



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. 52

LORD’S DAY 29 DECEMBER 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 33:11-12

Psalm 115:1-3

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 35 – “Through All the Changing Scenes of Life”

RHC 22 – “When All Thy Mercies, O My God”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 40

*Second Hymn **

RHC 130 – “I Waited for the Lord My God” (stanzas 1 to 3)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 130 – “I Waited for the Lord My God” (stanzas 4 to 6)

Scriptural Text

Hebrews 12:1-2

Psalm 65:11

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

Looking Unto Jesus

Thou Crownest The Year with Thy Goodness

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 47 – “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

RHC 136 – “Come, Ye Thankful People Come”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

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.

SELF-EXAMINATION EXPLAINED

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Cor 13:5)

Self-examination is a duty of great importance. It is negotiating with one's own heart: "I commune with mine own heart" (Psa 77:6). David did put interrogatories¹ to himself. Self-examination [means] setting up a court in [your] conscience and keeping a register there that by strict scrutiny² a man may know how things stand between God and his own soul. Self-examination is a spiritual inquisition, a bringing one's self to trial. A good Christian doth, as it were, begin the Day of Judgment here in his own soul.

Self-searching is a heart-anatomy. As a surgeon, when he makes a dissection in the body, discovers the intestina—the inward parts, the heart, liver, arteries—so a Christian anatomizeth himself. He searcheth what is flesh and what is spirit, what is sin and what is grace. "My spirit made diligent search" (Psa 77:6). As the woman in the Gospel [of Luke] did light a candle and search for her lost groat³ (Luk 15:8), so conscience "is the candle of the LORD" (Pro 20:27). By the light of this candle, a Christian must search his soul if he can find any grace there.

The rule by which a Christian must try himself is the Word of God. Fancy⁴ and opinion are false rules to go by. We must judge of our spiritual condition by the canon of Scripture. David calls this "a lamp unto his feet" (Psa 119:105). Let the Word be the umpire⁵ to decide the controversy whether we have grace or no. We judge colors by the sun; so, we must judge the estate of souls by the light of Scripture.

Self-examination is a great, incumbent⁶ duty. It requires self-excitation⁷. It cannot possibly be done without offering violence⁸ to ourselves. The duty in itself is difficult because,

1. ***It is a work of self-reflection:*** it lies most with the heart. It is hard to look inward. External acts of religion are easy to achieve. To lift up the eye to heaven, to bow the knee, to read a prayer—this requires no more labor than for a Catholic to count his beads; but to examine a man's self, to turn in upon his own soul, to take the heart as a watch all in pieces to see what is defective is not easy. Reflective acts are hardest. The eye can see everything but itself. It is easy to spy the faults of others, but...

¹ **interrogatories** – Law: questions put to a person that must be answered under oath.

² **scrutiny** – examining something closely.

³ **groat** – English silver coin issued 1351-1662, worth four pennies.

⁴ **fancy** – imagination.

⁵ **umpire** – third person called upon to decide a matter.

⁶ **incumbent** – necessary as an obligation.

⁷ **self-excitation** – motivating one's self; stirring up one's self.

⁸ **violence** – not physical injury, but intensity of emotion, strength, passion.

hard to find out our own.

2. ***It is difficult because of self-love.*** As ignorance blinds, so self-love flatters. Every man is ready to think the best of himself. What Solomon saith of love to our neighbor is most true of self-love: it “hides a multitude of evil” (Pro 10:12). A man looking upon himself in the mirror of self-love [finds that] his virtues appear greater than they are and his sins lesser. Self-love makes one excuse what is amiss⁹ rather than examine it (Exo 4:3).

As examination is in itself difficult, so it is a work that we are not easily brought to. That which causeth a backwardness¹⁰ to self-examination is,

1. ***They are conscious of guilt.*** Sin clamors inwardly, and men are loth¹¹ to look into their hearts, lest they should find that which should trouble them. It is little pleasure to read the handwriting on the wall of conscience (See Daniel 5:27). Tradesmen that are sinking in their estates are loth to look over their books or cast up their accounts, lest they should find their estates low. [Likewise, many Christians] loth to look into their guilty hearts, lest they should find something there that should affright them, as Moses was affrighted at the sight of the rod turned into a serpent (Exo 4:3).

2. ***They have foolish, presumptuous¹² hopes.*** They fancy their estate to be good; and while they weigh themselves in the balance of presumption, they pass for current¹³. Many take their salvation on trust¹⁴. The foolish virgins thought they had oil in their lamps, as well as the wise (Mat 25). Some are not sure of their salvation, but secure. If one were to buy a piece of land, he would not take it upon trust, but examine the title. How confident are some of salvation, yet never examine their title to heaven!

3. ***They rest in the good opinion of others.*** How vain is that! Alas, one may be gold and pearl in the eye of others, yet God may judge him reprobate¹⁵ silver. Others may think him a saint, and God may write him down in His black-book. Judas was looked upon by the rest of the apostles as a true believer. They would have been ready to have given their hands to this certificate¹⁶, yet he was a traitor. Standers by can but see the outward behavior; they cannot tell what evil is in the heart. Fair streams may run on the top of a river, but vermin¹⁷ may lay at the bottom.

4. ***They do not believe Scripture.*** The Scripture saith, “The heart is deceitful above all things” (Jer 17:9). Solomon said there were four things too wonderful for him that he could not know (Pro 30:19). He might have added a fifth: the way of man’s heart. The heart is the greatest impostor. It will be ready to put one off with seeming grace, instead of saving [grace]. The heart will persuade that a slight tear is repentance [and] a lazy...

⁹ **amiss** – wrong; out of order.

¹⁰ **backwardness** – mental attitude of opposition or dislike.

¹¹ **loth** – unwilling.

¹² **presumptuous** – supposing something to be the case without proof.

¹³ **pass for current** – are considered truth and authentic.

¹⁴ **trust** – that is, trust in themselves, not Christ.

¹⁵ **reprobate** – weighed and found lacking; rejected.

¹⁶ **given...certificate** – act of responsible persons providing evidence for something.

¹⁷ **vermin** – animals of a loathsome appearance or character, originally applied to reptiles and slinking animal.

desire is faith. Now because the generality of people does not believe that there is such fallacy in their hearts, they are slow to examine them. This natural backwardness in us to self- reflection should cause us to offer the more violence to ourselves in making a thorough disquisition¹⁸ and search of our hearts.

O that I might prevail with Christians to take pains with them- selves in this great work of examination! Their salvation depends on it. It is the note of a harlot [that] she is seldom at home: “Her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets” (Pro 7:11-12). It is a sign of a harlot-professor to be altogether abroad, spy- ing the faults of others, but never at home with his own heart. O let us try our hearts as we do gold by the touchstone¹⁹. Let us examine our sins and, finding out this leaven, burn it. Let us examine our grace, [to see if] it be the right kind. One went into the field to gather herbs, but he gathered wild gourds, and then death was in the pot (2 Ki 4:40). So many think they have grace—the right herb. But it proves a wild gourd and brings death and damnation.

That we may offer violence to ourselves in this great business of examination, let these few things be seriously weighed:

1. Without self-examination, we can never know how it is with us. If we should die presently, we cannot tell what coast we should sail to, whether to hell or heaven. It is reported [that] Socrates²⁰ [made] this speech when he was going out of the world: “I am now to die, and the gods know whether I shall be happy or miserable.” That man who is ignorant of the state of his soul must needs have the trembling at the heart, as Cain had a shaking in his flesh. By a serious scrutiny of our hearts, we come to know to which prince we belong—the prince of peace or the prince of the air.

2. If we will not try ourselves, God will try us. He will examine us as the chief captain did Paul—*by scourging* (Act 22:24). He will ask that question as Christ [did]: “Whose image and superscription is this?” And if we cannot show Him His own image, He will reject us.

3. There is secret corruption within, which will never be found out but by searching. There is in the heart (as Augustine saith) *hidden pollution*. When Pharaoh’s steward accused Joseph’s brethren of having the cup, they dared to have sworn they had not the cup in their sacks. Little doth a man know what atheism, pride, uncleanness is in his heart until he searcheth.

4. The great advantage that will accumulate to us. The benefit is great whichsoever way things turn. If upon examination we find that we have not grace in truth, then the mistake is discovered, and the dan- ger prevented. If we find that we have grace, we may take the comfort of it. How glad was he that had “found the pearl of great price”? He that upon search finds that he hath but the least degree of grace is like one that hath found his box of evidences: he is heir to all the promises and in a state of...

¹⁸ **disquisition** – investigation; examination.

¹⁹ **touchstone** – mineral used for testing the quality of gold.

²⁰ **Socrates** (469-399 B.C.) – Greek philosopher.

salvation! And that we may go on the more successfully in this work, let us desire God to help us find out our hearts: "That which I see not teach thou me" (Job 34:32). Lord, take off the veil; show me my heart; let me not perish through mistake or go to hell with hope of heaven.

Thomas Watson (c. 1620-1686): English Nonconformist Puritan preacher and author; possibly born in Yorkshire, England, UK.

A New Year Prayer

(Eph 5: 1 - 21)

One year, dear Lord, is all I ask,
One year of days filled with Thy love;
To live on earth for Thee above;
One year to walk as Thou didst walk,
To do Thy will more than to talk;
One year to follow Thee, dear Lord,
Drawn close to Thee by love's strong cord!

One year, dear Lord, is all I ask,
One year of days filled with Thy light;
Teach me, by faith and not by sight,
To labour on before it's night;
To prove the beauty of Thy will;
To know: "I am the Lord, be still!"

One year, dear Lord, is all I ask,
One year of vision circumspect,
To run the race with Thy elect,
To heed Thy voice, not to neglect;
I'll buy the time, the golden hour,
Redeem the days, yea, by Thy power!

Dear Lord, Just one more year is all I ask,
And by Thy grace, "On with the task!"
Just to redeem the fleeting hour,
Just to reflect Thy wondrous power!

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins with the **Pre-Worship Prayer Meeting** at **10:00 am** followed by the **Worship Services** at **11.00 am and 3.00 pm**. Please stay back for fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the afternoon service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK		WELCOME
Wed 1 st Jan	No Mid-Week Bible Study (next study on 8 th Jan)	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.
Sun 5 th Jan, 10am	Pre-worship Prayer Meeting	
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i> <i>Afternoon Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<i>Preacher</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong Pr Mok Chee Cheong	<u>TODAY: 29/12/2019</u>
<i>Message</i>	TBC TBC	<i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan
<i>Text</i>	TBC TBC	<i>Organist:</i> Venise

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS		LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<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. • Catechism Class: For those seeking baptism or church membership, the catechism classes will commence in January. Please inform Pr Mok if you would like to join the classes. • Christmas Day Service Offering Collection: Offering of £1261.52 was collected on Christmas Day. The offering will be used to support Missions. • Thanks for the contributions: The church would like to thank the congregation who had contributed to the lunch on 22/12 and 25/12. 		<u>NEXT WEEK: 05/01/2020</u>
		<i>Chairman:</i> John <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Anthony <i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Tom <i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Jonathan/Jason
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £231.60, Lunch: £6.00, Hospitality: £200.00 Christmas Day: £1,261.52 Attendance - Morning: 21 (A) 6 (C), Afternoon: 15 (A) 8 (C), Christmas Day: 22 (A) 6 (C)		Church Maintenance Fund Total: £5,960.50

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 98

Q: What is prayer?

A: Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of CHRIST, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.

Comments:

Prayer means *asking* of God; and we are here told the following three things respecting it: 1. As to its *form*, it should be offered to God in the name of Christ; 2. As to its *substance*, it should be for things agreeable to God's will; 3. As to its *manner*, it should be made with humble acknowledgement of our sins, and grateful acknowledgement of God's mercy.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 7:7, John 16:23, Philippians 4:6

MEMORY VERSE		
Last Week	This Week	Next Week
“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21	“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18	“The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.” Proverbs 10:8