



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. 29 No. 26

LORD'S DAY 29 JUNE 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

1 Chronicles 16:7-15

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 42 – *"Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him"*

Opening Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Responsive Reading

Psalm 29

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 29:1-4

(to the tune of Lloyd, RHC 563)

Scriptural Text

Genesis 3:8

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

The Voice of God

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 375 – *"Speak, Lord, in the Stillness"*

*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 64

Q: What is forbidden in the Fifth Commandment?

A: The Fifth Commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honour and duty which belongeth to every one in their several places and relations.

Scriptural Reference:

Romans 13:7; Romans 12:10

Dear brethren, this week article is the second article on the topic of “Soul Care” written by Rev Mark Chen, Pastor of First Evangelical Reformed Church in Singapore. This was published in their church weekly on 12th September 2021 and it has been reproduced for our edification.

Soul Care: Forgive as God Forgives

“I can forgive, but I can never ever forget.”

This common phrase is often used by God’s people. It justifies continued animosity in our lives and in the church. It perpetuates aloofness. There are many loose ends among God’s people. There are offenses and hurts, but no reconciliation — no seeking or granting of forgiveness. This leads to prolonged pain, troubled memories, and grief among God’s people.

And the reason is because without forgetting, there can be no forgiveness. Bringing up the offenses to memory is not forgiveness. At the same time, no one should expect forgiveness without seeking it and repenting.

So what is God’s commandment to us? We are to forgive and seek forgiveness. But how do we stop counting a person’s sin against him? How do we reconcile?

The Forgiveness Commanded When Others Seek Forgiveness

This is what God does. God forgives us when we ask him.

He does not count our sins against us. Hebrews 8:12 says, “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.” When we ask for forgiveness, we’re asking God not to hold our sins against us. That’s why forgetting or not recalling it is necessary.

In Matthew 18, Peter asked Christ if he should forgive his brother up to 7 times. The Rabbis taught that we must forgive up to 3 times, but justified to withhold forgiveness if a person sins against us the fourth time. But Jesus told Peter to forgive without limit — using the exaggerated number of 490. This is how God forgives — as many times we ask him to forgive us.

He’s like a king who’s owed 10,000 talents by his servant. That was Israel’s entire revenue for 10 years. This servant would’ve spent 150,000 years working to pay it off. He and his family couldn’t pay it off even if they had been sold into slavery. But when he asked his king to forgive the debt, the king forgave. When we ask God to forgive, no matter the greatness or quantity of sin, he will forgive. This is how we must forgive.

The Repentance Needed in Seeking Forgiveness

In asking for forgiveness, there must be repentance. But how do we know there is repentance? When the king threatened to sell him and his family, he pleaded with the king. He asked the king to be patient or more accurately, long-suffering toward him. And he offered to make recompense. This shows the 2 parts to repentance — a plea (not an expectation) for patience and a heart to make compensation.

This was demonstrated by David in Psalm 51. He admitted his sins, he was sorrowful, and he came to God without excuse. Zacchaeus was repentant because he wanted to make right and he was sorrowful. He offered to give half his wealth to the poor and to repay four-fold to anyone he had cheated. This would’ve made him a pauper. True repentance proves itself by a sorrow that wants to make things right.

So when a person repents and seeks forgiveness, we must forgive. This is what God does. When we repent and seek his forgiveness, he forgives. Every time. We must also seek forgiveness. Why would we want a brother to hurt from what we have done?

The Grace Needed in Granting Forgiveness

Colossians 3:13 says, “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

The word for “forgiving” in Colossians 3 means to give grace to someone. Therefore, forgiveness is characterized by willingness and not out of constraint. That’s why, when we understand the grace of God, we can truly understand forgiveness. But if we don’t understand the grace of God, we can’t really understand forgiveness.

When the king’s servant was forgiven of his debt, he did a most unthinkable thing. He found a fellow citizen that owed him 10 denarii and demanded the money back. This neighbour asked him for patience and he would pay back. While 10,000 talents could hardly be paid back in 150,000 years, 10 denarii could be paid back in 6 months.

But he was unforgiving and petty. While the sum was minor, he was not gracious, even though the man was penitent. By doing this, the first servant put himself above the king. The king was sovereign and had the right not to forgive. In the same way, when Adam and Eve first sinned, God didn’t have to provide an atonement. They transgressed the covenant and had to pay the penalty. Thou shalt surely die. But God forgave them. He applied that death to Christ — preaching the gospel through sacrificing animals to cover their sinful nakedness.

God showed mercy and grace. He condescended. He showed compassion. This character was reflected in the character of the king — verse 27 said that the king was moved with compassion. The Bible tells us that God is a compassionate God.

And so this servant wanted the role of the king, but was not willing to adopt the gracious character of the king.

Forgiveness Comes from a Forgiven Soul

By not forgiving we show a mean spirit, not the spirit of God. And this shows that we don’t understand forgiveness and repentance. And if we don’t understand forgiveness and repentance, it may mean that we have not been forgiven. Jesus taught us to pray — “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”

The king called him a wicked servant because he did not show compassion. This tells us that Christian forgiveness and God’s forgiveness are related. If we are forgiven by God, we have the ability and the duty to forgive each other.

Colossians 3 says — even as Christ forgave you, even as he has shown grace, we ought to show grace. If we have not experienced or understood that grace, it is no surprise we can’t show it ourselves. If we do not forgive and forget, God is displeased. We must examine our standing before God.

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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 & Children's Sunday School** 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 worshipping 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 and lead the worship service this Lord's Day.

Starting next week, Eld Foong Kon Yu will minister to us for the entire month of July. Pray for both his and his wife's travel to the UK.

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

Afternoon Bible Study – Mr Scott-Pearson will continue the studies on "The Making of the Tabernacle" and today, he will speak on "The Altar of Incense".

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

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

"And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden."

Genesis 3:8

Last Week

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

2 Peter 1:4

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Conclusion

We must forgive as God forgives, because we've been forgiven by God. Therefore, we must demonstrate his grace and mercy. When our offender seeks forgiveness, we ought to give it freely.

When we offend God by our sins, we are assured of his forgiveness when we repent. It should come as second nature to us. We ought also to seek forgiveness from those we have offended, with true penitence.

But this may be more difficult. What if they do not forgive? Or what happens when your offender does not seek forgiveness from you? What do you do?

In the coming weeks, I will address how we can navigate our bitter hearts to obtain grace to seek forgiveness. I will also explore how we can forbear and have an attitude of forgiveness towards our offenders who do not seek forgiveness.