



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. 20

LORD’S DAY 19 MAY 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 98:1-4

Psalm 90:14-17

*Opening Hymn **

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

RHC 26 – *“Come, Thou Fount”*

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 8

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 8:1-3
(to the tune of Beatitudo, RHC 63)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 91 – *“The Lily of the Valley”*

Scriptural Text

Revelation 2:18-29

Revelation 3:1-6

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

Christ’s Letter to the Church at Thyatira

Christ’s Letter to the Church at Sardis

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 413 – *“Rise Up, O Men of God!”*

RHC 322 – *“Is My Name Written There?”*

*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.

THE CHRISTIAN AND CULTURE

Adapted from Life BP Church Singapore Weekly, 17th March 2019

The world as a rule tends to include religion as part of culture. Hence, Indian culture includes Hinduism, Chinese culture includes Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, while Jewish culture includes Judaism. Asian non-Christians similarly, tend to categorize Christianity under Western culture. Therefore, they resist evangelistic efforts, not wanting to deny their own culture.

A true understanding of Biblical truth, however, reveals that this world-view about Christianity is incorrect. The Christian religion is separate and distinct from culture; it precedes the beginning of culture and also explains it. A Bible-believing Christian should therefore recognize this distinction between faith and culture and seek to interpret culture according to his faith, rather than vice-versa.

A proper understanding of culture is also essential for the Christian who desires to live out his faith in a cultural world. He needs to know how human culture will affect his desire to live a life which is pleasing unto God. He needs to understand the origin, purpose and goal of human culture in order to determine the attitudes he should have towards it.

The definition of culture

The term 'culture' has a very wide connotation. Originally, this was not the case. The word is derived from the Latin word, colere which means 'to till', 'to cultivate'. In its original and simplest meaning, it denotes the labour that is bestowed upon the soil to prepare it for the seed and for the raising of crops. In this simplest sense, the word is still preserved in our English word, 'agriculture', the culture of the field.

Today, culture denotes any human labour that is bestowed on the world in general, including man himself, for the purpose of refining, improving and elevating human life in the world to a higher level, to bring to light and press into service of man all the treasures and powers of the universe. It is expressed in the discovery of laws and relations in natural sciences, the discovery of laws of harmony and beauty of the fine arts, discovery of the laws of operation of the human body and causes of disease and death, in medical sciences, the discovery of the workings of man's soul, sensations, imaginations, reasons, emotion, relationships in psychic and social sciences. All of these things and the products of these efforts must be regarded as belonging to what is known as modern culture.

The ultimate end toward which culture is moving is the attainment of the perfect soul in the perfect body, the perfect man in the perfect society, in which all strife and disruption, war and unrest is found no more, from which suffering and even death are banished and the perfect society in the perfect world, in which everything is subjected to man and serves him as its lord and sovereign.

Where does man's cultural urge come from?

Man has a cultural urge in him, and he is therefore a cultural being. Man has tried to understand his cultural urge as part of his own evolution, bringing him steadily on an upward course toward greater perfection.

The Christian however, sees the cultural urge as originating from man's creation, when the Word of God was spoken to him in Genesis 1:28, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over everything that moveth upon the earth." This command, however, was given to man when he was in spiritual perfection, in the true knowledge of God, standing in a covenant relationship of friendship and service to his Creator. All things were made subject to him, merely in order that all his powers and gifts and all the powers and treasures of the earthly creation might serve him as capital wherewith to glorify God, by consecrating himself and all things over which he rules to the living God.

How did man's fall affect culture?

But man fell, and this fall adversely affected his relationship with God, making him a slave of sin and causing him to die spiritually and physically. However, the cultural urge within him remained intact: He still worked, multiplied and replenished the earth, employing his capacities to discover the laws of the world in which he lives and to subdue it – but it does so now in enmity against God. This made it necessary for God to curse the ground and to subject creation to the bondage of corruption and to vanity, lest sinful man should subvert all of the perfection of creation into a perfect rebellion against God.

Hence, man's efforts are all limited and in vain. He lives in a vicious circle of cultural efforts and gets nowhere, though he could, to a limited extent, make progress toward what he is today. But with all his culture, man can never do good. He always sins, because he refuses to love, serve and glorify God with the products of his culture.

Therefore, the ethical contents of the products of modern culture are corrupt. Those branches and departments of modern culture in which man's ethical nature finds expression show overwhelming evidence of corruption. Radio and television are intrinsically good inventions, but what comes over the radio and television is a different matter. Books are good, but their contents hardly glorify God. Themes of paintings, sculptures, theatrical productions, dances, music and songs are dedicated to man's own glory. Thus, he produces 'the world' with its lust of the flesh, its lust of the eyes and its pride of life (1 John 2:15,16).

This 'world of culture' is anti-God in its expression. And with these products, man also accomplishes his own destruction: destroying the body, destroying the family, disrupting society, corrupting the state, and setting the world afire with war.

Two weeks ago, a debut concert in Singapore by the Swedish death metal band Watain was cancelled at the last hour. According to a statement released by IMDA, this band is known for its Satanist views and some of their previous controversial performances involved animal carcasses and throwing pig's blood on its audience. It also espouses anti-Christian views and advocates Satanism through their songs, and endorses violence.

This is only one of thousands of heavy metal bands whose music genre has become very popular today, because of a corrupt world of culture that glorifies sex, drugs and death. As long as the demand for such music exists, it will keep propagating itself through the media.

The end-product of all culture is perhaps pointed out in the number six hundred, three score and six, the number of man (Revelation 13:18), the number that denotes the limit of all earthly efforts and strife, the vicious circle, the week without the Sabbath, toil without rest, strife without attainment, time without eternity – vanity! Culture can never make the perfect man nor build the perfect world.

How does God's grace affect culture?

Where then, does the Christian stand in all of this? Does the grace of God change the situation for him? It does not, in the sense that the Christian lives in the same world as the ungodly and must therefore work with the same material. But it also does, in the sense that grace has restored the Christian's cultural urge toward the goal of serving and glorifying God. However, he still cannot fulfil the original purpose of culture, because he, unlike man in his unfallen state, works with material which is in bondage to corruption and vanity, including his own flesh.

The difference which grace makes in his efforts, is that, unlike the unregenerate, he does not seek to produce 'the world' out of his efforts. He does not make these things serve sin and unrighteousness, because he seeks the Kingdom of God. He strives for a Christian family, a Christian home, a Christian life, a Christian church in the midst of the world. But he can never attain unto the perfect soul and perfect world, which will only be here when the Kingdom of God is inaugurated by Jesus Christ in heaven and earth. This is what the Christian looks forward to with a sure hope – For then, all creation shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, all things will be made new, and the tabernacle of God will be with men forever!

The Christian's conflict with world culture

A Christian who lives in a cultural world is constantly in conflict with it. On one hand, he cannot help but to be very much linked to it, because he has to relate to it in everything that he does: in birthright, in racial and familial heritage, in language, in education, in relationships and social interaction, in daily living, and also in employment and vocation. And so, he is faced with the necessary task of having to make difficult choices every moment to discern the will of God concerning each detail of his involvement with the cultural world.

On the other hand, he has to maintain efforts to separate himself in some aspects of world culture, otherwise he might compromise and soon be caught up in the enslaving machinery of world culture and find himself unwittingly promoting its corrupt ethical products, contributing to vanity and sin, and dishonouring God.

The solution is not cultural efforts, but regeneration

To attempt to change the world culture is very futile, because the very root of its ethical corruption would not have been dealt with. If this root is not dealt with, ethical corruption would always rear its ugly head up, no matter how many times it is removed by superficial means. This root is the sinful human heart. There can be no solution against the ethical corruption produced in culture, apart from regeneration of the human heart. Only the hearing of God's inspired Word together with the Holy Spirit's irresistible grace can accomplish this.

No solution in advocating a 'Christian culture'

Neither is it possible to oppose world culture by developing and spreading an alternative 'Christian culture', as the Christian life transcends all culture, being based on universal principles. Christianity has had as many expressions, as seen in the varied number of cultures that existed since Christ rose from the dead. There is therefore no need to transmit cultural practices with the gospel. Neither should one go to the other extreme of contextualizing the gospel within culture to such an extent that culture receives pre-eminence. The gospel and culture can never mix together.

– *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
Fri 24 th May, 7pm	Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony <i>"The Melchizedek Priesthood"</i> – Mr John Douglas		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.
Sat 25 th May	No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting		
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Afternoon Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Patrick Baker	Rev Patrick Baker	<u>TODAY: 19/05/2019</u>
Message	TBC	TBC	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	TBC	TBC	Organist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Anthony
<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: May-June – Mr Stephen Toms, Mr Marco Reale, Mr Charles Scott-Pearson, Rev Patrick Baker, Dr David Allen. • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology 2019: 2nd-4th July 2019. The theme this year is <i>"The True Dynamism of the Local Church"</i>. Please see Jonathan or John for more information. • Baalah Fund: £670.65 was sent to Baalah this week as part of the Church Mission Fund. 			Ushers: Daniel / Yetta
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Jason
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 26/05/2019</u>
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £578.50, Lunch: £51.20			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £4,910.50
Attendance - Morning: 20 (A) 8 (C), Afternoon: 17 (A) 6 (C)			
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 65			
Q: What is forbidden in the Fifth Commandment?			
<i>A: The Fifth Commandment forbiddeth the <u>neglecting of, or doing anything against,</u> the honour and duty which belongeth to every one in their several places and relations.</i>			
Scriptural Reference:			
Romans 13:7; Romans 12:10			
MEMORY VERSE			
Last Week	This Week	Next Week	
<i>"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."</i>	<i>"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;"</i>	<i>"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."</i>	
Colossians 3:16	1 Corinthians 15:3	John 15:13	