



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. 29

LORD’S DAY 22 JULY 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Isaiah 56:1-2

Galatians 3:13-14

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 85 – “*O Day of Rest and Gladness*”

RHC 121 – “*My Redeemer*”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:97-112

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 119 verses 97-104
(to the tune of St Louis, RHC 171)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 348 – “*Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah*”

Scriptural Text

Genesis 30:1-24

John 3:1-17

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Gabriel Gan

Rev Gabriel Gan

Sermon Message

A Faith that Overcomes Family Dysfunction

How to Become a Citizen of Heaven

*Closing Hymn **

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

RHC 301 – “*My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Gabriel Gan

Rev Gabriel Gan

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.

THE ROD OF CORRECTION

Adapted from Life BP Church Singapore Weekly, Sunday 17th June 2018

When a baby is born, its parents beam with pride and praise for their little angelic bundle of joy – how sweet and innocent he looks when he opens his eyes, smiles with a toothless grin and utters his first baby sounds. But not long after that, they discover that their cute little newborn is not so angelic after all. The sinful nature within him starts to unravel itself as he grows up.

Where did this sinful nature come from? It came from his parents. His sinful nature is a replica of their own. And their willingness to admit this then gives them a sense of responsibility to help the child to deal with this sinful nature that they have passed on to him. It makes them seek earnestly for a remedy that can deal with it. What kind of remedy can best help the child to deal with the sinfulness or foolishness that is deeply entrenched in his heart?

The answer is found in Proverbs 22:15 – *“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”* The rod of correction here refers to parental acts of disciplining the child whenever his sinful nature rears its ugly head. Although the word ‘rod’ here suggests the use of a cane, it should be understood as a metaphor for all the various forms of discipline besides the cane, including the use of words of rebuke, removal of privileges, and doing unpleasant tasks. The purpose is to make the child realize that sin always brings unpleasant consequences. And as such disciplinary measures are applied, the child develops a healthy aversion not for the discipline itself, but for sin.

Many parents have the mistaken idea that if they love their child, they should not discipline him at all. They don’t want their precious child to endure the least suffering or embarrassment at all, not even if that suffering or embarrassment is the necessary consequence he has to bear for his own wrongdoing.

If you are such a parent, please listen carefully to the words of wisdom found in Proverbs 29:15 – *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”* Withholding the rod of correction from a child who needs it will actually do him more harm than good. Proverbs 23:13,14 therefore instructs us – *“Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”*

All good parents know full well that it is sometimes necessary for a child to experience some pain for his own good. For example, in taking him to a doctor for an injection to give him immunity against certain deadly diseases. Why do we make our children go through this regime of painful injections, despite their cries and protests? It is because we love them and want the best for them.

The Rod Must Be Used with Love and Wisdom

The rod of correction may be painful and unpleasant both to the child and to his parents, but it is definitely worth all the benefits that it brings. Do you know that withholding the rod from a child actually amounts to hating him? Proverbs 13:24 says it very clearly – *“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”*

This verse also gives us an important principle about the use of the rod of correction. Any discipline we give must always be done with love, and not with anger. It is sad that some parents cross this line when disciplining their child. In a fit of rage they inflict more physical and emotional pain than what is needful and helpful to the child.

Cases of child abuse have sadly resulted from parents who have not controlled themselves while disciplining their child. How do we exercise love in using the rod of correction?

Give Words of Instruction and Correction

Children must first be told where the boundary lines are. For example, they must be told that directly disobeying authority, or deliberately infringing upon the rights of others, or violating a known moral principle are things they should not do. These rules should always be kept simple, enforceable and be clearly explained to the child.

And before any physical punishment is inflicted for breaking a rule, words of correction should first be given to him. If the child responds to those words of correction by an immediate withdrawal from his disobedience, there is no need to proceed further. But if the child does not respond to the words of correction, and persists in carrying on his disobedience, then that is the time when punishment becomes most necessary.

Apply the Right Amount of Discipline

Discipline is just like medicine. It must be administered with the correct dosage. If one gives too little, it will not be effective at all. There must be some degree of firmness in discipline. But if one gives too much, then it may do more harm than good. There must be restraint and gentleness in discipline.

The discipline given should also be fair, appropriate, and consistent. It must be fair so that no child would think that he is being given more discipline than the rest of his siblings. And discipline must be given consistently in order to be effective. It should not be sometimes given, and sometimes not given, depending on the disposition or mood of the parent.

Colossians 3:21 says, *“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”* This instruction is specifically addressed to fathers, who because of their physical strength, may tend to be a little too severe in their exercise of discipline. This will only build up deep-seated anger or resentment in the hearts of their children.

There are times when we are caught in a wrong frame of mind and spirit at the time when we need to discipline a child, and hence we overdo it. When we realize that we have been too severe, what should we do? We should not be afraid to apologise to the child for the excessive discipline we have given him. Making a sincere apology will keep the child from developing feelings of resentment.

The point that must be emphasized here is that the child's feelings must be taken into consideration in our exercise of discipline. And because of this we should also not be guilty of excessive faultfinding or of nagging a child too much. If we do this, the child will lose heart and become despondent.

Seeing that the wrong use of discipline whether verbal or physical can be damaging to a child, it is important for parents to exercise discipline with both wisdom and love. It is a good practice to reassure the child that you still love him, just after meting out the disciplinary action to him. And it is also good to encourage him with words of praise when he begins to do what is right. Such words can go a long, long way to help the child, as given in Proverbs 25:11 – *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”*

Turn the Child to God for Forgiveness and Help

We know that when a child is corrected for having done wrong to someone, he should make an *apology* to that person. It is only when he is able to say, *“I’m sorry for what I have done to you”* that we know that the correction has been successful.

But we must also let him know that God is the One who has been most offended by his wrongdoing, and so above all else, he should make an apology to God. This is where you can help your child by praying together with him, helping him to confess his sin to God and to ask for God’s forgiveness. When you keep including this step in the process of correcting your child, he will soon realize how dependent he is on God’s grace to forgive him for his sins. And this realization may one day lead him to trust in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross to wash all his sins away.

By directing your child to turn to God each time you discipline him, you are also helping him to seek God’s help to deal with his own sinful nature. Soon it will become natural for him to ask God to help him overcome the urge to sin. Being saved from the penalty of sin through trusting in Jesus, and seeking God’s help to overcome the power of sin are the ultimate solution to the sin problem that is found in every person, even to your child’s sin problem.

The Rod Should Be Used With Prayer

When you realize that God is the only One who can deal effectively with sin in your child’s life, you should also be praying for him. After all, even the disciplinary measures you implement to help your child are part of the tools that God uses to mold him and change him from within.

Remember that God is not only your Heavenly Father, but your child’s Heavenly Father as well. As a loving heavenly Father, God is even more concerned for your child’s struggle with sin than you are. He will also use the rod of correction on him when necessary. Hebrews 12:6 tells us, *“For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.”* God may use trials, disappointments, failures and other circumstances in your child’s life as His rod of correction. God’s disciplinary actions on him will always be the best for him. God knows exactly how much chastisement to give to your child – neither too much nor too little.

What this means to those who are parents, is that while you ought to do your part in using your rod of correction wisely and lovingly, you should also be praying that God will use His divine rod of correction on your child in the way that He knows best. If you find that your child is not responding well to your efforts to discipline him, pray for him, and make your prayer as fervent as you can.

If you want the very best for your children, pray that God will work in their hearts, guide them, protect them, and discipline them, so that they may become useful citizens of His kingdom. But at the same time pray for wisdom and guidance from the Lord to teach you how to discipline your children well with love and wisdom, so that they will become god-fearing people who will love the Lord and do His will.

- *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
Fri 27 th July	7pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony <i>The Parable of the Net</i> - Mr Philip Knowles	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 28 th July	3pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Gabriel Gan	Rev Gabriel Gan	TODAY: 22/07/2018 <i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Anthony <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Yetta <i>Lunch:</i> Helen <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott
Message	Faith that Overcomes Betrayal	Character of a Heavenly Citizen	
Text	Genesis 37:1-35	Matthew 5:1-6	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Sunday School for young children and toddlers will be held at 1:45pm, led by Elizabeth, Nina and Barbara. Please invite friends and family to attend. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Rev Gabriel Gan as he ministers to us for the next 6 weeks. Also, pray for the calling of a new minister. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch next Lord's Day. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 29/07/2018</u></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Venise <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Margaret <i>Lunch:</i> Tan Family <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott</p>

Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1012.12, Lunch: £41.83, Baalah: £300.00, (08/07) Maintenance Fund: £100.00 Attendance - Morning: 32 (A) 8 (C), Afternoon: 19 (A) 6 (C)	Church Maintenance Fund Total: £4,330.50
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SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 21

Q: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?	<i>A: The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal <u>Son of God</u>, BECAME MAN, and so was, and continueth to be, <u>God and man</u> in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever.</i>
<u>Comments:</u>	To <i>redeem</i> is to <i>buy back</i> something which has been possessed before, but of which possession has been lost. New, Jesus Christ redeemed us with his own blood. And of this Redeemer we are here told that, being God, he became man; so that the two natures in him remain henceforth and for ever united in one person. Jesus Christ, we must remember therefore, is not something <i>between</i> God and man, but <i>both</i> God and man.
<u>Scriptural Reference:</u>	Acts 4:12, Hebrews 2:14, Revelation 1:18

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.</i> John 15:10	<i>"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."</i> Luke 6:27-28	<i>"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."</i> James 4:7