



# 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. 36

LORD’S DAY 09 SEPTEMBER 2018

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Morning Service – 11am*

### *Afternoon Service – 3pm*

	<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 99:1-3	Isaiah 26:4
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 28 – “ <i>The God of Abraham Praise</i> ”	RHC 323 – “ <i>Trust and Obey</i> ”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 122	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 122</i> (to the tune of Bethlehem, RHC 15)	---
<i>Announcements &amp; Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings &amp; Doxology *</i>	RHC 425 – “ <i>Take the World, but Give Me Jesus</i> ”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Genesis 50:20	Job 40:1
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Mr Gavin Fernandes	Mr Gavin Fernandes
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>You Meant it for Evil; God Meant it for Good</i>	<i>God’s Job is Harder Than You Think</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 319 – “ <i>It Is Well with My Soul</i> ”	RHC 7 – “ <i>God Moves in a Mysterious Way</i> ”
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Mr Gavin Fernandes	Mr Gavin Fernandes
<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.

# **CHRISTIAN CONSUMERISM**

**Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

“Pastor, do you know why so and so left the church?” said a concerned member. “Yes,” replied the pastor. He went on to press for an answer, “What are you going to do?” The pastor paused for a little while and then said to him, “What can I do? When a member decides to leave the church for a “greener” pasture, nothing can dissuade him.”

Every year Life Church has a good number of transfers of membership. Why did they leave their former churches to join Life church? There are many reasons. Some join Life because they have moved to the vicinity. Others join Life because they have found her teaching solid and edifying. Still others join Life because they have found her members loving, caring and supportive. Ironically, some Lifers left Life because they have found her unloving, unfriendly and uncaring. And still others left because they have found the sermons dry, boring and impractical.

Some years ago, the Lord blessed us with a wonderful church camp. Every camper was blessed by the messages. I also thanked God for a blessed and refreshing time in the camp. One Sunday while I was fetching the speaker to church, I asked him a question, “Did any member of the church ever get tired of your preaching?” “To be very honest with you,” he said “yes.” Some even left the church. Strange! Isn't it!

What has gone wrong with the Church of Jesus Christ at large? Why do people hop from church to church? Is there an answer to the problem? The more I think of it, the more I believe the root of the problem is CHRISTIAN CONSUMERISM.

## **What is Christian Consumerism?**

A consumer is somebody or something that consumes something, by eating it, drinking it, or using it up. What is his mind-set? A consumerist mentality is this: I bought a bowl of noodles to eat in the food court. After eating it, I made a comment to my friends that this is not as good as the one I ate in Chinatown. I don't think I will ever eat from this stall again.

On the surface, the comment may seem harmless. However, I think it does reveal one's inner self – the real me in me. For that reason, I would define consumerism as me-ism. Me-ism is humanism. The core teaching of humanism is “I,” “me” and “mine.”

What is the Christian consumerist mind-set? The Christian consumerist often asks: Are my expectations met? Are the preachers meeting and satisfying my felt needs? Does the style of worship suit me? Unfortunately, there is nothing about God's expectations being met. All that concerns him is “I,” “me” and “mine.”

Dearly beloved, do you possess such a consumerist mentality?

## **What Characterizes Christian Consumerism?**

To begin with, let me say this (though it may be unpleasant to some members' ears): It is most unfortunate that Christian consumerism exists in our congregation. Allow me to highlight three attitudes that reflect a Christian consumerist mentality.

### **1. Self-Focused Egotism**

Egotism exalts self and dethrones God. How is this self-centeredness evidenced in the church? When a self-focused Christian comes to church for worship, his orientation is not God but self. He comes to church to look for something that would satisfy his soul. He asks, "What do I get out of this sermon? Can the preacher meet my felt needs? Is he the kind of speaker I like to hear? What can I get from the church? (rather than "what can I give to God?")

By focusing on his own felt needs, he misses the whole point of worship, namely, God. Warren Wiersbe warns us, "If we look upon worship only as a means of getting something from God rather than giving something to God, then we make God our servant instead of our Lord and the elements of worship become a cheap formula for selfish gratification. When worship becomes pragmatic, it ceases to be worship."

Steven Charnock, in the same vein, also cautions us in his book *The Existence and Attributes of God*: When we believe that we should be satisfied, rather than that God should be glorified, we put God below ourselves as though He has been made for us, not we for Him. There is no greater blasphemy than using God as our servant and there is no worse place to do it than the realm of worship where we make the worship of God to end in ourselves rather than in God.

Self-centeredness is a form of idolatry. Idolatry is putting God below the base level of your preferences or rendering His purposes subservient to your desires or prioritizing your opinions above the God of the universe. God's house is erected for His glory and the fulfillment of His purposes. Therefore, do not try to rob God of His glory but glorify Him in worship and in whatsoever you do (1 Corinthians 10:31).

### **2. Self-Styled Pragmatism**

Self-styled pragmatism is an attitude that seeks to serve God on its own terms and in its own wisdom. A self-styled Christian serves God as he sees fit. He is not motivated by God's glory nor does he feel compelled to honour God's commands. His Christian practice is according to his own preconceived notions rather than the objective parameters of the Holy Scripture.

Self-styled pragmatism is deceitful, cunning and subtle. A self-styled Christian often maintains an outward appearance of godliness. Unlike the self-focused Christian, he is not overtly self-seeking. Rather he seeks to be involved as long as the involvement is according to his terms and for his glory. However, if he cannot get his terms and conditions met, he will not want to have anything to do with it.

God's work is to be done in God's way. It is not to be done according to your terms and conditions and descriptions. The Bible gives us a clear guidance how God's work should be done. There is no one-man show in the work of the Lord. God and God's people are involved in it. Nehemiah was a good example. He did not believe in a one-man ministry.

Having surveyed the broken wall of Jerusalem, he called God's people together and told them the tragic condition they are in and challenged them to do something about it. And the people responded enthusiastically. With great zeal they put their hands together and rebuilt the broken wall of Jerusalem in 52 days (Nehemiah 2:11-6:15).

Brethren, may I encourage each and every one of you to give some thought how you can build up the broken walls of Maranatha so that it can continue to be a powerful witness for Christ in the eastern part of Singapore.

### **3. Self-Absorbed Individualism**

A self-absorbed individual possesses an attitude that demands independence and seeks to be left alone. He is a solo lobo (lone wolf), a lone ranger or a maverick. As much as possible, he disregards church authority. He may be a faithful member of the church (in terms of attendance), but he has no commitment to the church or her ministry, and therefore, he has no accountability to the leadership of the church. A self-absorbed individual Christian is characterized by his self-sufficiency. He avoids scrutiny and rejects any spiritual help from the Body of Christ. He takes only what he wants to take, rejecting everything else as unnecessary to his own self-sufficiency. Solomon said that he who separates himself seeks his own desire and quarrels against all sound wisdom (Proverbs 18:1).

Isolation harms the Body of Christ. Human beings were not designed to be lone rangers. You and I were made to live in a community. The church is a local community of believers (Hebrews 10:25). Christians are to be absorbed with Christ (Philippians 1:21) and concerned with the needs of others (Philippians 2:1-4; Acts 2:44, 45).

Dearly beloved, Christian consumerism is a mind-set. You need to eradicate it once and for all. Therefore, may I urge you to examine yourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5), make an effort to transform all self-centered perspectives into God-centered purposes (Romans 12:1, 2), submit gladly to God's expectations, not yours (Acts 9:6), and play an active role in the life of the church, for self-absorbed individualism hurts the Body of Christ. Amen.

*- Rev Colin Wong*

# 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
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept <b>No Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</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.
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<i>Preacher</i>	Dr David Allen	Dr David Allen	<b><u>TODAY: 09/09/2018</u></b>
<i>Message</i>	TBC	TBC	<i>Chairman:</i> John
<i>Text</i>	TBC	TBC	<i>Organist:</i> Matthew
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<i>Pianist:</i> Matthew
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday School:</b> Sunday School for young children and toddlers will be held at 1:45pm, led by Elizabeth and Nina. Please invite friends and family to attend.</li> <li>• <b>Church Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister.</li> </ul>			<i>Ushers:</i> Jonathan / Tom
			<i>Lunch:</i> Jonathan
			<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
			<i>PA Crew:</i> Scott
			<b><u>NEXT WEEK: 16/09/2018</u></b>
			<i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan
			<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
			<i>Pianist:</i> Anthony
			<i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Yetta
			<i>Lunch:</i> Maureen
			<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
			<i>PA Crew:</i> Scott
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £920.60, Love Gift: £100.00, Mission fund: £50, Lunch: £35.00 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 31 (A) 6 (C), Afternoon: 18 (A) 6 (C)			<b>Church Maintenance Fund</b> <b>Total: £4,330.50</b>
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 28			
<b>Q: Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?</b> <i>A: Christ's exaltation consisteth in his <u>rising again from the dead</u> on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in <u>SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD</u> the <u>Father</u>, and in <u>coming to judge the world</u> at the last day.</i>			
<b>Comments:</b> <i>Exaltation</i> means a rising from meanness to greatness. Christ's exaltation consists in the following particulars: 1. In rising from the dead; 2. In ascending up into heaven; 3. In sitting at God's right hand; 4. In being appointed to judge the world. This is the state in which our Saviour is now.			
<b>Scriptural Reference:</b> Matthew 28:6, Mark 16:19, Matthew 25:31-32			
MEMORY VERSE			
<b>Last Week</b> <i>"For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."</i> <b>1 Timothy 4:8</b>	<b>This Week</b> <i>"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is."</i> <b>Jeremiah 17:7</b>	<b>Next Week</b> <i>"Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart."</i> <b>Psalms 119:2</b>	