



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. 10 No. 12

LORD'S DAY 19 MAR 2006

Dear Readers,

FAMILIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Solomon in Prov 24:3-4 says, "Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by Knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious And pleasant riches." The Psalmist in Ps 127:1 says, "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain". If you have been involved in building or renovating a house, you will realise the exacting requirements of the project. One of the privileges and duties accorded to the Christian is to build a covenant home. We are living in an age where the family is under constant attack. The contemporary worldly influence has

Brought the Christian family under siege by the evil one. The godless humanistic values, practices and mass media are putting pressure on the Christian and the family to

Compromise with devastating consequences. In order to establish the strong foundation of the healthy and vibrant Christian family, just like every other major construction project, we need 4 things, namely:- the blueprint, the budget, the building and the building materials.

The Blueprint

To begin with, we need a well-prepared, tested plan and workable pattern to build upon. The architect is normally the one responsible for this. Our Chief Architect is none other than our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the infallible Blueprint is the canonical scriptures. The bible actually gives us directions about family life with Christ as Head of the Family and for the family. He has delegated the authority to the man to be in charge. So husbands, we are to take charge and be responsible for the family growth and health. Eph 5 & 6 outlines the plan for godly families. The first step is for individual and members of the family to have a strong and abiding relationship with Christ their Lord themselves. Christ's Blueprint for husbands to lead the home prayerfully in all its decision making, to love their wives, and wives to honour, support and obey their husband; and children to respect, listen and obey their parents in the Lord; and parents, set a good example for your children. We are urged not to provoke our children to anger (Eph 5:21,25,33). There is to be proper discipline in the home and regular family worship, catechism and sabbath worship. There should be sound parental teaching and upbringing that the children may grow in the fear and admonition of the Lord (Col 3:20-22). This takes patience, good spiritual feeding and constant care and spiritual discipline as well. The family that prays together stays together in the Lord.

The Budget

The 3rd pre-requisite is the financial and physical requirements of the home. Lk 14:28-30 tells the story of one who began to build a home but ran out of money and could not complete the job. Building a strong and vibrant Christian family will cost you time, energy and resources. The key word is sacrifice and commitment. There is no family unity and joy without every member of the family committed to the relationship to Christ and to one another. You need to spend quality...

Continued on Page 2...

time together as a family and there is no substitute for this. In Mk 3:13-14, it is said of our Lord "And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach." No pain, no gain; no cross, no crown.

The Builder

Every construction project needs a reliable and strong builder or contractor or company to undertake. The builder must be responsible and trustworthy to see through the whole project. There are contractors who built half-way and gave up their projects due to poor management and financial planning. Our Lord is a faithful Creator, Saviour and He will preserve us and our families to the end. We are to work under Christ faithfully, trust and obey and make Him the centre of our family life. Is Christ the Head of your family and of each individual member of the family as well?

For the Christian home, Christ is our Builder and He reserves and keeps the family. Paul in Phil 1:6 says, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." The Lord himself will bless and prosper the Christian home when they know Him and put Him first. We are to:-

- * Teach the moral laws of God, the Lord's Prayer and the Shorter Catechism;
- * Always exalt Christ first;
- * Pray, Praise and Worship Him and serve Him together;
- * Remind the children of their God; His great and precious promises and His unfailing faithfulness; and
- * Have a God-centred family with prayer and Bible emphasis every day for the children.

The Building Materials

Finally you must have the right building materials. These are not temporal or cheap materials but lasting spiritual values, principles and godly traits. It takes faith, love, patience, longsuffering, discipline, gentleness, temperance and meekness to build up a vibrant Christian home. Paul said in Col 3:8-14 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

Negatively, move away the debris of spiritual and moral waste from the place you want to build. Positively, bring in strong intangible materials of the love and fear of God, holiness, accountability, spiritual zeal and Christian discipline. The Lord may chasten us to bring us on the right tracks of parenthood and for growing up adolescents as well. If we are committed to starting and supporting a godly family, follow Christ's blueprint with Him as the Builder and use the right materials to build a strong and vibrant covenant home. It is not impossible for the Christian family to survive in a non-Christian hostile environment if it is built on strong reliable biblical foundation. Job prays for his family every morning (Job 1:5). We are to conscientiously remember God, teach His Word to our children daily and pray as a family, apply and practise all that was written therein. Job's family is a good example of this and Eli's family is a negative example with poor parental nurture and involvement (1 Sam 3:13). Pray, seek, worship and serve God as a family, for the family that honours God first will be honoured by God also.

In Green Pastures
Devotional Readings for Every Day of the
Year
By J.R. Miller, D.D.

19 March 2006

MORNING

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22 "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

SOME people have a happy faculty of always calling out the best that is in others. A shy person is made to feel at home in their presence, and at once loses his shyness. A bashful child is drawn out of his self-consciousness the moment he comes into their presence. The secret of this enviable power lies in sincere, unselfish interest. It is the winningness of love that woos out the best. Here is a prayer for all:

"May every soul that touches mine
Be it the slightest contact get there-from some good,
Some little grace: one kindly thought,
One aspiration yet unfelt, one bit of courage
For the darkening sky, one gleam of faith
To brave the thickening ills of life,
One glimpse of brightening skies, beyond the
gathering mists,
To make this life worth while,
And heaven a surer heritage."

EVENING

THE BEAUTY OF RELIGION

WHILE Christian life is firm and unflinching in its integrity and uprightness, it is yet beautiful in its amiability and gentleness. The immutable principles of uprightness, like mountain crags, are wreathed over with the tender vines and covered with the sweet flowers of grace and charity. True religion is never meant to dry up the life and make it cold, hard, and dead. It is meant to bring out ever-new beauties, to clothe the soul in garments of loveliness. It insists on the development of every power of body, mind, and soul to the farthest possibility. It presents the strongest motives. It points to the finest examples. Its ideal includes not only "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are just," but also "whatsoever things are lovely."

**SCRIPTURE
MEMORISATION**

The 10 Commandments

"And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of *any thing* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON
CHURCH THEME: STRIVING TO LIVE ABOVE OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:3)

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	Today: 19/03/2006	Next Week: 26/03/2006	Am: Mr and Mrs Teo Boon Cheng
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mok Chee Cheong	Seetoh Yoong Chiang	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Rev Ray Porter	Ken Chan	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We extend a warm welcome to Rev Ray Porter, our speaker for this morning's worship service. Rev Porter is Director of World Mission Studies at Oak Hill College. • Evening Service: Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) <p>This week:</p> <p>Q70: What is justification?</p> <p>Q71: How is justification an act of God's free grace?</p> <p>Q72: What is justifying faith?</p> <p>Q73: How doth faith justify a sinner in the sight of God?</p> <p><i>Next week:</i></p> <p>Q74: What is adoption?</p> <p>Q75: What is sanctification?</p> <p>Q76: What is repentance unto life?</p> <p>Do stay back and find out the answers from the Word of God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th Anniversary preparations: This will take place on Jun 25. For those interested in helping out, please see Mok or Jonathan. • Easter Camp: The YAF will be organising the church Easter camp, Apr 14-17. The camp theme is "Living for Jesus". For more information, please see the YAF committee. • Church renovations: The church will be making several improvements. Please pray that the renovations will be done properly and in a timely manner. • Pilgrim Tabernacle Ladies Conference: The conference will be held on Sat 25 Mar. For those who are interested, please contact Sis Kim Eng Sherwood at 07791 527399 for more details.
<i>Message:</i>	Submitting One to Another – Part 2	Christian Warfare	
<i>Text:</i>	Ephesians 6:1-9	Ephesians 6:10-24	
<i>Organist:</i>	Amanda	Anthony	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Lim Ming Yann	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Mok Chee Cheong	Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	WLC Questions 70-73 See News/Announcement	WLC Questions 74-76 See News/Announcement	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Feng Qian	Yanning	
Other Duties			
	Today	Next Week	
<i>Ushers</i>	John/Daniel	Ming Yann/Evelyn	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Esmeralda	Yanning	
<i>Singspirat'n:</i>	Jonathan/Feng Qian	Yoong Chiang/Anthony	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Yoong Chiang/Jonathan	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	YAF Group 1	Prema/Yetta	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	"Missions"	DHW – Genesis 21	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 24 Mar	7.00 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Prayer (led by Jeff)	
Sat 25 Mar	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr / C'man: Jonathan	
<u>Last Week's Worship Service Collections</u>			
Offering:	£583.96	Church Removation: £200.00 Lunch: £33.50	
<u>The Shorter Catechism</u>			
Q.91 How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?			
<p>Ans: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, - not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; - but only by the BLESSING OF CHRIST, and the WORKING OF HIS SPIRIT in them that by faith receive them.</p> <p><i>Comments: We are here taught the proper way of using the sacraments, We must pray for the blessing of Christ on them. It was He who appointed them, and it is He alone who can make them of benefit to our souls. In themselves the sacraments are of no value, nor can the minister (notwithstanding what the Roman Catholic church says) give them any power whatever apart from Christ.</i></p>			