



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. 38

LORD'S DAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 105:1-4

Psalm 46:10-11

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 197 – *"All Glory, Laud and Honour"*

RHC 346 – *"Be Still My Soul"*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

*Christology Creed **

Christology Creed

Responsive Reading

Psalm 81

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 81 verses 1-4, 8-10
(to the tune of Maitland, RHC 391)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

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

Scriptural Text

1 Corinthians 8

Jeremiah 30

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Matters of Conscience - Part 1

Hope for the Faithful

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 395 – *"A Heart Like Thine"*

RHC 379 – *"O for a Faith That Will Not Shrink"*

*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

SOUND REASONS FOR THE BELIEVERS' DAILY **FERVENT PRAYER**

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 27th August 2017

Introduction

Prayer is an important aspect of a healthy and abundant Christian life. In one of his famous books, *A Discourse Touching Prayer* written in 1662, John Bunyan of Bedford and *Pilgrim's Progress* fame defines prayer as follows "Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to His Word, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God". Prayer can be audible or silent, private or public, formal or informal. All prayer should be offered in faith and in the will of God with perseverance. Ephesians 6:18 says, '*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*' John Calvin is a noted reformer in Geneva and he is renowned for writing the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, in 1536, a standard reformed theological textbook used for many centuries. In this book, John Calvin dedicates a segment on prayer, and he gave sound reasons why we should pray to God daily.

One of the reasons why he wrote this is because some may ask and Calvin writes, "does God not know even without being reminded, both in what respect we are troubled, and what is expedient for us, so that it seems in a sense that it may be superfluous that he should be stirred up by our prayers . . . But they who thus reason do not observe to what end the Lord instructed his people to pray, for he ordained it not so much for his sake but for ours."

Consider these six reasons why every Christian should pray daily, as John Calvin outlined in his *Institutes*:

1. For enhanced Spiritual Fervour

Calvin starts with zeal. For without a close communion with the Lord through prayer, you cannot expect to be zealous for the Lord. Paul says in Romans 12:11, '*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*' He says 'first, that our hearts may be fired with a zealous and burning desire ever to seek, love, and serve him, while we become accustomed in every need to flee to him as to a sacred anchor.' Do you have a fervent love for Christ today? Let prayer rekindle that fire again in your heart. Do not let indifference rule your heart but an ardour from above that will lead to greater devotion, service, prayer and worship of God.

2. For God-Honouring Aims and Divine Pardon

Then, Calvin goes to the subject of having spiritual or holy desires for God. It is important that we guard our hearts towards the right aims and purposes in life.

Paul in Acts 20:24 says, *'But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.'* If there are defective aims and wrong purposes, we should confess and repent of them before the Lord and ask Him for pardon and forgiveness (1 John 1:9; Psalm 66:18). We must align our heart beat with the tune of heaven and not have worldly and selfish aims.

He says 'secondly, that there may enter our hearts no desire and no wish at all of which we should be ashamed to make him a witness, while we learn to set all our wishes before his eyes, and even to pour out our whole hearts.' Psalm 37:4 says, *'Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.'* We should pray for revival and for our national leaders among others in 1 Timothy 2:1-3 and the reason is that we may live peaceable life in godliness. The love and fear of God will lead us to a deeper relationship with God as we honour and revere Him and draw nigh to Him daily.

3. For Increased Thankfulness

This is a neglected theme and it is on thankfulness to God or gratitude. The world is full of ungrateful people and the evil one wants to increase our discontentment, resentment and unhappiness, but through daily prayer, we can become a more grateful people to God over time. That is why Philippians 4:6 says, *'Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.'* He adds, 'thirdly, that we be prepared to receive his benefits with true gratitude of heart and thanksgiving, benefits that our prayer reminds us come from his hand.' Do not be like the 9 lepers who did not return but be the one who will give thanks to God always in prayer both privately and publicly. Psalm 136:1 says, *'O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.'*

4. For Sober Reflection on God's Faithfulness

We should pray for God to bestow upon us spiritual blessings according to His will. That includes being an effective witness for Him, salvation of loved ones and wisdom in our work and daily living. Then after receiving them, if God wills remember to also take time in your closet to seek God in supplication and reflect on God's goodness through your prayers. Calvin says 'fourthly, moreover, that, having obtained what we were seeking, and being convinced that he has answered our prayers, we should be led to meditate upon his kindness more ardently.' Set aside time to meditate on the faithfulness and mercies of God, His compassions, goodness, truth, justice and holiness that fail not and His love for us as Lamentation 3:23, 24 says, *'They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.'*

5. For Greater Joy and Delight in God

Prayer is the Christian's way of communicating with God. We pray to praise God and thank Him and tell Him how much we love Him. We pray to enjoy His presence and tell Him what is going on in our lives.

It is needful that delight and duty go together. Our duty among others is prayer to God, and our delight is in obeying God. Worship and prayer are avenues where we express our delight in him among others. Proverbs 3:5, 6 says, 'Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.' Calvin says 'and fifthly, that at the same time we embrace with greater delight those things which we acknowledge to have been obtained by prayers.'

6. For Confirmation of Divine Providence

John Calvin is the most outspoken Reformer on God's Providence which speaks of divine intervention in our lives. The same with prayer, and we should end prayer to help us confirm God's Providence and He is still interested in our lives.

He wisely says, 'finally, that use and experience may, according to the measure of our feebleness, confirm his Providence, while we understand not only that he promises never to fail us, and of his own will opens the way to call upon him at the very point of necessity, but also that he ever extends his hand to help his own, no wet-nursing them with words but defending them with present help.' Calvin adds, 'On account of these things, our most merciful Father, although he never sleeps or idles, still very often gives the impression of one sleeping or idling in order that he may thus train us, otherwise idle and lazy, to seek, ask, and entreat him to our great good.'

This maybe a word of comfort to every child of God that nothing happens by chance but our God is sovereignly in charge of all things and we can fully rest, trust and rely in Him for Romans 8:28 says, '*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*'

If we fail to pray, God's plans will still continue. For He will still build His Church with or without us but what a loss to us if we are guilty of prayerlessness! Note what Samuel says in 1 Samuel 12:23, '*Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:*'

Conclusion

The Bible has many examples of prayer and exhortations to us to pray and it is vital that the people of God should develop a strong dependence upon their God in petitions and supplications always. Prayer is a means of grace given by God to the elect and it is not just prattle it is battle, a spiritual warfare as the evil one will prevent us from doing so if possible as it is a believer's privilege and joy. God will hear your prayers and grant your request as you seek His holy will and wait patiently upon Him with importunity and faith. Does prayer make a difference? Paul in 2 Corinthians 1:11 answers, '*Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.*'

- Rev Jack Sin

(see John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, chap 20 (Henry Beveridge translation) and edited from <http://gospelrelevance.com/2016/07/10/john-calvin-prayer-6-reasons-pray/>)

The Word Made Flesh

The Ligonier Statement on Christology

We confess the mystery and wonder
of God made flesh
and rejoice in our great salvation
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit,
the Son created all things,
sustains all things,
and makes all things new.
Truly God,
He became truly man,
two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary
and lived among us.
Crucified, dead, and buried,
He rose on the third day,
ascended to heaven,
and will come again
in glory and judgment.

For us,
He kept the Law,
atoned for sin,
and satisfied God's wrath.
He took our filthy rags
and gave us
His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King,
building His church,
interceding for us,
and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord;
we praise His holy Name forever.

Amen.

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 20th September	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.
Fri 22nd September	4pm & 7pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony <i>The Glory of God - Studies in Ezekiel</i> Mr Stephen Toms & Mr Martin Humphrey	
Sat 23rd September	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: 17/09/2017</u>
Message	Matters of Conscience - Part II	The Message We Preach	Chairman: John
Text	1 Corinthians 8	Jeremiah 31:1-14	Organist: Anthony

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<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>". • Sunday School: This afternoon at 2:45pm the church will be starting a new Sunday School for young children and toddlers, led by Elizabeth, Nina and Barbara. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch next Lord's Day. • Church Pulpit Ministry: We thank God for the provision of Dr Carl Martin to serve as our Interim Minister. As his tenure will conclude on 30th September, please pray for God's leading and guidance as he progresses with his PhD study at Greenwich School of Theology. Also, pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for Rev Lim Chee Boon who will be ministering to us from 8th October. 	<p>Chairman: John</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Matthew</p> <p>Ushers: Jonathan / Yetta</p> <p>Lunch: Tan Family</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott / Jonathan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 24/09/2017</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Joel</p> <p>Ushers: Tom / Margaret</p> <p>Lunch: Volunteers</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott / John</p>

Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £433.66; Lunch: £40 Attendance - Morning: 26 (A) 8 (C), Evening: 15 (A) 5 (C)	Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,720.50
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SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 84

Q: What doth every sin deserve?

A: Every sin deserveth God's WRATH AND CURSE, both in this life and that which is to come.

Comments:

The *wrath* of God means his holy displeasure against sin; and his *curse* is the doom which he has pronounced against it. This wrath and this doom, we are told, are the desert of every sin, and stretch over both this life and the life to come.

Scriptural Reference:

Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:41

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."</i></p> <p>1 John 4:9</p>	<p><i>"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."</i></p> <p>1 John 4:10</p>	<p><i>"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."</i></p> <p>1 John 4:11</p>