



# 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. 22

**LORD'S DAY 28 MAY 2017**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Evening Service – 4pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 113:1-4

Psalm 134

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 207 – *"Golden Harps Are Sounding"*

RHC 48 – *"O Bless Our God With One Accord"*

*Opening Prayer \**

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Nicene Creed \**

Nicene Creed

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 65

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 65 verses 1-4*  
(to the tune of Lloyd, RHC 563)

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*Announcements &*

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Memory Verse*

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 71 – *"The Name of Jesus"*

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*Scriptural Text*

Ephesians 1:18-23

Jeremiah 23:9-40

*Pastoral Prayer*

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Sermon Message*

*Our Ascended Lord*

*The Ever Present God*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 205 – *"Thine Is the Glory"*

Insert – *"God of almighty power, How glorious are thy way "*

*Benediction/3-Fold*

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Amen \**

*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***

# **UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORLDLINESS IS**

Adapted from Covenant BP Church Weekly, Sunday 28th May 2017

## **Misunderstanding Worldliness**

Many churches have instituted certain rules to keep her members from being worldly. One such church or movement was Methodism. Towards the end of 1739, the Methodist Society was inaugurated.

“The General Rules of Methodism” included a section devoted to avoiding evil of every kind. This avoidance included - buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them, putting on of gold and costly apparel, and singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God. In other words, no alcohol, no jewellery, and no secular music or literature.

Charles Spurgeon, who was saved in a Methodist church, once said that Methodism was a noble thing for unbelievers but terrible for the children of God.

Another was the Anabaptists. Amish clothing had no buttons, which were considered worldly, so only the hook and eye were employed . It was also considered worldly to drive a car, but some Mennonites allowed car ownership provided they were painted black - including the chrome.

In American cultural fundamentalism, the usual taboos were movie-watching and card playing, but blue jeans and bowling were also considered worldly and thus banned.

Likewise, some have suggested that fidget spinners should be banned because of their “worldliness.” Would banning them remove worldliness? Yes and no. Mostly no.

## **Love Not the World**

The Bible sets forth the command that we are not to love the world nor be conformed to it. 1 John 2:15 says, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*

Paul also said in Romans 12:2 - *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* But what does this mean? Were Paul & John speaking in favour of asceticism? If they were, then our Lord, Paul, and Timothy would be worldly because they drank wine. Luther and Calvin would be condemned too - Luther drank beer and Calvin enjoyed a bit of bowling. Likewise, John Owen would be castigated for his taste in fashion.

Rather, what they were talking about was the system of ethical and philosophical opposition to Christ - *“the world by [its] wisdom knew not God”* (1 Cor 1:21).

## **To Be Worldly Is to Be Controlled by the Thinking of the World**

Therefore being worldly is to be controlled by the thinking of the world. Is it therefore a surprise that Paul calls on Christians to renew their minds and not be conformed to the world (Rom 12:2)? No where clearer is this than the temptations of Eve and Jesus.

The Apostle John called them the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - they are the things of the world (1 John 2:16). Worldliness is therefore the idea that we can't be satisfied until we have something of the world, something we think would satisfy us, and something that would lift us above others. That was the attitude of Eve.

On the contrary, our Lord rejected such worldly thinking for Scriptural thinking. What he was tempted with - food, inheritance, and power - weren't necessarily bad things. After all, Jesus got all 3 of them by doing the will of God. What was evil was the idea Satan tried to plant in Jesus' head - that these things were worth sinning against God for. Jesus, however, sought first the kingdom of God - that was his primary desire.

But the world hungers after these things. Jesus said food and satisfaction was what the world sought after (Matt 6:32); influence as well - people love to be seen of others and have the praise of men (Matt 6:1-2,5). Hence, these things don't make us worldly - rather what is worldly is our attitude to them.

If you can't live without bowling, and bowling is all you think about, and bowling gives you worth because no one can bowl as well as you do - then the problem is with you, not with bowling. Similarly, take the fidget spinner. Those who have it may spend an inordinate amount of time on it; those who don't have it, covet after it; and those who do have it, take pride in having it. Again, it's not the fidget spinner - the problem is with us.

That's why our fight is not against these things, they are with ourselves - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 says, *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."*

Our fight is with our mind and heart. They are the places where worldliness resides. It is not what enters a man that defiles him but what proceeds from his heart. That's why a very "unworldly" person may still be very worldly. A person may eschew any form of cultural worldliness - like the Pharisees - but his self-righteousness and appearance of holiness now become the means by which his flesh may glory and his mind may find satisfaction. He is still worldly even though he is not "worldly".

On the other hand, Christ is the remedy for worldliness. He satisfies us and the only way to have him is to come with humility. Is the fidget spinner the issue? No. It's the heart of the fidgety kid. And with everything else, it's our hearts.

But herein is wisdom - and perhaps our Methodist friends and even our Amish friends can lend us some caution. While alcohol, gold, cars, bowling, and the fidget spinner are neutral things, it's our innate worldly affections that cause us to sin with these things.

So as we renew our minds, and tune our hearts to God, it may be helpful to stay away from certain things - not that they are inherently bad - but we are.

May parents help their kids and may we all help one another to get to the heart of worldliness - our heart - and to wean it from its own worldly affections.

- Rev Mark Chen

## ***The Nicene Creed***

We believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Maker of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God,  
begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of  
the Father, God of God,]  
Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
By whom all things were made  
[both in heaven and on earth];

Who for us men, and for our salvation,  
came down and was incarnate  
and was made man;  
He suffered,  
and the third day he rose again,  
ascended into heaven;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And in the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

The *Nicene Creed* is a Christian statement of faith, It gets its name from the First Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.), where it was initially adopted.

# God of almighty power, How glorious are thy ways

To the tune of St Thomas (RHC 262)

God of almighty power,  
How glorious are thy ways!  
Angels thy majesty adore,  
All creatures speak thy praise.

Wherever earth is fair,  
Or brighter worlds extend,  
Almighty Sovereign! thou art there,  
Creation's Lord and Friend.

And where the stars are not,  
Nor sun hath ever shone,  
Beyond the flight of human thought,  
There thou art God alone.

Heaven is thy glorious throne,  
Earth does thy footstool seem;  
But souls redeemed thou lovest to own  
Thy richer diadem.

And while they bless thy name,  
Hell trembles at thy rob:  
Earth, heaven, and hell thy power proclaim;  
All things proclaim thee God!

# 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 31st May	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 3rd June	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><u>TODAY: 28/05/2017</u></b>
<b>Message</b>	The Spirit of the World & The Spirit of God	The Secret of Faithful Service	<b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan
<b>Text</b>	1 Corinthians 2:10-16	Jeremiah 23:9-40	<b>Organist:</b> Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<b>Pianist:</b> Michael
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Pre-lunch Bible Study.</b></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>Ladies Fellowship:</b> This will be held after lunch today.</li> <li>• <b>Reformation Study Tour:</b> Rev Jack Sin extends an invitation to the congregation to join the tour on 29th May (11:00am) to Museum of the Book.</li> <li>• <b>Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology:</b> 4th-6th July 2017. The theme this year is "<i>Our Glorious Reformation Legacy - 500th Anniversary</i>"</li> </ul>			<b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Margaret
			<b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Rachael
			<b>Lunch:</b> Keene / Hannah
			<b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers
			<b>PA Crew:</b> Scott / John
			<b><u>NEXT WEEK: 04/06/2017</u></b>
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £321.11; Lunch: £33.00 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 34 (A) 10 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 3 (C)			<b>Church Maintenance Fund Total:</b> <b>£3,390.50</b>

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 68

**Q: What is required in the Sixth Commandment?**

**A:** *The Sixth Commandment requireth all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life, and the life of others.*

Scriptural Reference:

Ephesians 5:29, Matthew 10:23, Mark 6:31, Psalm 82:3-4, Job 29:13, 1 Kings 18:4

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" <b>John 1:12</b>	"That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:" <b>2 Peter 3:2</b>	"In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity," <b>Titus 2:7</b>