



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. 32

LORD’S DAY 11 AUGUST 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 90:1-2

Psalm 113:1-3

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 32 – “Immortal, Invisible,
God Only Wise”

RHC 3 – “Love Divine”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 20

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 20 verses 1-5
(to the tune of Beatitudo, RHC 63)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 387 – “I Need Thee Every
Hour”

Scriptural Text

1 Kings 12

John 1

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Marco Reale

Mr Marco Reale

Sermon Message

A Man Made Religion

Christ The Word of God

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 429 – “We Have Not Known
Thee as We Ought”

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

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Marco Reale

Mr Marco Reale

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.

AM I A WORTHY DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 28th July 2019

Mr Tan was a staunch believer of a certain faith. He was the chairman of a religious society. He was known by his community as a devout man. One day his son became a Christian. He told his father about it. Immediately, there was a conflict between him and his family. Needless to say, Mr Tan was furious. He began to persecute him severely. He would force him to bow before many gods. However, his son John would resist strongly. The conflict went on for a while. Meanwhile, prayer was offered to God by the church for John. One day, John invited his pastor to speak to his father. Miraculously, Mr Tan believed in the Lord. Immediately, he asked the pastor to remove all his gods and burned them.

Jenny became a Christian through the ministry of the Youth Fellowship. Her parents came to know about it. They tried to stop her from coming to church. They even came to church to ask the pastor to de-baptize her. The parents continued to persecute her. But Jenny remained faithful to the Lord. Now she is married and together with her husband, serving the Lord in a foreign land.

This is what Jesus meant when He said, *“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household”* (Matthew 10:34-36). Like many others in the history of the church, John and Jenny experienced the sword and fire the Gospel sometimes brings.

This saying of Jesus seems to contradict Isaiah 9:6 where one of Christ's attributes is the Prince of Peace. It is true that Jesus came to bring peace – peace between sinners and God and peace among men. Yet the inevitable result of Christ's coming is conflict – between Christ and the Antichrist, between light and darkness, between God's children and Satan's. And this conflict can occur even between members of the same family.

Beloved in Christ, do you know what it means to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? Unfortunately, many Christians today do not have any idea what it means to be a disciple of Christ or what the Lordship of Christ is. All they were told to be a Christian was to raise their hands or sign a card or walk down an aisle and declare their love for Jesus. Nowadays, the cost of discipleship is hardly heard at the pulpit. And yet its teaching is everywhere in the Gospels and the Epistles. Am I a worthy disciple of Christ? Who is a worthy disciple of Christ?

A Worthy Disciple Forsakes his Family (Matthew 10:34-37)

One of the marks of a disciple is willingness to forsake everything including one's own family if necessary, for Christ's sake. In Luke 9:57-62 Jesus tells us two would-be disciples who did not accept His call to follow Him because they were unwilling to sacrifice their family ties. One wanted to wait for his inheritance before following Him, and the other wanted to delay obedience until he had settled everything with his family. Of such half-hearted, divided commitment, Jesus said, *“No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”* (v62).

The popularity of Jesus attracted large crowds. One day multitudes of them followed Him. He turned around and said to them, *“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple”* (Luke 14:25, 26). This verse is not an attack on family relationships and natural attachments. It only stresses that following Jesus is more important than family ties. If there is a need to choose between Jesus and family, then a true disciple ought to choose to follow Jesus.

John Bunyan was told to stop preaching the Gospel or be thrown into prison. He knew that if he went to prison his wife and children would be left destitute. Yet he knew he must preach the Gospel God had called him to preach. Because he refused to stop preaching, he was imprisoned. From his cell he wrote:

The parting with my wife and poor children hath often been to me in this place as the pulling of the flesh from my bones; and that not only because I am somewhat too fond of these great mercies, but also because I would have often brought to my mind the many hardships, miseries, and wants that my poor family was like to meet with, should I be taken from them, especially my poor blind child, who lay nearer my heart than all I have besides. Oh, the thought of the hardship I thought my blind one might go under would break my heart to pieces.... But yet, recalling myself, thought I, I must venture all with God, though it goeth to the quick to leave you. Oh, I saw in this condition, I was a man who was pulling down his house upon the head of his wife and children; yet thought I, I must do it. I must do it (Cited in the MacArthur NTC, Matthew, Moody Press, 1987, pp 232-3).

Beloved in Christ, if the Lord Jesus calls you to leave your family, relatives, friends and country to go to a distant land to preach the Gospel, will you go? Will you, as Isaiah responded, *"Here I am. Send me!"* (Isaiah 6:8)

A Worthy Disciple Offers his very own Life (Matthew 10:38, 39)

Love of one's life is one of the greatest hindrances to total commitment to Christ. In these verses, Jesus called His disciples to a total self-denial, even to the point of death. No one living in the Roman Empire would miss Jesus' point when He said, *"And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me"* (38). What is a cross? What did Jesus mean when He spoke of one carrying his own cross?

A cross is not hardships and tragedies of human living that befall Christians. These are not the crosses of which Jesus speaks. For examples, if you have a cruel spouse, a rebellious child, a terminal illness, the loss of a job, destruction of a house by a tornado or flood, all these are not crosses. They are trials of a believer's faith (James 1:2; 4:12). Then what is a cross? A cross is the willing sacrifice of everything one has, including life, for the sake of Christ. It is something a believer takes upon himself when it is thrust on him by the unbelieving world because of his relationship with God. That is the cross of which Jesus speaks.

Jesus told the rich young man who supposedly had kept all the commandments, to sell all his possession and follow Him but he went away sad. Then Jesus said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were astonished and asked Him, "Who then can be saved?" He responded, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Then Peter said, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" Jesus replied, *"Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life"* (Matthew 19:28, 29). That's what Jesus meant when He said, *"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it"* (Matthew 10:39).

Elsewhere Jesus said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit"* (John 12:24). James Hudson Taylor said, "And except life itself be cast into the scale, no life can be won, no cause prevail." The Church father Tertullian said, "The blood of the martyr is the seed of the Church" (I am thinking of the 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians executed for their faith by ISIS in Libya in February 2015).

Beloved in Christ, the Saviour is not looking for Christians who will give their spare evenings to Him or their weekends or their years of retirement. Rather He seeks those who will give Him first place in their lives. Are you willing to follow the path of self-renunciation and the way of the cross? Salvation costs us nothing, for Jesus paid the price; but following the Saviour means total sacrifice. Once a reporter asked a communist, "Do you know that your enemies have more soldiers, more ammunition than you? How can you fight against them?" Very calmly, he replied, "As a communist, I am willing to die so that communism may advance one more mile." How about us? Are you willing to advance the cause of Christ one more mile? Only a worthy disciple of Christ is willing to do it.

- 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 17 th August	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>Afternoon Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev Timothy Poh	-	<u>TODAY: 11/08/2019</u> <i>Chairman:</i> John <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Matthew <i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Tom <i>Lunch:</i> Tom <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Venise / Jason <u>NEXT WEEK: 18/08/2019</u> <i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> - <i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Yetta <i>Lunch:</i> Maureen <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Venise / Jason
<i>Message</i>	TBC	-	
<i>Text</i>	TBC	-	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Sunday School for young children and toddlers will be held at 1:45pm. Please invite friends and family to attend. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of Mr Mok Chee Cheong to become our resident minister. • Pray for the forthcoming preachers in August. • Ligonier Ministries, London Conference: 27th-28th September 2019. The theme is "<i>The Light of the World</i>". Please see Jonathan or John for more information. • Please note that there will not be an Afternoon Service next Lord's Day. 			
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1073.30, Lunch: £35.00 Attendance - Morning: 25 (A) 9 (C)			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £5,610.50

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 77

Q: What is required in the Ninth Commandment?

A: The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:16, Zechariah 8:16, Proverbs 14:5, Proverbs 14:25

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."</i> John 13:34	<i>"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."</i> Proverbs 9:10	<i>"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."</i> Psalms 119:105