



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. 28 No. 42

LORD'S DAY 20 OCTOBER 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 100

Opening Hymn *

RHC 41 - *"Before Jehovah's Aweful Throne"*

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading

Psalm 122

Second Hymn *

Psalm 122

(to the tune of All Saints New, RHC 438)

Scriptural Text

Jeremiah 24

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

The Naughty Figs

Closing Hymn *

RHC 60 - *"Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"*

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

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.

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.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 27

Q: Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A: Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the CROSS; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Comments:

Humiliation means coming down from a high rank to a low. Christ did so for us. He descended from his throne in heaven, and became a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. In this answer we are told the various particulars in which his humiliation consisted. It consisted: 1. In being born; 2. In being born poor; 3. In being subject to the law; 4. In suffering the sorrows of life; 5. In suffering the hiding of God's countenance; 6. In being crucified; 7. In being buried; 8. In remaining in the grave for three days. All these things were borne by Christ, and on our behalf.

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 2:7, Matthew 27:46, Philippians 2:6-8, Matthew 12:40

EDUCATE YOUR MIND – PART 4

There are many reasons why we should read books for the benefits that we may gain from everyday reading. Most of us, if not all, would agree that reading gives us cognitive mental stimulation and helps us with brain exercise. There are other benefits like increasing our vocabularies, keeping our hearts in a tranquil state, or enhancing our empathy. Some may say that book reading helps them sleep well! Of course, reading increases our knowledge and enlarges our imaginations, helping us to see things from a broader perspective beyond our own limited boundaries. Knowledge can be obtained from both direct and indirect experiences. Our direct experiential knowledge is obviously very limited by time, location, surroundings, or the level of exposure to different cultures and knowledge bases. However, indirect experiential knowledge can be unlimited beyond time and territory.

In 1994, I visited a town of one of the tribes in Kenya (I won't disclose the tribe's name). It was January, during a scorching hot summer. There had been no rain for a while, and the vast area was all dry and dusty. There was no green grass for animals. Certainly the water supply was a problem. The government provided a well in this town for both people and animals. Little kids followed their mothers to a water container, to drink water. As a city boy myself, these tiny kids looked so adorable. I could not resist the temptation to take photos of them. As I was taking their photos, the tribal men were very angry with me and shouted at me in their own language. My translator told me that they were using cursing and wrathful words. They were extremely angry with me because they firmly believed that cameras would take the souls of the animals, which would result in the loss of their wealth. I could not believe that there were still people believing such a thing. This is one extreme example, probably. However, all of us can have misconceptions, misinformation, prejudices, or pride because none of us has perfect knowledge of all things. Thus, we evaluate, understand, and measure everything based on our knowledge which may not be true at all. No knowledge or lack of knowledge does not mean that we feel our opinions and convictions to be weak. In reality, people are even willing to give their lives for wrong ideas and distorted knowledge. We cannot experience everything directly but it is more than possible that we can have indirect knowledge by reading. However, there are also some cautions relating to our reading of books.

First, reading gets faster and faster today. What I mean is that today, reading is assimilated with technology. All the information we need is at our fingertips. Thus, our knowledge is easily measured by the speed with which we can find and locate the information we need and by the quantity of information we can collect. Thus, Dr. Google finds the information which we are seeking. Therefore, technology gives the illusion that “easier and quicker” finding of information is the best for reading, and this eventually enhances our knowledge. I would say that this is only partially true. Reading that educates our mind is not of information. Information comes and goes. However, an educated mind changes and moulds us to set our way through life in a better and deeper way. Mind-educating reading takes time, because it is a time consuming process. It does not go with speed. Rather, by nature it has to be very slow. Deep meditation of God's Word does not compete with speed. It is an endless wrestling with truth.

Second, serious reading needs to be slow. Speed may be the highest virtue in the computerized world. However, speed reading is probably the worst enemy to serious reading. Think about water flow. When water passes through a small conduit, it flows faster, because of added pressure. When we attempt to assimilate a flood of knowledge or

information, we may process everything faster, but it is efficient only for collecting information. I am sure that many of us have tried it during our school days. A night before exams, we try to cram information into our head as much as we can with a hope for better scores in the end. However, after the exam, not much remains in our memory. Wise and serious readers do not attempt to assimilate a large quantity of information as quickly as possible to produce quick results. Our minds do not get educated by quick information processes. There are many ideas and concepts which are fundamentally different from "simple information." There are many sides to concepts and ideas. We must understand that there are many abstract words and ideas which cannot be easily understood. Besides, certain ideas and truths require us to have more prior knowledge of subjects. When we take classes, we know that there are prerequisite courses to take before we can take them. Likewise, certain books or subjects require us to have prior knowledge before reading them.

Now we move from reading to keeping and developing what we have read to educate our mind. Isaac Watts said in *Improvement of the Mind*, "Once a day...call yourselves to an account what new ideas, what new proposition or truth you have gained, what further confirmation of known truths, and what advances you have made in any part of knowledge."

First, be ready to read with focus and thought. Of course, I am talking about serious reading. David Denby's lyrical complaint in *Great Books* may be of interest to you: "I can no longer submit to fiction.... I read and stop, read and stop, a train halted by obstacles on the track, bad weather, power failures. Everyone complains that young people, growing up on TV, movies, video games, and rap music, lack the patience for long, complex, written narratives, and yet as a child I had not watched all that much television, and I had also lost patience in middle age... [My] life had grown much more complex. I was married to a clever and formidable woman, and there were two kids running around; I had multiple jobs and a lot more to think about than I had had at eighteen. A much larger experience was not casting up its echoes" (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996, 47). Probably, most of us can sympathize with him. We just cannot read Shakespeare or Plato and say, "we simply read them." Our minds have to be fixed and organized well enough to grasp some ideas from the pages we are reading. Our mind has to be engaged. Isaac Watts advised us to "meditate and study." It is an act that "transfers and conveys the notions and sentiments of others to ourselves, so as to make them properly our own."

Second, try to record what we find from reading. Though we may not do it very systematically, we often do a similar act. We copy down some quotes or snippets that we want to remember. We could mark or jot down "specific phrases, sentences, or paragraphs" that we want to remember or find to be useful. Bronson Alcott wrote in his own journal in 1834, "Education is that process by which thought is opened out of the soul, and, associated with outward... things, is reflected back upon itself, and thus made conscious of its reality and shape. It is Self-Realization.... He who is seeking to know himself, should be ever seeking himself in external things, and by so doing will be best able to find, and explore his inmost light." It is an interesting thought, though his words are not Christian wording, because it is true that we can know ourselves better by looking unto God (External and Eternal Being). What we need to do is not just to read and collect a huge pool of information, but to understand, which will educate our mind.

Rev Okman Ki

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begin with the **Worship Service** at **11.00 am** followed by a **Bible Study** at **1:30pm**. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, we extend a warm welcome to you this Lord's Day. We hope that you have a blessed time of worship with us today.

For those unable to attend Church in person, please join our Worship Service and Bible Study on our live-stream via YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@NewLifeBPCLondon>

We thank God for providing Mr Charles Scott-Pearson to minister to us this Lord's Day.

Next Lord's Day, our speaker will be Eld George Chew.

Tithes & Offerings – There is an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.

Children's Sunday School – held after the After-Service Fellowship at 1:30pm.

After-Service Fellowship – Join us for lunch fellowship after the morning worship service.

Please bring your own lunch as only drinks will be provided.

Afternoon Bible Study – Mr Scott-Pearson the study entitled "The Preachers Words of Truth" with the scriptural reference taken from Ecclesiastes 12.

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Ephesians 4:22-24

This Week

"And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart."

Jeremiah 24:7

Pre-cautions for Worship Services held at the church premises:

Dear all,

When attending the church Worship Service and Bible Study, we will continue to observe the following precautions:

- We continue to urge those who feel unwell (especially with Covid symptoms) to stay home and join us online.
- Please place your offerings in the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- During worship services, please continue to sit with your own households.

To join our online services or for more information, please visit the church website (www.newlifebpc.org.uk) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,
Task Force Members