



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. 33

LORD’S DAY 18 AUGUST 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 57:7-11

Opening Hymn *

RHC 37 – “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Opening Prayer *

Jonathan Kim

Gloria Patri *

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 21

Second Hymn *

Psalm 21 verses 1-5, 13
(to the tune of St Peter, RHC 456)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *

RHC 380 – “Close to Thee”

Scriptural Text

John 2:1-12

Pastoral Prayer

Ps Timothy Poh

Sermon Message

Who is Jesus?

Closing Hymn *

RHC 57 – “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Ps Timothy Poh

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.

CHANGING THE LORD'S PRAYER?

Adapted from Covenant BPC Weekly, Sunday 16th June 2019

The Pope Changes Prayer on a Whim

On May 22, Pope Francis I changed the words of the Lord's Prayer. Instead of the Biblical words – *“Lead us not into temptation,”* he changed them to *“Do not let us fall into temptation.”* The Pope had been contemplating this change since 2018.

The reason why is because he believes the Lord's Prayer is mistaken – it is against God's nature to lead people into temptation. He said, *“A father doesn't do that, a father helps you to get up immediately...it's Satan who leads us into temptation, that's his department.”*

These revisions are unfortunately based not on textual evidence or theological facts, but on personal discomfort. But it is very clear. Jesus taught his disciples to pray – *“lead us not into temptation.”*

Textual Evidence

This prayer is found in the gospels. Matthew 6:13 and Luke 11:4 record these words for us in Greek. And in every Greek manuscript, the words are exactly the same – *“lead us not into temptation.”* And these Greek words are preserved in ancient Christian writings. They are found in writings by Polycarp - disciple of the apostle John. They are also found in the *Didache* - an early church document outlining church order. They are also found in many early hymns.

Clearly, there is no evidence that the words can mean anything other than *“lead us not into temptation.”*

But is the translation from the Greek correct? Can those Greek words be translated as *“do not allow us to be led into temptation?”* Ancient Bibles in Latin and Syrian translate it as *“lead us not into temptation.”* Reformation Bibles by Luther and Tyndale translate it as *“lead us not into temptation.”* In fact, all Bibles – liberal, evangelical, and even Roman Catholic ones translate the phrase as *“lead us not into temptation.”*

And in all other verses, the Greek word for *“to lead”* is always translated *“to lead”* and not *“to allow to be led.”* This word is used to describe how the friends of the paralyzed man of Luke 5, “brought” him to Jesus. It is active. Similarly, in 1 Timothy 6:7, when Paul was speaking about not being able to take riches out of this world because we “brought” nothing in in the first place.

The word cannot be translated as “allowing to be led.” If that were the case, it would be very strange that the paralyzed man's friends were trying to find a way to let him bring himself in. Or that Paul was saying since we were not allowed to bring anything into the world, we can't carry anything out. This changes the whole meaning. By textual evidence and the meaning of the word, there can be no other way to translate it than *“lead us not into temptation.”*

Theology

The question remains whether God leads us into temptation. Because a prayer for God not to lead us into temptation, implies that God does lead us into temptation. To be clear, God does not tempt us. James 1:13-14 teaches us – *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”*

When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, he was not asking them to pray that God would not tempt them. Rather, the prayer is specific that God would not *lead* them into temptation. And we cannot forget the second phrase – *“but deliver us from [the] evil [one].”* It is Satan who tempts. But while God does not tempt – does God lead us into temptation?

Yes. In the case of Jesus, he was certainly led into temptation by God. In Matthew 4:1, we learn *“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”* It was God’s Spirit that led Jesus to be tempted – but it was Satan who tempted Jesus. God purposefully led Jesus there so that he could face Satan on our behalf.

So while the Pope says that God does not lead his children into temptation, the Bible clearly teaches that God did lead his Son into temptation; just as God smote Jesus (Isaiah 53:4) and sent him to the cross to die; just as it was ultimately God who took away the lives of Job’s children. Job recognized this in Job 1:21 – *“...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away...”*

So what are we praying when we ask God not to lead us into temptation? Simply this - that God would not lead us into temptation! We are asking that we may be spared from both trials and situations where we face temptation.

We know that God sovereignly leads us into trials. God allows testings so that we might rely on him and to grow spiritually from those occasions. James 1:2-3 says, *“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”* But this did not stop Paul from praying three times for God to remove his trials in 2 Corinthians 12.

Similarly, God may sovereignly lead us into occasions where we are tempted by the Devil - like Jesus. But why does God do that? So that we may rely on him to resist temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). When King David saw the prosperity of the wicked in Psalm 73:3, he was tempted to sin. But when he remembered their end, he resisted sin. But this does not stop us from praying that God would not lead us into temptation. In fact, we are to – we want to avoid temptation!

Conclusion

The Bible text cannot be changed on a whim. There is no textual evidence to change it. And there is no theological reason why we should either. God does sovereignly lead us into trial and temptations. He brings us through these things to grow us and to make us rely on him. This is his prerogative. And in praying, we are asking to be spared from temptation – but if we do go through it, that we would be delivered from Satan – the one who truly tempts us.

- Rev Mark Chen

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 24 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>	Eld Stephen Toms	Eld Stephen Toms	<u>TODAY: 18/08/2019</u>
<i>Message</i>	Bread from Heaven	War with Amalek	<i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan
<i>Text</i>	Exodus 16:4	Exodus 17:8	<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<i>Pianist:</i> -
<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 & September. • 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. 			<i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Yetta
			<i>Lunch:</i> Maureen
			<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
			<i>PA Crew:</i> Venise / Jason
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 25/08/2019</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £830.93, Lunch: £39.20, Love Gift: £100</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attendance - Morning: 24 (A) 7 (C), Afternoon: 14 (A) 7 (C)</p>			<i>Chairman:</i> John
			<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
Church Maintenance Fund			<i>Pianist:</i> Venise
			<i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Tom
Total: £5,610.50			<i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers
			<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
			<i>PA Crew:</i> Venise / Jason
			SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 78
Q: What is forbidden in the Ninth Commandment?			
<i>A: The Ninth Commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is <u>prejudicial</u> to truth, or <u>injurious</u> to our own or our neighbour's good name.</i>			
<u>Comment:</u>			
This commandment refers to our <i>words</i> . It commands us to be careful to speak <i>the truth</i> at all times, to stand up for it when it is assailed, and to seek to advance it by all means in our power. And it forbids us to do anything which might make others believe what is not true – which is <i>lying</i> ; and especially where anyone's character is concerned – which is <i>slander</i> . In ordinary intercourse the rule is, Speak the truth in love. In witness-bearing the rule is, Speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.			
<u>Scriptural Reference:</u>			
Ephesians 4:31, Psalm 15:3			
MEMORY VERSE			
Last Week	This Week	Next Week	
<i>"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."</i>	<i>"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."</i>	<i>"The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."</i>	
Proverbs 9:10	Psalm 119:105	Proverbs 18:10	