



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. 39

LORD’S DAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 67

Opening Hymn *

RHC 45 - " We Gather Together"

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:169-176

Second Hymn *

Psalm 119 verses 169-176

(to the tune of All Saints New, RHC 43822)

Scriptural Text

1 Peter 2:1-15

Pastoral Prayer

Eld George Chew

Sermon Message

Living Stones

Closing Hymn *

RHC 317 – “The Solid Rock”

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Eld George Chew

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 24

Q: How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A: *Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.*

Comments:

A prophet is a man who declares the will of God; and we are here told that this is what Christ, as our prophet, does for us. He does so by his Word, for the whole Bible is his; but inasmuch as the mere reading of the Bible is not sufficient of itself to make a man wise unto salvation, he likewise bestows his Holy Spirit, that so the Word may profit those who hear it.

Scriptural Reference:

Hebrews 1:1-2, John 16:13

Dear brethren, starting this week, we will be publishing a series of articles on “Educate Your Mind” written by Rev Okman Ki. The articles have 6 parts and were originally written in 2020 for Lively Hope (the weekly newsletter of Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church, Adelaide, Australia). They are now reproduced for you. We pray that the articles will help you gain more insight into the truths of God.

EDUCATE YOUR MIND – PART 1

William Dean Howells says in *The Rise of Silas Lapham*, “... civilization comes through literature now, especially in our country. A Greek got his civilization by talking and looking, and in some measure a Parisian may still do it. But we, who live remote from history and monuments, we must read or we must barbarise.”

Since we were young, we were taught about manners, etiquette, or dress codes. We have received school education for jobs and careers. In work places, we gain more and more experiences and develop human relationships. However, as Eliza Farrar advised her young female readers, “self-education begins where school education ends.” In particular, once we join the work force, our primary focus is given to career developments and day-to-day problem-solving techniques. In the meanwhile, we neglect to educate our minds. In fact, many of us may have never thought of educating our minds.

It shows us our ignorance of our mind, its importance.

First, I need to talk about what I refer to by “mind.” There are many words understood and translated as “mind” in the Bible. They could be “heart,” “thought,” “intention,” or “mind.” We can find many examples from the Bible, including Isaiah 26:3, “Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee”; and Matthew 22:37 says, “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” More or less, I refer to “mind” as “thoughts,” just for the sake of my talk today.

Second, we are to be known by our thoughts/mind. Proverbs 23:7 says, “as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he.” On a surface level, people may know and recognise us by our external images we have been able to cultivate by higher education, social hierarchy, wealth aggregation, high level skills and performances, enviable social networks, physical strength or beauty, and other appearances. On a deeper level, we are known to them by our character and personality, which are deeply interconnected and interlocked with our thoughts. However, the least educated and developed area in our personhood is the mind. It is probably because the mind is invisible and hard to be measured. At the same time, educating the mind requires hard work.

Third, we must recognize that we have not done enough to educate our mind. There are two ways to educate and improve our mind. One is a total dependence upon God. It should be a matter of prayer that the Lord will help us to enlighten our mind. The other is the means that God has allowed us to use to educate and improve our mind. I dare not speak about the work of God in our souls, but I would like to speak about what we must do on our part to educate our mind. I will discuss one of such means God has given us for our benefits shortly.

Fourth, we must begin with a clear recognition that we are truly ignorant beings of ourselves. Thus, we need to acquaint ourselves with our own ignorance, as Isaac Watts advised his readers in *Improvement of the Mind* (originally published in 1741). He aptly said in the same treatise, “Impress your mind with a deep and painful sense of the low and imperfect degrees of your present knowledge.” It is not to condemn us but to reassure us that “a well-trained mind is the result of application, not inborn genius.” Watts assures us that “deep thinkers are not those born with ‘bright genius, a ready wit, and good parts.’” He continues to say, “No matter how

ignorant and 'low' a mind might be ... the exercise of your own reason and judgment upon all you read ... gives good sense ... and affords your understanding the truest improvement." We may want to pay attention to the word "read" in his talk.

Susan Wise Bauer clarifies Watt's advice by adding a few explanatory comments to his words: "No matter how incomplete your education, you can learn how to read intelligently, think about your reading, and talk to a friend about what you've discovered. You can educate yourself. Sustained, serious reading is at the center of this self-education project. Observation, reading, conversation, and attendance at lectures are all ways of self-teaching, as Isaac Watts goes on to tell us. But he concludes that reading is the most important method of self-improvement. Observation limits our learning to our immediate surroundings; conversation and attendance at lectures are valuable but expose us only to the views of a few nearby persons. Reading alone allows us to reach out beyond the restrictions of time and space, to take part in what Mortimer Adler has called the 'Great Conversation' of ideas that began in ancient times and has continued unbroken to the present. Reading makes us part of this Great Conversation, no matter where and when we pursue it" (*The Well-Educated Mind*, W. W. Norton & Company, New York, 16). By now you must have noticed that I am interested in talking about "reading" as a means of educating our mind.

Thomas Jefferson (third president of USA) complained in an 1814 letter to John Adams (second president of USA): "Our post-revolutionary youth are born under happier times in their mother's womb and bring it into the world ready-made. The information of books is no longer necessary; and all knowledge which is not innate is in contempt or neglect at least." He moaned over the culture of a philosophy that exalts self-expression over reading. It is interesting to see that even in his day, the early 19th century in America, long before the time of inventions such as electricity, telephones, radio, television, computers, smartphones, internet, or YouTube, people already thought that reading requiring concentration was difficult and challenging.

Most Christians today do not read books written by godly men and women in church history. They do not read classical books that have influenced the mind of mankind over millennia. If they read anything, the list of books is very much limited to their work-related books and journals, hobbies and interests, or casual and entertaining magazines or novels. If some serious Christians are really reading, their choices are limited to so-called devotional books, commentaries, and a few favourite authors of today. Such a lack of reading restricts our horizons and pinches our souls dangerously. In addition to that, not all Christians read their Bible regularly either. The end result of lack of reading is detrimental. We glean wisdom from a few popular and favourite authors and preachers, or from the surroundings, including people and work experiences. The worst case is that we educate ourselves with our own mind – imperfect, incomplete, corrupt, self-centred, and even dark. It is no wonder that seasoned Christians who, even having spent decades in Christian churches, have not been able to renew their minds! It is because they are their own teachers.

A. W. Tozer says in one of his messages in *Man: The Dwelling Place of God*: "I have no doubt that the prayerful reading of some of the great spiritual classics of the centuries would destroy in us forever that constriction of soul which seems to be the earmark of modern evangelicalism" ("The Communion of Saints," Chapter 19).

There are lots of things I want to share with you about reading good books in order to expand and enlarge your mind, to be able to see and understand more and bigger things.

By 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 Eld George Chew to minister to us this Lord's Day.

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 – Eld Chew will conduct the study entitled "Bible stories that relate to every day life."

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation."

Jeremiah 10:10

This Week

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:5

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