



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. 11 No. 30

LORD'S DAY 29 JULY 2007

From the Preacher's Heart

Dear Brethren & Friends,

IT IS ALL GONE, EVERYTHING IS GONE

Introduction

During the past one week of news reports over national television, I watched with suspiration, the devastation of the flood that hit more than ten counties in the midlands of England, leaving more than 10,000 homes either being flooded or at risk of flooding and with about 350,000 people without clean water.

As the pictures of the flooded areas flashed across the TV screen and hearing the reports and the interviews given by affected victims, the same grimed saddened faces appeared, except for one or two who tried to put on a brave face for BBC, and one common phrase that came out from those who were interviewed and caught my attention is, "it's all gone, everything is gone."

One man who spoke to the BBC said he saw the water rising to about 6 inches in 30 minutes, and in another scene, one family was putting up all their antique furniture on temporary supports to keep it away from the rising water and they are keeping their fingers cross, hoping that the flood water will peak soon. But should the rain persist, and the flood water rises, they do not know where their antique furniture will go.

Elsewhere in Europe, heat wave reaches a scorching 42 degrees Celsius which claimed many lives. Thousands of water wells have dried out and supermarkets have reported shortages of water. The heat has also contributed to hundreds of forest fires around the country and damaged crops.

But it is those words, "it's all gone, everything is gone" that came back to me as I pondered what I should write for this week's article. Searching through the scripture I came to the account in Luke 12:16-21, which is a parable Jesus used to teach the foolishness of storing up earthly riches here on earth that will soon perish and taking no care, no thought, to be rich towards God in faith and good works.

What are you storing up now?

We are told in this parable that the man was bless with a fertile land that "brought forth plentifully." There is no reason to suggest that he got his wealth through unjust means, or at...

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the expense of others, and it could even be he had worked very hard for it. So the denunciation brought against him is not for his hard work, which is certainly commendable in scripture, but it is his insatiable desire and thirst after more, which the bible called "covetousness" (v.15), that he was condemned for.

The rich man's sin is not for being rich, rather it is the condition of his heart of looking no farther than himself, not looking upon himself as God's steward, but his own carver; he cries out, "***What shall I do because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?***" This is the same cry made by many in the world and many in the church too. It is a typical cry of those who never seems to have enough, and they want to build and store up even more. Like this rich man, they live their life as if they were to enjoy their wealth for ever, and as if there was no death, no judgement, and no world to come. But what would become of them in the end? The sobering reality is that, ²⁰ "*God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*" (Luke 12:20).

Dear friends, it is certainly no sin to be rich, and the bible does not condemn hard work and the legitimate ways of gaining wealth. It is noted in the bible that God had blessed many with riches, like Abraham, Jacob and Job, who were undoubtedly God honouring and God fearing men. But we see in their lives that they have learned to say, "*it is (God) that giveth (me) power to get wealth* (Deut 8:17 & 18). They have also learned to say, like Paul, "*in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content*" (Phil 4:11).

What are you storing up now in this life? Jesus says, ¹⁹ "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal*" (Matt 6:19), and where flood water do sweep away, or destroy; where heat waves will take you life away before you can enjoy it all.

Are you rich toward God?

Our best and safest investment Jesus says is to be "*rich toward God*". This is true riches and wisdom from above. Nothing can be more secure and sure than to set our hearts on heavenly treasures that will last for eternity. How then should I be rich toward God?

To be rich toward God is to be rich in grace, rich in faith, rich in love, and rich in good works. It is to be tried in the fire like gold to be rid of its dross. It is to die to self and take up the cross daily to follow the Lord Jesus.

Where can you truly store your investment where nothing can destroy it and where no one can take it away from you? Jesus says, ²⁰ "*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Matt 6:20-21).

Brethren & Friends, God is speaking to us through the flood and the heat wave. Let us take heed of His Word when He has gently spoken to us and not wait till He speaks to us through a tidal wave, or a serious sickness.

Let this gentle rebuke be taken seriously, and with humility acknowledge that it God who "*giveth thee power to get wealth*" (Deut 8:18). That we may seize every available opportunity ¹⁸ "*do good, that (we) be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;* ¹⁹ "*Laying up in store for (ourselves) a good foundation against the time to come, that (we) may lay hold on eternal life.*" (1 Tim 6:18-19).

Yours warmly in Christ
Mok

Q & A Section

Is it okay for a man and woman, who are good friends, to live together if they are not married; or, to travel together and stay in the same room in a hotel to cut cost?

That is a good question. There is a common practice of cohabiting among the unmarried in the West and has come to Asia as well. If the man and woman are brother and sister and are living under the same roof, it would be permissible, provided there is nothing illicit in their relationship. 1 Cor 6:18, *"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."* If the situation is that a man and woman who are not married to each other and are living together and having intimate physical relations, that would be unacceptable to God and considered sinful (Heb 13:5). If the unmarried man and woman are living together and are not related, and though they are not having physical relations, then we still need to be very careful here for conscience and testimony sake (1 Corinthians 8:9). First of all, the Bible says that we are to avoid even the appearance of evil. Eph 5:3, *"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints"*.

Non-married couples living together is unacceptable to a thrice holy God and may stumble others morally and can be a potential temptation as well (1 John 2:15-17; Genesis 39:9). This warrants a different living arrangement, then that should be done immediately. 1 Thess 4:2-5, *"For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: hat every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God"*.

Basically, an unmarried man and woman living together in the same roof and sharing the same bed is displeasing before God, and is a bad testimony to others. We do not want to do anything that will be dishonouring to Christ and a bad testimony of our calling as a Christian. This applies to unmarried friends of the opposite sex travelling together. It is advisable to stay in different rooms (and this principle applies to the tertiary institution students living in hostels as well). Paul advised us in Col 3:5, *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry"*.

Hope this clarifies the matter.

Jack Sin

Family Worship at Sis Wong Fung's Home



WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

CHURCH THEME: WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (Romans 6:4)

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. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	Today: 29/07/2007	Next Week: 05/08/2007	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We specially welcome Dr Q Y Chung, Louisa Chung, Jonathan Chung and Ida Huang to our morning service last Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Motivation For Serving In Christ's Kingdom	Seek Ye First The Kingdom Of God	
<i>Text:</i>	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10	Matthew 6:33	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	He Fires Me To Action	The Blessing Of Giving	
<i>Text:</i>	Romans 12:8	Romans 12:8	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Feng Qian	Anthony	
Other Duties			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
	Today: 29/07/2007	Next Week: 05/08/2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Worship: Those who are interested in opening up their home for family worship in the month of August, please contact Pr Mok. • Sabbath School: Please note that class is held at the Library after the morning worship. You are encouraged to bring children of ages 6-12 for the lessons. Children of age 6 onwards are encouraged to sit with their parents during the main service. • More Ushers Needed: We are short of ushers especially for the Evening Service. If you are interested, please see Jonathan Kim. • Gentle Reminder: Please switch off your mobile phone or put it in silent mode during worship services. To keep the sanctity of worship, please refrain from bring food and beverages into the sanctuary. • Be Punctual: Please purpose in your heart to arrive on time for the worship services and church activities. Remember, "<i>habitual lateness dishonours God.</i>" • Those serving on the Lord's Day: Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer.
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel/Chin Kiong	Wah Soon/Jee	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Joyce	Carol	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Volunteers	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	BBK	BBK	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 03 Aug	7:30 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: No meeting	
Sat 04 Aug	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr: Pr Mok	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £235.58		Lunch: £30.30	
<u>Memory Verse</u>			
<i>Previous Week (July 07 Wk 4): Ephesians 2:8-10</i>			
For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.			
<i>This Week (July 07 Wk 5): 2 Timothy 4:8</i>			
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.			