



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. 11

LORD’S DAY 17 MARCH 2019

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 26:8-12	Isaiah 49:8-13
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 19 – “Come, We That Love the Lord”	RHC 61 – “O for a Thousand Tongues”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 149	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 149 verses 1-4</i> (to the tune of Crimond, RHC 344)	---
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 309 – “Thank You, Lord”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Acts 17:1-15	Acts 17:16-35
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Turning the World Upside Down</i>	<i>To The Unknown God</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 462 – “We’ve a Story to Tell”	RHC 246 – “Open My Eyes, That I May See”
<i>Baptism Service</i>	Rev Lim Chee Boon	---
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon
<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.

SPIRITUAL EYES AND EARS

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 24th February 2019

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105)

Bible reading ought to be a daily affair of the Christian. That is how God communicates with us daily. Through reading His Word you and I will know His desires for us and be able to live a life that is pleasing in His sight and according to His holy will (Psalm 25:4).

All of us know that, but many of us have difficulties reading and understanding the Bible. I can hear some of you lamenting, “I have been trying to read the Bible, but every time I do my concentration just isn’t there. I am reading it but I am not picking any of it up or fully understanding what I am reading which really annoys me. I really want to read and understand what God says so that I can live a holy life.”

Dearly beloved, I can sympathize with you because I am one of them. Though I am theologically trained, but believe it or not, there are still many things I do not know in the Bible. I am like you crying out to God for understanding of His Word so that I can live a more sanctified life.

Over the years I have come to understand why so many Christians have gradually lost their interest in reading the Word. Let me share with you a couple of reasons and hopefully it will help you to revive your interest and love for the Word.

The Bible is not like any other book

The Bible is not like any other book in the library. The Bible is God-inspired Word (1 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21) and it is not the words of men. Therefore, it should not be read as any other book.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:13, *“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”* Paul’s teaching is not based on human wisdom. What he teaches is from the Holy Spirit of God.

And therefore, it must be explained in a spiritual way. Spiritual things are to be interpreted in spiritual words. Spiritual things are for the Christian, not for the non-Christian because he or she does not have the Spirit of God in him or her to understand them (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Dearly beloved, if you desire to understand the Word, you must not read it as any other book, but as God’s authoritative Word. John Calvin said, “The authority of the Scriptures rests first of all in God being the Author.... and they have authority over the believers, and are to be received as the very words pronounced by God Himself” (James 1:21).

The Pages of the Bible talk about Jesus

One of the reasons why Christians do not enjoy reading the Bible is familiarization. Let me explain. Addressing the Jews in his days, Jesus said, *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life”* (John 5:39, 40). The Jews had familiarized themselves with the Old Testament Scriptures or the Torah. They were even looking for salvation by reading them but in vain.

What was the problem? The problem was that the Jews thought that they would find salvation in the pages of the Holy Scripture. So they devoted themselves to reading them but not to what God had revealed in them. They were so familiar with them but not to the message or messages God wanted to convey to them. As a result, they missed Jesus within the pages of the Old Testament Scripture.

Like the people of Judah, God summoned Jeremiah to declare to them, *“Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not”* (Jeremiah 5:21). Speaking to Israel, God said, *“Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see... Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not”* (Isaiah 42:18, 20). This was what happened to the Jews. They had eyes that could see, but they had not paid attention and that they could hear, but they were not listening.

These Jews had the ability to physically see with their eyes but could not see with their spiritual eyes. They had physical ears to hear sounds, but they were spiritually deaf to the Lord’s message. Therefore, they had read the Old Testament Scripture in vain or wrongly.

We have a classic case in the Gospel of Luke 24:13-32. Two disciples were walking on the road to Emmaus whom Jesus appeared to them after His physical resurrection. They were talking about all that had happened in Jerusalem concerning Jesus. They were confused and sad. As they were discussing the event of the day, Jesus approached them and inquired about what they were talking about. Surprisingly, they did not recognize Him. They told Him all about the crucifixion. They said that they had hoped that Jesus would redeem Israel.

Having heard them, Jesus responded to them saying, *“O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?”* And the Lord explained to them what was said about Himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses, the writings of all the prophets and in the Psalms (Luke 24:44). However, they did not understand what the Scriptures had said of the crucifixion and resurrection, and they did not know that they were talking and walking with the Risen Saviour.

Sadly, they had missed Jesus in the Scripture and were missing Him in the flesh also until He opened their spiritual eyesight (Luke 24:45).

Dearly beloved, is this also your problem in Bible reading? We need spiritual eyesight to see spiritual things and ears to hear spiritual things. J. Oswald Sanders aptly said, *“Eyes that look are common, eyes that see are rare”* (Psalm 119:18). May God open our eyes that we may see glimpses of truth that He has for us and open our ears that we may hear voices of truth that He sends us clear.

Suggestions to Reading the Bible Profitably

1. Read the books of the Bible sequentially, consecutively and not randomly.
2. Develop a workable schedule.
3. Read the Bible prayerfully. Say a prayer before you read it. Ask God to illuminate your spiritual eyes to see and open your ears to hear (Revelation 2:7, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).
4. Underline or highlight verses that impress you like God’s character or names or titles given to Christ.
5. Don’t seek to understand every verse or passage you read. Seek a general understanding of the book you are reading. Difficult verses or passages can be dealt with later with the help of a commentary.
6. Muse on a verse or a passage that impresses on you. Pray, reflect and apply it (Psalm 119:15).
7. Use other good versions of the Bible for comparative reading (e.g. New King James Bible, New American Standard Bible or English Standard Version).
8. Look for practical helps (e.g. Reformation Study Bible or ESV Study Bible).
9. This is my personal opinion: I do not encourage you to read the Bible from your Smart Phone. You can do it while you are on the MRT. Otherwise, you should possess a Bible and read and highlight it. That’s the way to know the Word well.

Job obeyed the Word and would do whatever God commanded him to do. No wonder he treasured the Word of God more than his necessary food (Job 23:12). I hope this short sharing of mine can help some of you revive your interest and love for the Bible. Amen. - *Pastor 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 23 rd Mar, 3pm	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.
	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony		
Fri 22 nd Mar, 7pm	<i>Christ, the Prophet – Superior to Moses</i> - Mr Paul Toms		
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon	<u>TODAY: 17/03/2019</u>
Message	TBC	TBC	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	TBC	TBC	Organist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Venise
<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 a new minister. • Pray for the forthcoming preachers: Mar – Rev Lim Chee Boon, Mr Marco Reale. • <i>An email of thanks has been received from the children of Dr Tow for the messages of condolences sent by the Task Force and members of the Church.</i> • Please note that the Church will be holding its ACM on Sunday 24th March after Morning Service. 			Ushers: Daniel / Yetta
			Lunch: John & Sharon
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Scott / Jason
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 24/03/2019</u>
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £646.25, Lunch: £38.00 Attendance - Morning: 26 (A) 6 (C), Afternoon: 13 (A) 6 (C)			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £4,630.50
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 56			
Q: What is the reason annexed to the Third Commandment? <i>A: The reason annexed to the Third Commandment is, That however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from <u>men</u>, yet THE LORD OUR GOD will not suffer them to escape <u>his</u> righteous judgment.</i>			
<u>Comments:</u> The special warning here held out to us is, that although men may permit us to break this commandment with impunity, yet God will assuredly not do so. <i>He</i> will not fail to judge us.			
<u>Scriptural Reference:</u> Deuteronomy 28:58-59			
MEMORY VERSE			
Last Week <i>“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”</i> Matthew 11:28	This Week <i>“The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.”</i> 2 Chronicles 15:2b	Next Week <i>“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:”</i> James 1:19	