



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. 22 No. 09

LORD’S DAY 04 MARCH 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

| | <i>Morning Service – 11am</i> | <i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i> |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>Prelude</i> | <i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i> | |
| <i>Call to Worship</i> | Psalm 148:1-5 | Ephesians 1:3-7 |
| <i>Opening Hymn *</i> | RHC 24 – “Praise to the Lord, The Almighty” | RHC 62 – “All Glory to Jesus” |
| <i>Opening Prayer *</i> | John Poh | Marco Reale |
| <i>Gloria Patri *</i> | <i>Glory Be to the Father</i> | --- |
| <i>Responsive Reading</i> | Psalm 105 | --- |
| <i>Second Hymn *</i> | <i>Psalm 105 verses 1-7</i> (to the tune of All Saints, RHC 562) | --- |
| <i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i> | John Poh | Marco Reale |
| <i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i> | RHC 421 – “Have Thine Own Way, Lord!” | --- |
| <i>Scriptural Text</i> | 2 Chronicles 33:10-13 | John 2:13-19 |
| <i>Pastoral Prayer</i> | Mr Marco Reale | Mr Marco Reale |
| <i>Sermon Message</i> | <i>The Conversion of Manasseh</i> | <i>Cleansing the Temple</i> |
| <i>Closing Hymn *</i> | RHC 289 – “Grace Greater Than Our Sin” | RHC 323 – “Trust and Obey” |
| <i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i> | Mr Marco Reale | Mr Marco Reale |
| <i>Postlude</i> | <i>The Lord Bless You</i> | --- |

* 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.

WITHHOLD NOT GOOD

Adapted from Life BP Church Singapore Weekly, Sunday 18th February 2018

Proverbs 3:27 – *“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.”*

This proverb deals with holding back good from those who deserve it or need it. Many people have been disappointed because they were denied what they deserve or what was promised to them. They were encouraged to put their money in certain investments because of promises of good returns, but their entire life savings were wiped out. What a terrible blow it was to them.

If we understand what it feels like to be on the receiving end of such a calamity, then we can appreciate more fully the teaching of Proverbs 3:27 not to withhold good from them to whom it is due. There are actually two kinds of withholding that men are guilty of.

Unjust Withholding from Others

One awful sin that causes untold misery is the withholding of wages. The rich exploit the poor by making them work without giving them what is due. Some of them withhold and delay payment of wages to migrant workers as collateral for “good behaviour” and to discourage them from terminating their contracts early.

Such manipulative tactics to exploit workers and deprive them of their due are not new. Throughout man’s history many have suffered from being exploited by rich and powerful men, and they had no labour laws to protect them from such exploitation. We must never exploit others, because our God is fair and just to all, and He wants us to treat everyone fairly and justly.

If you employ people to work for you please make sure that you pay them on time. Our country’s laws require workers to be paid within seven days. God’s law is even stricter than this – payment cannot be delayed by even one day (Deuteronomy 24:14,15). The employee must receive his wages before the sun sets. Paying him later than that is considered as robbery.

Besides delaying payment of workers, some also delay payment of bills and loans that they are actually able to pay. Delaying payment may seem to be a normal practice to some businessmen. They will extend their credit limit as far as they can to gain some advantage.

But what impression does it give to others? Will it help our testimony for the Lord if we are known for doing this? No, it will make us no different from any opportunist who takes advantage of others to make gains for himself. Let us always be prompt in paying our bills and loans. Don’t procrastinate! Make it a habit to clear every debt and to leave nothing outstanding.

Besides delayed payment of employees, bills and loans, there is another variety of withholding from others that many are guilty of – withholding what is due to our loved ones at home. 1 Timothy 5:8 – *“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”* This verse teaches us not to withhold anything that is due to our loved ones whom we are responsible for.

Perhaps we may think this simply means providing adequate housing, clothing and food for our families. But these are only their material needs. They have other needs as well – love, companionship, guidance, encouragement, comfort and instruction. Will God be pleased if we neglect these other needs of our loved ones just because we are too busy pursuing our career? He holds us responsible to meet all their needs. Thus, we should regard doing this as part of keeping Proverbs 3:27.

Unkind Withholding from Others

You may ask, *“How can unkind withholding be included, since this proverb mentions only giving what is due to others? Kindness goes beyond giving what is due.”* Let us understand that we all have an ongoing debt to pay to others even when we have paid off all our material debts – a debt of love. As God’s Word says in Romans 13:8 – *“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.”*

Love means putting others before self. Love should not be confined to those in the body of Christ, but should also include common people, uncommon people and unlovable people. We have a debt of love to pay to everyone who needs our help. But how much time and effort do we really put into paying this debt?

When God has blessed us abundantly, we must be careful not to become desensitized to the needs of others. We must not be so caught up with enjoying all the pleasures we can afford that we become devoid of feelings of compassion for those who need our help. James says, *“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?”* (James 2:15-16)

One very important need that others have is to be saved from sin and eternal death. How much effort do we put into meeting this need? We thank God for giving us the gospel that has saved us. But are we doing right if we keep it all to ourselves?

The proverb says that we must not withhold doing good as long as it is in the power of our hand to do it. It is not in our power to save anyone from sin – only God has the power to do that. But it is in our power to sow the gospel seed and to water it. It is in our power to talk to the unsaved loved ones and friends that we come into contact with. It is in our power to give them a tract, or share our faith with them, or to invite them to come to church.

The Cause of Withholding

Finally we need to know what causes us to withhold good from those to whom it is due. Why are we so unwilling to give even when we have the means to do so?

The answer is that sin has made us selfish creatures. We like to receive rather than give. Sin causes us to love others less than we should – hence we don’t want to give to them. Sin also causes us to love our wealth more than we should – hence we don’t want to give any of it away. This means that the only way we can follow the teaching of this proverb well is to deal with the sinful, self-centred nature within us. That must begin with salvation to change our heart, and it must continue with sanctification to change our behaviour and our attitudes to others.

The ultimate example of someone who did not withhold the good He could give, is our Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus saw us in our wretched sinful condition, He did not leave us to languish in the misery and judgment we deserved. He lavished grace upon grace on us – forgiving us for all our offences, removing our spiritual blindness, giving us the Holy Spirit to empower us and help us, and making us heirs of eternal life. No one has ever done more good for us than our Lord Jesus!

And now we must grow to become more and more like Him in His goodness. Let us therefore follow our Master’s example in giving rather than taking, in being generous rather than being covetous, and in dispensing good to others rather than withholding good from them.

- Rev Charles Seet

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our **worship services** begin promptly at **11.00 am and 3.00 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 7th March | No 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 10th March | No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting | |

| <i>Next Lord's Day</i> | <i>Morning Service</i> | <i>Evening Service</i> | LORD'S DAY DUTIES |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Preacher | Eld Stephen Toms | Eld Stephen Toms | <u>TODAY: 04/03/2018</u> |
| Message | TBC | TBC | Chairman: John |
| Text | TBC | TBC | Organist: Anthony |
| | | | Pianist: Anthony |
| | | | Ushers: Daniel / Tom |
| | | | Lunch: Tom |
| | | | Washing Up: Volunteers |
| | | | PA Crew: Scott / Venise |

| NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS | <u>NEXT WEEK: 11/03/2018</u> |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: This afternoon at 1:45pm the church will be holding Sunday School for young children and toddlers, led by Sisters Elizabeth, Nina and Barbara. Please invite friends and family to attend. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister. • Changes to Church Activities from January 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Evening worship will be brought forward to 3pm.</i> ➤ <i>No Pre-lunch Bible Study.</i> • Theme for Easter: "Rest for the People of God" - Rev Mark Lehman | Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Michael Ushers: John / Tom Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / John |

| | |
|---|---|
| Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £452.40; Lunch: £31 Attendance - Morning: 25 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 14 (A) 5 (C) | Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,970.50 |
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SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 1

Q: What is the chief end of man?

A: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Comments:

The *chief end* of a thing means the *chief purpose for which it is made*. For instance, the chief end of a window is to let in light. Man's chief end is *to serve God*; and if he do so faithfully on earth, he will be happy with him for ever in heaven.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 10:31, Revelation 7:15-17

MEMORY VERSE

| Last Week | This Week | Next Week |
|---|--|---|
| <i>"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."</i> James 5:16 | <i>"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."</i> Psalm 103:8 | <i>"Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always."</i> Deuteronomy 11:1 |