



# 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. 47

LORD’S DAY 24 NOVEMBER 2024

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 148

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 42 – “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”

*Opening Prayer*

Jonathan Kim

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 127

*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 127*

*(to the tune of Azmon, RHC 61)*

*Scriptural Text*

Psalm 122

*Pastoral Prayer*

Rev Mark Chen

*Sermon Message*

*The Christian’s Love for Christ and Church*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 262 – “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Rev Mark Chen

*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 32**

**Q: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?**

*A: They that are effectually called do in this life partake of JUSTIFICATION, ADOPTION, and SANCTIFICATION, and the several benefits which, in this life, do either accompany or flow from them.*

Comments:

Faith in Christ insures certain blessings, some of which are enjoyed in this life, others in the world to come. Of these enjoyed in this life, justification, adoption, and sanctification are the chief, and are of such a nature as to hold within them, or bring along with them, every other blessing.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 1:30, Romans 8:30

Dear brethren, this week's bulletin article is the continuation (Part 5) of the article "Educate Your Mind" written by Rev Okman Ki, Senior Pastor of Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church, Australia.

## **Educate Your Mind – Part 5**

I have been talking about the importance of reading books to educate our minds. I believe that there is no disagreement among us about the potential benefits of reading books. Through reading good books (yes, I intentionally use the adjective, "good," because of the dangers of bad or useless books), we can develop our thoughts and educate our minds. By reading good books, we keep our brain active to acquire more and more knowledge and to improve our thinking skills. Reading books helps us to understand things better and clearer. All these benefits of reading also imply that there are consequences if we do not read.

Listen to the following famous people's sayings about reading. Descartes said, "reading good books is like a conversation with the finest (people) of the past centuries." Abraham Lincoln said, "Books serve to show a man that those original thoughts of his aren't very new after all." George R. R. Martin said, "A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one."

I could make a list of consequences for not reading good books. However, that is not my intention in this article. I just want to reinforce the great benefit of reading or the worst consequence of not reading good books. They appear to be two opposites, but in fact they show us the same truth. Reading good books will deliver us from perverted and distorted thoughts and teach true knowledge.

We are basically opinionated beings. There is no one who does not have an opinion about something. These opinions have been influenced by our experiences; events in life, circumstances, culture and customs of families and communities, education, emotions, personalities, characters, health, temperament, intuition, habits, religion, other people, or anything one can think of. The problem is that our opinions can be wrong, and all our opinions could be potentially wrong, though they may be very strong and powerful to our minds. People say that Hitler's autobiography (published in 1925), *Mein Kampf*, is a political philosophy more than autobiography. Betty Friedan's (American feminist) *Feminine Mystique* has lots of flaws in the way that it handles historical data. However, Hitler's book was a starter of subsequent wars, and Friedan's started a revolution, if we can call it that, for modern day feminism. We can gather and formulate any opinion from any source, and either our opinion or the source of opinion, or both could be distorted and wrong. Such distorted opinions are hard to be corrected, because they become a part of our convictions that we will not change for anything.

There are two things we need to consider in order to educate our mind. First, we must be conscious of the danger of educating our mind with our own thoughts. In this case, we listen to our own thoughts and believe in them. As a result, we are the source of our thoughts, opinions, and even moral judgment. However, there are dangers of circular reasoning in this case, which is inevitably influenced by all the factors mentioned in the above paragraph. Besides, our mind is imperfect, and it could process even all the right knowledge and information to produce wrong conclusions. Especially, ideology blinds our eyes not to see what we ought to see. Even the best intentions and clear conscience under the influence of ideologies could bring forth atrocities and destruction. One such example is easily found

from a tragic event as demonstrated in Anne Applebaum's book, "Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine" (Doubleday, 2017).

"Holodomor," is not a familiar word to most of us. I had not known of it until I read part of the tragic history of Ukraine. It is a term referring to the Ukraine famine. It is a combination of two Ukrainian words for "starvation" and "to inflict death." It is generally estimated that the lives of 3.9 million people, about 13% of the population, were lost during the famine. The number of the victims is truly staggering. However, what made me even more surprised was that this historic starvation was not an outcome of blight or drought. In fact, Ukraine has been known as the "food basket." Today, around 70% of Ukraine's land area of 603,000 square kilometres is devoted to agriculture, with more than 55% of land used for arable production. It is not just any old arable land, but some of the finest in the world. Nearly 60% of its arable land is the much-prized "black soil" or Chernozem, that contains a high percentage of humus or broken-down plant-material (up to 15% in some cases) and essential plant nutrients such as phosphoric acid, phosphorous and ammonia. Ukraine is home to 30% of the world's black soils, making it the ideal location to grow a large range of crops, including wheat, barley, corn, sugar beet, sunflower, soya beans and rapeseed. Ukraine is the sixth largest producer of corn, growing 39 million tonnes a year. It is also the seventh largest producer of wheat in the world, growing around 27 million tonnes a year. It is the world's largest grower of sunflowers, regularly producing more than 10 million tonnes a year and it is a top ten producer of sugar beet, barley, soya and rapeseed. There are 45 million Ukrainians and the country produces much more food than it needs to feed itself and is a major exporter of a wide range of crops. From such a country as this, a high number of people were starved to death.

Their starvation was an outcome of ideology under Stalin. That is why Alex de Waal says that it was a clear case of a man-made famine in his book, Mass Starvation: The History and Future of Famine. Under the pretext of "collectivization" to distribute food equally to all and to save the poor from poverty and to remove the wealthy from their unjust riches, the ideology of Stalin's communism, or collectivization robbed mostly subsistence farmers of their land and livelihoods. Any resistant (called Kulak) was considered as an enemy of the state. Farmers were no longer paid for their produce but worked according to a ration system based on their productivity. In reality it made them depend on the party, which, controlling their finances, was able to control all aspects of their lives. And they were no longer able to buy food. Listen to Applebaum recounting in visceral and stomach-churning detail as follows: "The starvation of a human body once it begins always follows the same course. In the first phase the body consumes its stores of glucose. Feelings of extreme hunger set in.... In the second phase, which can last several weeks, the body begins to consume its own fats and the organism weakens drastically. In the third phase, the body devours its own proteins, cannibalising tissues and muscles. Eventually the skin becomes thin, the eyes distended, the legs and belly swollen as extreme imbalances lead the body to retain water. Small amounts of effort lead to exhaustion. Along the way, different kinds of diseases can hasten death: scurvy, kwashiorkor (severe protein malnutrition), marasmus (severe malnutrition), pneumonia, typhus, diphtheria, and a wide range of infections and skin diseases caused, directly or indirectly, by lack of food."

An ideology that is supposed to help the poor has caused suffering to tens of millions of people around the world. False religions can be a part of destructive ideology, too. Wrongly constructed minds can bring destruction to multitudes of people. Wrongly constructed beliefs destroy mankind. Good intentions cannot remove the consequences of wrong thoughts and minds. We can be evil with good intentions. We need to educate our mind aright.

# 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 Rev Mark Chen's faithful ministry throughout November.** Please keep Rev Chen and his family in your prayers as they prepare to return to Singapore on 29 November. We pray for their safe journey and God's continued guidance in their ministry.

**Pray for Rev Lim Chee Boon as he arrives on 28 November and will be ministering to us throughout December and early January.**

**Tithes & Offerings** – The offering box is located at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary.

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

We thank everyone who had contributed a dish for the lunch fellowship today.

**Afternoon Bible Study** – Rev Chen will continue the study from 1 Thessalonians. This week, we shall cover Chapter 3, Vs 1-13.

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

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.”*

**Psalm 68:19**

### This Week

*“Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.”*

**Psalm 150:6**

## 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](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,  
Task Force Members