



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. 08

LORD’S DAY 24 FEBRUARY 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Psalm 25:8-10

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 18 – “Come, Thou Almighty King”

RHC 386 – “Be Thou My Vision”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 146

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 146 verses 5-10
(to the tune of Green Hill, RHC 192)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 128 – “His Yoke is Easy”

Scriptural Text

Daniel 4:17

Daniel 5:5

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Stephen Toms

Mr Stephen Toms

Sermon Message

God’s Word to Nebuchadnezzar

God’s Word to Belshazzar

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 20 – “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

RHC 389 – “Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Stephen Toms

Mr Stephen Toms

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.

DESIRING SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Adapted from New Life BP Church Singapore Weekly, Sunday 10th February 2019

Introduction

The need for spiritual renewal in Nehemiah's day was urgent. The report came to Nehemiah through Hanani, a fellow Jew, that *"the remnant that are left in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire"* (Neh. 1:3). How it broke Nehemiah's heart just to consider that God's people and the holy city were in such a condition.

The word translated *"affliction"* means "evil, misery, distress" – the very opposite of good or well. They were outside of the original intention that God had for them. These folks were in great misery and distress. The word *"reproach"* means "objects of scorn, contempt, shame and condemnation." They were living in disgrace and dishonor because of the condition of Jerusalem and their own condition as the holy people of God.

Nehemiah just could not stand it, and he determined to do something about it. He said, *"When I heard these words... I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven"* (Neh. 1:4). Weeping, mourning and fasting led to prayer, confession of sins, and petitions for mercy. He interceded for Jerusalem and for the people there who were in such distress. His prayer is recorded in 1:5-11. God heard Nehemiah and used him to bring restoration and renewal to the people and to the city.

The walls of the city were repaired first. There was opposition to the work from within and without. The nobles of the people refused to have any part in the work (Neh. 3:5). The people of the land laughed at them (Neh.2:19; 4:1-3), and conspired against them by devious means (Neh. 6:1-5, 10-13). Prayer, faith and persistence won out in the end and the walls were repaired.

However, there was still a spiritual need to be met. Nehemiah and Ezra the scribe gathered the people together and opened the Book of God. As they read and explained the law of God to the people, they experienced spiritual renewal. The people repented of their sins with weeping. Revival broke out!

There are some principles in this passage, which, if they are heeded and adhered to, will bring spiritual renewal to the people of any era. How does revival come? It begins in me. There is nothing new or secretive about these steps to spiritual renewal. They are things that we already know to do. **The steps to spiritual renewal are: Affirm the Word of God (8:1-8), Adore the God of the Word (8:6), Acknowledge the Lord's Day (8:9-11) and Act like the people of God (8:13-18).**

Affirm The Word Of God (Neh. 8:1-8)

The completion of the wall of Jerusalem marked a tremendous victory and great achievement, but it was not time for relaxation for the builders. At this moment of achievement, the people needed to be brought to an understanding of the Word of God so that they would know the secret of their strength for the future. After all, this was the commencement of their mission for God, not the culmination of it. So Nehemiah and Ezra gathered the people, read the Word of God to them and expounded it distinctly and clearly. The people responded positively. They affirmed the Word of God in their lives. How do we affirm the Word of God?

A. By Reverencing It (8:5)

1. That the people stood up when Ezra began reading signified their reverence for the Word of God.
2. They revered the Word of God because of what it was — the very Word of their great and gracious God.
3. Spiritual renewal has always come in on the heels of a renewed reverence and hunger for the Word of God. We will not experience spiritual renewal until we develop a reverence for the Word of God.

B. By Receiving It (8:3-7)

1. The people were very *“attentive”* to the *“book of the law”* (v. 3).
 - a. The literal reading is *“and the ears of all the people unto the book of the law.”*
 - b. This simply means that they were all ears. That is, they paid close attention to the Word of God.
 - c. They made sure that they listened and understood what God was saying to them.
2. The people understood the law and stood in their place (v. 7).
 - a. The Levites caused the people to clearly understand the Word of God.
 - b. That the people *“stood in their place”* seems to indicate that they did what the Word said to do.
3. The Bible cautions us to receive with meekness the Word of God. James 1:21 – *“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”*
 - a. *“With meekness”* is placed before the verb in the original order in order to stress the needed inner attitude for receiving the Word. *“Meekness”* describes an inner gentleness, humility and teachableness.
 - b. *“Receive”* denotes a welcoming and appropriating of the Word. The tense of the verb gives it a sense of urgency.
 - c. That the Word is able *“to save your souls”* means that God’s way is the only way to be right with Him.
4. The admonition is that we are to receive God’s Word gladly and we are to take it into our lives with the intention of obeying it.

C. By Retaining It (8:8)

1. That they understood the Word also means that they retained it.
2. There was no slipshod listening and promptly forgetting what they heard as we sometimes do.
3. They took it to heart because they revered it as God’s Word, received it into their lives and retained it in their minds and hearts.
4. When revival comes it will be a revival of the Word of God.
 - a. It was said of God’s people of old: *“Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions”* (Psalm 107:19, 20).
 - b. Let us reverence, receive and retain the Word of God and revival will come.

Conclusion

Spiritual renewal comes when God’s people affirm the Word of God, adore the God of the Word, acknowledge the Lord’s day and act like God’s people. The result of spiritual renewal is consistent, Christ-like, joy-filled living.

Now that we know the steps to spiritual renewal, are we willing to take them? May God help us to be willing and to take these steps.

- Rev Gabriel Gan

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 02 Mar	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>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<i>Preacher</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	<u>TODAY: 24/02/2019</u>
<i>Message</i>	TBC	TBC	<i>Chairman:</i> John
<i>Text</i>	TBC	TBC	<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<i>Pianist:</i> 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 – Mr Charles Scott-Pearson, Rev Lim Chee Boon, Mr Marco Reale. 			<i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Margaret
			<i>Lunch:</i> Maureen
			<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
			<i>PA Crew:</i> Venise / Jason
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 03/03/2019</u>
			<i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan
			<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
			<i>Pianist:</i> Matthew
			<i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Tom
			<i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers
			<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
			<i>PA Crew:</i> Venise / Jason
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £649.81, Lunch: £32.50 Attendance - Morning: 26 (A) 8 (C), Afternoon: 10 (A) 5 (C)			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £4,630.50
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 53			
Q: Which is the Third Commandment?			
<i>A: The Third Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.</i>			
<u>Comments:</u>			
This commandment tells how to treat the Name of God, and by his <i>Name</i> is meant everything by which he is named to us, or specially made known. To take God's name in vain is to use it for a vain or frivolous purpose; and we break this command by profane swearing, or by irreverently using God's name. We recognise the command when we pray – <i>Hallowed be thy Name.</i>			
MEMORY VERSE			
Last Week	This Week	Next Week	
<i>"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."</i>	<i>"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."</i>	<i>"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."</i>	
Matthew 26:41	Psalms 23:6	Romans 15:13	