



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. 17

LORD'S DAY 23 APRIL 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 33:18-22

Psalm 104:33-34

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 8 – *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

RHC 3 – *"Love Divine"*

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 60

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 60 verses 1-5
(to the tune of St Agnes, RHC 231)

*Announcements &
Memory Verse*

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings &
Doxology **

RHC 101 – *"Leaning on the
Everlasting Arms"*

Scriptural Text

Proverbs 18:10

Ephesians 6:17

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Pooyan Mehrshahi

Rev Pooyan Mehrshahi

Sermon Message

Safety for the Soul

The Sword of the Spirit

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 46 – *"A Mighty Fortress Is
Our God"*

RHC 251 – *"Thy Word Is Like a
Garden, Lord"*

*Benediction/3-Fold
Amen **

Rev Pooyan Mersshahi

Rev Pooyan Mersshahi

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

PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD

Adapted from New Life BPC Singapore Weekly, Sunday 19th March 2017

The Bible tells us the importance of prayer. It is central in the life of a child of God. Jesus before he ascended to heaven commanded his disciples to pray in anticipation of the trials they would be facing. They would need much fortitude and obedience during those times of need.

R.C. Sproul, a Calvinist theologian wrote “Obedience unlocks the riches of the Christian experience. Prayer prompts and nurtures obedience, putting the heart into the proper “frame of mind” to desire obedience.” In simple terms, prayer and obedience work in a virtuous cycle.

Yet there is widespread prayerlessness among Christians. We rather tweet than pray in our busy schedules. Empirical studies tell us everyone in our modern society has less and less solitude. We need to unplug ourselves from emails, whatsApp messages and tweets. This has not included the numerous blogs and professional subscriptions some of us have in both our secular work and even Christian activities. This may lead to the danger of identifying Christian activities with intimacy with God. There is no moment of solitude with God and even self and this can result in decline in spiritual health. We pray only when we need help and we do need help when we realize our hopeless estate.

Why pray?

In his book on *Prayer* by Timothy Keller, he told the story of the illustration his wife used on him:

Imagine you were diagnosed with such a lethal condition that the doctor told you that you would die within hours unless you took a particular medicine – a pill every night before going to sleep. Imagine that you were told that you could never miss it or you would die. If that was the case, she said, you would never miss the medication. You would never say, I was too tired, or, I didn’t get to it, or, I was watching a movie, and I didn’t leave time. You never would do that. [page 9]

Does prayer change anything?

I find the answer given by R.C. Sproul especially illuminating. Someone had asked him that question in a slightly different manner: “Does prayer change God’s mind?” His answer brought storms of protest when he simply said “No.” But when it was worded “Does prayer change things?”, He said “Of course!” The protest arose from the word *repent* in Jonah 3:10 in which the Bible says that God repents. In using the concept of repentance here, the Bible is describing God who is a Spirit, in what theologians call “anthropomorphic” language. God does not repent in the way we would repent; otherwise God would have sinned and would need a saviour Himself. The Hebrew word *nacham*, translated “repent” in King James Version, means “comforted” or “eased”. God was comforted and felt at ease and therefore He revoked the sentence of judgment He had imposed. Another version used the word “relent” but it does not quite capture the full meaning of what is expressed by the Hebrew text.

The conclusion is that the mind of God does not change and God does not change. Things change and they changed according to His sovereign will, which He exercises through secondary means. Prayer is one of the means He uses to bring things to pass and that is one good reason why we should pray and pray unceasingly (1 Thess 5:17).

An example from our Lord

The common understanding is that “Son of God” implies his deity—which it does — and that “Son of Man” implies his humanity. No human has ever a more profound understanding of sovereignty and at the same time prayed more effectively than Jesus. This is recorded for us in Jesus’ prayer at the Garden of Gethsemane [Matt 26:36-46]. This is captured succinctly in v39, when He requested for an option and when the request was denied, he bowed to the Father’s will. The reason we pray is because we believe in God’s sovereignty to order things according to His purpose and our prayers can change things.

In summary, we look at the two reasons for praying in Jonathan Edwards’ sermon titled, “The Most High, a Prayer-Hearing God”:

First, with respect to *God*, prayer is but a sensible acknowledgment of our dependence on him to his glory. As he has made all things for his own glory, so he will be glorified and acknowledged by his creatures. And it is fit that he should require this of those who would be the subjects of his mercy ... [it] is but a suitable acknowledgment of our dependence on the power and mercy of God for that which we need, and but a suitable honor paid to the great Author and Fountain of all good.

Second, with respect to *ourselves*, God requires prayer of us ... Fervent prayer many ways tends to prepare the heart. Hereby is excited a sense of our need, ... whereby the mind is more prepared to prize [his mercy] ... Our prayer to God may excite in us a suitable sense and consideration of our dependence on God for the mercy we ask, and a suitable exercise of faith in God’s sufficiency, that so we may be prepared to glorify his name when the mercy is received. (<http://www.biblebb.com/files/edwards/prayer.htm>)

- Elder Yap Chee Kian

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 26th Apr	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 28th Apr	4pm & 7pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony <i>The Glory of God - Studies in Ezekiel</i>		
Sat 29th Apr	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: 23/04/2017</u>
Message	The Christian Mind vs the Christless Mind		When a Leader refuses to Listen to God	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	1 Corinthians 2		Jeremiah 22:1-12	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>". • No Study of the Book of Psalms today due to Baptism service. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch next Lord's Day. • Church Maintenance Fund: The Church is currently undergoing some significant repairs; a Maintenance Fund has been set up for anyone wishing to offer a love gift to assist with the costs. • Baptism of Sharon & Evan Benson, and Victoria Joseph: Baptism will take place at 2:30pm today at West Kilburn Baptist Church, all are welcome to attend. 				Pianist: Michael Ushers: Joel / Yetta Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / John <u>NEXT WEEK: 30/04/2017</u> Chairman: Jonathan / John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Joel Ushers: Tom / Margaret Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael Lunch: Rachael Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / Keene
Worship Service Collections – Good Friday Service: £327.10; Last Sunday: £582.44; Lunch: £40 Attendance - Morning: 43 (A) 16 (C), Evening: 18 (A) 5 (C)				Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,390.50

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 63

Q: Which is the Fifth Commandment?

A: The Fifth Commandment is, HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER; that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:12

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

Matthew 16:25

This Week

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Matthew 16:26

Next Week

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

Matthew 16:27