



# 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. 23 No. 06

**LORD’S DAY 10 FEBRUARY 2019**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Morning Service – 11am*

### *Afternoon Service – 3pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 106:47-48

Psalm 73:23-28

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 45 – “We Gather Together”

RHC 52 – “Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

*Opening Prayer \**

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 144

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 144 verses 1-5, 9*  
(to the tune of St Agnes, RHC 231)

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*Announcements & Memory Verse*

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 331 – “The Haven of Rest”

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*Scriptural Text*

Ephesians 1

Psalm 73

*Pastoral Prayer*

Mr Graham Chewter

Mr Graham Chewter

*Sermon Message*

*Your Salvation*

*The Trial of Faith and its Reward*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 93 – “To God Be the Glory”

RHC 328 – “How Firm a Foundation”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Mr Graham Chewter

Mr Graham Chewter

*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.

# **THE BLESSEDNESS OF BEING** **FORGIVEN**

**Adapted from Life BPC Singapore Weekly, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019**

Whenever a New Year begins everyone will wish one another, “Happy New Year” or “Blessed New Year.” But what exactly constitutes this blessedness that we wish one another? Is it merely having a good feeling the whole year round? No. Blessedness is obviously more than that. It has to do with having the right circumstances which bring satisfaction to a person. To many people that would mean being free from life’s problems and enjoying life’s pleasures. Hence the greeting ‘Happy New Year’ is commonly understood in terms of the absence of bad things like sickness, sorrow and pain, and the abundance of good things like health, wealth and success.

Is that your concept of real happiness? – One that is based only on outward circumstances? If it is, then you can never really have a happy or blessed New Year. At times things may go well for you during the year, but at times, things will not go well. Can anyone ever have 365 good trouble-free days a year? At best, this is only wishful thinking, but at worst it is a deceitful delusion!

However, if your concept of real happiness is based not on outward circumstances but on your inward disposition then it is possible to have it at any time and in any place, no matter what happens to you. As we celebrate the Lunar New Year this week, it would be good for us to consider one very wonderful inward source of blessedness that we should always seek for – the blessedness of being forgiven.

## **King David’s Blessedness**

King David, who wrote Psalm 32, had experienced this blessedness. He probably wrote this after he had confessed his sin of adultery with Bathsheba. David’s confession is recorded in Psalm 51. Psalm 32 may be regarded as a sequel to Psalm 51 to describe his joy in experiencing God’s forgiveness. The first five verses are as follows:

*“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”*

Here we can see a sharp contrast between the time before David’s sin was confessed, and the time after it was confessed. Using figurative speech he describes his condition before confession was made: He felt so restless, weak and depressed because of the guilt of his sin. There was no peace in his heart because He had no peace with God.

When he finally confessed his transgressions to the Lord, God forgave him! The drought of summer was dispelled from David’s soul as cool refreshing streams of God’s love began to flow freely again. God’s heavy hand was lifted up from him, and that same hand now lifted up his spirit to offer profuse praise and thanks to God! His youthfulness was restored as the guilt of his sin was removed and his soul was at peace with God once again. All this is why David began the psalm by exclaiming, *“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven!”*

What a wonderful change David experienced here. Have you experienced this blessedness in your own life? It comes only from knowing God's great promise in 1 John 1:9 – *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* The key to experiencing this blessedness then, is to keep confessing all your sins to God. Do not keep any unconfessed sins in your life. Always keep short accounts with God. Peace with God cannot be restored in any other way than this.

There is only one way to deal with sin that can bring the blessed relief, comfort and peace that your heart and mind needs – Confess your sin to God immediately! This means saying, "I did it and what I did was wrong. I am the one to be blamed for it and no one else. I am so sorry that I have sinned against You and caused so much pain. Please forgive me."

### **What is Confession of Sin?**

But not every confession is true confession, and therefore not every confession will bring about the blessedness of being forgiven. In verse 5 David said, *"I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid."* The basic element in confession of sin is agreement. There must be full agreement with God about your sin. As long as you keep trying to justify what you have done, you are not viewing your sin the way that God views it. God views your sin with deep sorrow. It is an abomination to Him. Do you feel the same sorrow for the sins you confess?

There are times when a person is sorry when confronted with his sin, but his sorrow does not mean that he agrees with God about his sin. He feels sorry only because he was caught, and now he has to 'face the music' and bear the shame of being punished for it. In his heart he still wishes that his sin had never been discovered.

This kind of sorrow only leads to resentment and bitterness. It does not lead to the blessedness of being forgiven. Godly sorrow is not about the shame that one has to bear for sin, but about the damage and hurt that one has caused to God.

### **Sin Caused Death**

Genesis 2:17 – *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* – This was the command that our first parents disobeyed, and it brought themselves as well as the entire human race into a state of spiritual death. It also brought sickness, pain and physical death into our experience and brought all nature under a curse. Romans 6:23 – *"For the wages of sin is death..."*

David's sin of adultery brought about the death of Bathsheba's husband. It also caused the death of the child that was born out of the adulterous relationship. These deaths may have increased the horror that David felt when he confessed his sin to God. Whenever we think of the awfulness of death, the loss, grief and pain that it causes in taking away people we love, please think also of the awfulness of your sin!

### **Sin Ruins our Relationships**

1 Corinthians 1:10-11 – *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you."*

Sin is the ultimate cause of all selfish hatred, strife, division and all the wars that have been fought since the dawn of history. In the case of David, sin damaged his relationship with Uriah the Hittite, who was actually his good friend and loyal soldier – he was one of the 37 fearless comrades who had fought together with David (2 Samuel 23:39). And yet, David wished him to be dead!

Today, sin continues to damage relationships between family members. Divorce, broken homes, battered wives and abused children – all these are tragic reminders to us of how awful sin is! And when it is our sins that cause such problems, surely we should mourn and weep in true repentance for what we have done. But we also need to mourn with sorrow even if our sins do not cause any damage to others, because there is Someone who is always very hurt whenever we sin...

### **Sin Grieves God**

Genesis 6:5-6 – *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.”* God’s grief was so great that He washed the world with a Great Flood. Perhaps one may liken the flood waters to tears that God shed as He mourned deeply over the sins of the world.

Since David was a man after God’s own heart, he probably sensed the grief that his sin caused to God most acutely. He knew that he had hurt the God he loved, and that is why he said in verse 4 that day and night he felt God’s hand bearing down upon him.

Do you know that God is grieved every time you commit sin? Ephesians 4:30 – *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”* If you agree with God concerning your sin, then feeling the way that He does for your sin becomes a very natural thing for you to do. And the Cross was the place where the grief and pain that sin has caused to God can be seen most clearly.

### **Sin Made Christ Suffer on the Cross**

1 Peter 3:18 – *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”* Our Lord Jesus went through immense agony on the cross to make an atonement for our sins. This must surely make us regret that we have sinned.

King David may not have known about the death of Christ as we do today, but in Psalm 22 he describes the suffering and pain of one who has been forsaken by God and whose hands and feet have been pierced. A thousand years later, Jesus uttered the very same words that David had penned in this psalm – *“My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?”*

Thus, King David may have had some knowledge of the sufferings that his sin would cause the Messiah to suffer. And as he thought about this, plus the other results of his sin – the deaths it caused and the relationships it has damaged – he viewed it with the same contempt that God has for it. This then prompted his confession. And as he poured out his heartfelt confession to God, something wonderful happened: He found the blessedness of being forgiven!

Dear Lifer, when you confess your sin to God like that, rest assured that He will comfort you and restore to you the happiness that you lacked. God says in Jeremiah 31:13 – *“for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.”* Jesus echoed these words in the second Beatitude which is recorded in Matthew 5:4 – *“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”* If you want this new year to be a blessed one, please be sure to confess your sins to God regularly!

– Rev Charles Seet

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Dear London Bible Pres Friends,

I have learned from the January 2019 Donors' Lists sent to me from the Independent Board Mission office that you have given a very generous collection of \$4,198.00 for the Outreach to the Rendille school and community. This is a great assistance to us, as we had a couple of serious needs to deal with, – first the costs left over for the Baalah Bible Presbyterian Church Youth Conference in December, and then the “Honey Sucker” to come and clean out four overflowing toilets at Baalah School. The Sucker always cleans up afterward, of any maggots or overflow so that no smell remains. Thank you so much! Even the Sucker has to pay an environment fee for depositing the contents into pits in the next county, Isiolo County, so your gifts were so timely, these two kinds of cleansing – one spiritual to strengthen the youth against Muslim influence against their Christian testimony, the other physical to cleanse the primary school compound. One for the Church, one for the School! May God re-fill your pockets and bless you! Our thanks and prayers go with you....

Judith Collins

# 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 16 Feb	<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.
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i> <i>Evening Service</i>	<b>LORD'S DAY DUTIES</b>
<i>Preacher</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson      Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	<b><u>TODAY: 10/02/2019</u></b>
<i>Message</i>	TBC      TBC	<i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan
<i>Text</i>	TBC      TBC	<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
<b>NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		<i>Pianist:</i> Anthony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday School:</b> Sunday School for young children and toddlers will be held at 1:45pm. 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> <li>• <b>Pray for the forthcoming preachers:</b> Feb – Mr Charles Scott-Pearson. Mar – Mr Charles Scott-Pearson, Rev Lim Chee Boon, Mr Marco Reale.</li> </ul>		<i>Ushers:</i> Tom / John
		<i>Lunch:</i> CNY Carry In
		<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
		<i>PA Crew:</i> Venise / Jason
		<b><u>NEXT WEEK: 17/02/2019</u></b>
		<i>Chairman:</i> John
		<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
		<i>Pianist:</i> Matthew
		<i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Yetta
		<i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers
		<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
		<i>PA Crew:</i> Venise / Jason
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £581.62, Lunch: £24.86 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 21 (A) 6 (C), Afternoon: 10 (A) 5 (C)		<b>Church Maintenance Fund</b> <b>Total: £4,630.50</b>
<b>SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 51</b>		
<b>Q: What is forbidden in the Second Commandment?</b> <i>A: The Second Commandment forbiddeth the worshipping of God by <u>images – or any other way not appointed in his Word.</u></i>		
<u>Comments:</u> This command forbids us: 1. To make use of images in worship; 2. To make use of any other means than those God has appointed.		
<u>Scriptural Reference:</u> Deuteronomy 4:15, Matthew 15:9		
<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>		
<b>Last Week</b> <i>“Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.”</i> <b>Isaiah 48:17</b>	<b>This Week</b> <i>“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”</i> <b>Matthew 7:7</b>	<b>Next Week</b> <i>“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”</i> <b>Matthew 26:41</b>