to be saved by the grace of God.

If I illustrate the clash between church and the world, I may use a story about St Helen's Church in Bishopsgate. It is an Anglican church, I believe. It is located in the heart of London's financial district. This church has developed the lunch-hour Bible exposition during weekdays. Hundreds of men and women, young and old, came to this church during their lunch hour just to bow their heads down for prayers and to hear preachers expounding some Scripture passages. Amazingly, financiers and office staff working in the busy district flocked together just to hear God's Word. The church needed to renovate the building to make more seats available, and at this point, there were clashes between two opposite camps. The church needed to expand the building to accommodate more people to come and hear God's Word, while society in general wanted to preserve the architecture. What the secular mind wanted to do with the church was to preserve the church as an architectural monument, but the church wanted it to be a centre for gospel proclamation to the city.

Such clashes are being continued between the Bible believing Christian churches and the secular world and society in general. Oftentimes, in these conflicts, Christians are lost and baby Christians or seekers of truth through gospel messages are really confused. As Hope Church tries to stand on its own feet and to continue to grow, so there are and will be trials, challenges, confusions, and discouragements, coming into the minds of the people of God. The more we expand ourselves beyond the walls of this building, the more we may face such strong and even vicious oppositions from the world.

Today, I'd like to talk about some challenges we ought to fight against and some principles to establish a God-pleasing church and to become God-pleasing Christians. Challenges to face There are lots of challenges against the church of Christ. However, I'll pinpoint only a couple of lessons. First, we must be aware of the dangers of religious pluralism. Some of you may never have heard of the term pluralism, though I believe that you know what it is even without knowing the term.

1. Religious pluralism generally refers to the belief in two or more religious worldviews as being equally valid or acceptable.

a) Religious pluralism promotes an idea that there are many ways to bring us to heaven. Though we may have different religions, it really does not matter, because all of us will meet in heaven anyway. It is the essence of the religious pluralism. It argues that it really does not matter which religion you have or which god or gods you believe. Every religion has a way to bring its followers to heaven.

b) Religious pluralism is usually contrasted with "exclusivism", which is the idea that there is only one true religion or way to know God. Christian faith proclaims that there is only one God, and there is no other God besides Him. Thus, Christianity is an exclusive religion. Then, some people may think that Christians are too proud to believe that only they are right and others are wrong. Thus, I need to explain to you the next point.

c) Religious pluralism is different from sharing of certain values or agreements on some social issues. For example, whatever religion we may have, we should agree that helping the poor is good, domestic violence is bad, and honouring parents is commendable. Therefore, Christians do not say that Christians are good, while non-Christians are bad.

d) Religious pluralism is dangerous because it argues that every religious belief is equally valid and truthful. We must know the fallacy of pluralism because it is neither reasonable nor sensible. For example, some religions make images or idols to worship, while Christianity forbids it. If Christians worship idols, they are sinning against God and breaking one of the key commandments of God. Then, how can we say that both teachings of Christianity and teachings of idol-worshipping religions are equally valid? Some religions worship gods and goddesses, while Christianity claims that there is only one God. Then, how can we say that Christianity and religions of worshipping multiple gods are equally valid? If one is right, the other is wrong. Therefore, religious pluralism is wrong. I hope that we will not fall into the wrongs of religious pluralism.

2. The Bible speaks against religious pluralism

a) The Bible acknowledges only one God (Deuteronomy 6:5). Therefore, religious pluralism is incompatible with biblical teaching, since pluralism accepts multiple views of God or even multiple gods.

b) The Bible teaches exclusivism in that there is only one way to know God - through Jesus Christ. John 14:6 notes that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and that no one comes to the Father except through Him. The apostles taught the same message in Acts 4:12: *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

c) The Bible frequently condemns false religions as following gods that are not really gods. For example, Joshua 23:16 says, *"When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you."*

3. At this point, we ought to understand that the Christians' understanding about Christianity as an exclusive religion does not mean that we are against religious liberty in our country. Religious liberty guarantees that multiple religions can worship peaceably, and Christians appreciate such liberty, as it allows for open worship of God. In contrast, religious pluralism teaches that multiple religions are true or equally valid, something the Bible clearly refutes. We encourage religious liberty, but at the same time we communicate the Bible's teaching in 1 Timothy 2:5, *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

Challenges to Face

Even a religion called Christianity without putting Christ on the top of every belief and consideration is dangerous. How and why could a religion called Christianity be dangerous? Didn't I just say that Christianity is an exclusive religion, and it is a religion of truth? Then, why and how could it be dangerous? If religious pluralism is a danger from outside, this new point refers to a danger from within Christian churches. There are many false teachings and false teachers within Christian churches.

1. Let us not be surprised that there are false teachers and teachings within Christian churches.

a) It is because Satan hates the truth and the believers of Jesus Christ. Therefore, he is producing and planting many counterfeits in the communities of the people of God. Satan is active in order to deceive the children of God and the world. 2 Corinthians 11:14, *"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."*

b) Christ Himself has warned His people about false teachers. Matthew 7:15 says, *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."* False teachers are creeping into the believers' communities, churches, and trying to deceive them as much as possible. It implies that the object of our faith is not people. Churches must be examined and tested and proven to be true churches.

c) We must know that churches can err. After all, they are run by people who are imperfect and fallible. Therefore, they can do wrong things. Pastors are not perfect, elders and deacons are not perfect, either. Therefore, the Christian faith does not encourage its followers to believe in man or the organization.

2. Christianity is a very broad term, and people find it difficult to define it. Thus, under the umbrella of Christianity, there are so many kinds of churches. There are two things you and I need to understand.

a) The first point we need to understand is that not everything is right simply because it is attached and related to the name of Christianity or Christian churches. As we have seen from the previous point, there are false teachers and teachings within Christian organizations or even churches. Thus, we cannot put our trust and confidence in them, even if they have names of churches or Christian organizations. Therefore, it is dangerous to have Christian fellowship or cooperative work with them, until they are proven to be genuine Christians and Christian churches.

b) The second point we need to understand is that we do not have to be exactly the same. What I mean is that there are different denominations within true churches of Christ. Over the years, many people have asked me a question about the reason why there are so many denominations, while all of them believe in one God through one Bible. I must say that such variances are made because of man's finitude and imperfect knowledge of God. In the Bible, some issues are very clear, while others are not so clear, which allows different people to see them differently. However, there are two things we need to remember.

i) The central truths of the Bible are all the same across the line of denominations. For example, all true Christians must believe that there is one God in three persons. God created man, and man fell into sin. The Son of God came into the flesh and lived and died for sinners. He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and someday He will come again. If a man denies any one of them, he is not a Christian. It does not matter what denomination he belongs to.

ii) However, there are some unclear or non-essential issues that we may understand somewhat differently. Such differences are demonstrated by denominational names such as Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, or Brethren churches. We do allow and accept such differences and respect one another in Christ. Therefore, having varieties of denominations is neither sinful nor unbiblical. What matters is that Christ must be in the centre of Christian beliefs and teachings.

To be continued....

- *Rev Timothy Ki*

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 18th October	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 21st October	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon	TODAY: 15/10/2017
Message	TBC	TBC	
Text	TBC	TBC	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Venise Ushers: Tom / Yetta Lunch: Tan Family Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / Jonathan NEXT WEEK: 22/10/2017 Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Michael Ushers: Tom / Margaret Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / Anthony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Rev Lim will continue with the study on "<i>Building Firm Foundations</i>". • Sunday School: This afternoon at 2:45pm the church will be holding Sunday School for young children and toddlers, led by Elizabeth, Nina and Barbara. Please invite friends and family to attend. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for Rev Lim Chee Boon who will be ministering to us until the 26th November. • Church Maintenance Day: Saturday 21st October, 11am. All are encouraged to come and help do maintenance to the church building. 			
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £557.45; Lunch: £61.00 Attendance - Morning: 49 (A) 11 (C), Evening: 14 (A) 5 (C)			
Church Maintenance Fund			
Total: £3,820.50			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 88

Q: What are the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of Redemption?

A: *The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of Redemption, are **His ordinances**; especially the Word, Sacraments, and Prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.*

Comments:

In order that we may be saved, God demands of us not only faith and repentance, but the diligent use of the outward means of grace as well. These outward means are here called *ordinances*, or things which God has *ordained*. They consist mainly in: 1. The Study of the Bible; 2. The observance of the Sacraments; 3. The use of Prayer.

Scriptural Reference:

Acts 2:42, 2 Timothy 3:15

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:"</i> 2 Peter 2:9	<i>"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."</i> Joshua 1:9	<i>"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."</i> Romans 10:17