



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. 39

LORD’S DAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 45:6-11

Thessalonians 1:11-12

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 17 – “Begin, My Tongue,
Some Heavenly Theme”

RHC 556 – “How Sweet the
Name of Jesus”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 125

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 125
(to the tune of Arlington, RHC 433)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 131 – “No One Ever Cared
for Me Like Jesus”

Scriptural Text

Revelation 4

Numbers 2

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

The Lord In His Holy Temple

The Church: It’s Ministers and Officers

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 41 – “Before Jehovah’s
Aweful Throne”

Insert – “Thou, Who Didst Call
Thy Saints of Old”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

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.

CAN I BE AS WISE AS KING SOLOMON?

Adapted from Life BP Church Singapore Weekly, Sunday 2nd September 2018

Whenever the name of King Solomon is mentioned, people immediately associate it with two things: Great wealth and Great wisdom. Many will probably take greater interest in his wealth. Under his reign Israel enjoyed a Golden age – a time when it overflowed with gold. It is estimated that over a 30-year period Solomon amassed about 500 metric tons of gold!

But for those who live with eternity's values in view, Solomon's golden wisdom is of far greater value than his golden wealth. Solomon himself testified of this in Proverbs 16:16 – *"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!"*

Solomon's wisdom was quite amazing – It is seen in the many wise sayings that he composed in the Book of Proverbs. It is seen in the philosophical forays he took, as described in the Book of Ecclesiastes. It is also seen in the difficult legal cases he was able to solve.

I am sure that we would all like to know how King Solomon became so wise. How did he acquire all his wisdom? Did he attach himself to some aged sage or guru? Or did he get hold of a lot of books of wisdom and philosophy and study them? Or did he go to some secluded place to meditate deeply until he attained enlightenment? Solomon did not do any of these things.

The Scriptures inform us that his wisdom was given to him directly by God. This happened at the time when he had just become the king of Israel. He wanted to begin his reign well, and what better way is there to do this, than to seek for God's help. So Solomon went to a place called Gibeon and offered a thousand burnt offerings to God. And after that when he slept, the Lord appeared to him in a dream and offered to grant him anything he would ask for.

And what Solomon said in his reply to God revealed his great sense of inadequacy: *"And now, O LORD my God, Thou hast made Thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in."* (1 Kings 3:7) He felt terribly unequal to the task of being a king.

And so he asked God, *"Give therefore Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this Thy so great a people?"* (1 Kings 3:9)

God was more than willing to grant Solomon his request. As an added bonus, God gave him things that he could have asked for, but did not ask – wealth and honour, long life and victory over all his enemies. That is how Solomon became wise. From this we learn that we need to do at least four things in order to become wise.

Admit your own foolishness

This requires a great deal of humility, and it is the hardest part. Most people would like to think that they are not foolish or at least not unwise. Many would like to think that they have developed some discernment to help them judge situations or people correctly. This may happen just after they have gained some knowledge or insight – they glory in that newly acquired knowledge and think that they are better than the rest of the crowd, and they start to flaunt their 'wisdom' at every opportunity.

Students who have been through college would know that when you reach the second year, you are no longer called a freshman, but a sophomore. But the term 'sophomore' is derived from the Greek words *sophos* which means 'wise' and *moron* which means 'fool'. A second-year student is therefore a 'wise fool'. He thinks he is wise because he has completed his freshman year, but he is still a fool because there is much more that he has not learned yet.

Please be careful not to be a wise fool, as that would be deceiving yourself. If you want to be as wise as Solomon, you must be willing to admit that you are a fool and that you lack wisdom.

Ask God to give you wisdom

Why ask God for wisdom? Because God is the ultimate source of all true wisdom. That is why He is referred to three times in the Bible as the 'only wise God.' And the good news for us is that the only wise God delights in giving wisdom to those who ask Him for it.

This wonderful truth is reiterated in James 1:5 – *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”* We should therefore be bold in our prayers to ask God for the wisdom we need, since He is so kind and generous to us. However there is a condition we must meet in order to receive such wisdom from God. We must *“ask in faith, nothing doubting”*(v.6).

Believe that God will give you wisdom

The Lord looks for stable, consistent trust in Him, and if you seek wisdom from God, you must believe that He will give it to you. When Jesus Christ was on earth, He was always ready to praise those who asked Him for things in faith. One of them was a Syro-Phoenician woman who sought help from Jesus to cast out a demon from her daughter. When He told her that it would not be right to give the dogs bread that was meant for the children, she pleaded that the dogs still get to eat the crumbs that fall from the table. Jesus then said to her, *“O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.”* (Matthew 15:28).

Therefore if you need wisdom, ask God for it in faith, believing that God will grant it to you.

Keep exercising your God-given wisdom

Wisdom is like a muscle. It must be exercised. The more you exercise wisdom, the wiser you will be. This truth is found in Hebrews 5:14 – *“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

How can you exercise wisdom or discernment? One way to do this is to assess everything you come across, instead of blindly accepting everything. For instance, you can exercise discernment when you read the newspapers. Discern between truths and opinions. And when you discern opinions, evaluate them with the wisdom that God has given you – Are they valid and reasonable opinions? Or are they unsound or biased opinions? Do they contradict what God says in His word?

When you read a story or watch a show on TV do you approve of everything that the hero or heroine does? Those who are undiscerning are prone to accept whatever the hero does without detecting the flaws in his character or morals.

We must recognize that the sinful nature is found in everyone no matter how good he or she is. While we should learn and emulate the good that we can see in others, we should learn not to emulate their faults and weaknesses. The best way to discern such things is to use Jesus as your standard of perfect character. Ask yourself – would Jesus have done what this person or that person did?

Make an effort to get into the habit of exercising discernment. As you do this you may sometimes make mistakes. At times you may interpret a person's actions wrongly, or jump to wrong conclusions. But after you realize that you have done that, learn from your mistakes. Learn to give others the benefit of the doubt and not to make premature judgments (1 Corinthians 4:5).

May the Lord help us all to increase in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

- 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
Sat 6 th Oct	No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting		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.
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Eld (Dr) George Chew	Eld (Dr) George Chew	<u>TODAY: 30/09/2018</u>
Message	Who is a Christian?	Oil and Dew	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	Ephesians 1:3-14	Psalms 133	Organist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Matthew
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Sunday School today. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister. • Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony centenary meeting: Saturday 24th November 2018, 2:30pm at Westminster Baptist Church. Speaker: Dr John Douglas. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch today. 			Ushers: Daniel / Tom
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: John / Venise
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 07/10/2018</u>
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £476.32, Lunch: £42.50 Attendance - Morning: 26 (A) 6 (C), Afternoon: 12 (A) 6 (C)			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £4,330.50

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 31

Q: What is effectual calling?

A: Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the Gospel.

Comments:

There are two ways by which God calls or invites men to be saved – the *outward* call of his Word or his Providence, and the *inward* call of his Spirit. The former of these is often ineffectual through the evil of our hearts; the latter is always effectual. The steps or stages of the *inward, effectual* call of the Spirit are four: 1. *Conviction*, or making us feel our sin; 2. *Enlightenment*, or making the way of salvation plain to us; 3. *Renewal*, or inclining us anew to the love and practice of what is good and right; and 4. As the fruit of these, *Faith*, or enabling us to trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

Scriptural Reference:

John 16:8, Ephesians 1:17, Romans 8:5, John 6:44-45

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"</i> 2 Corinthians 9:8	<i>"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."</i> Proverbs 3:7-8	<i>"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake."</i> Luke 6:22