



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

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A LIFE OF SUBMISSION TO THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

Introduction

One of the facets of the Spirit is temperance or discipline (Galatians 5:22, 23) that describes the life of a spirit-filled Christian. Gal 5:16 says, *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* Luke 9:23 says, *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.* Every redeemed child of God is a disciple and he is to be disciplined in his daily walk with the Lord. The following are seven key disciplines of a Christian.

1. Intercession; both Private & Corporate

Every child of God has the privilege and the duty of praying to God. Our Lord says that we should **pray and not faint** (Luke 18:1). The Lord's Prayer is given as a practical model of principles of prayer for us to use in our private and public prayer (Matthew 9:6-13). That includes our worship of God, petition and supplication for the stewards of the Church and the needs of others as well. Paul in Romans 15:30 says, *Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me* and 2 Corinthians 1:11, *Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.* Believers should be given to regular church corporate prayer as a spiritual exercise and to present our needs daily before the Lord. Philippians 4:6-7 say, *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

2. Meditation of the Word

One of the disciplines of a born again believer is the **regular and careful study, reading, hearing and the serious meditation of the Word of God.** 2 Timothy 2:15 says, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* It is a privilege and the delight for a son/soldier to obey his father or commander's instructions every day. We need to be a knowledge-based Christian and not be ignorant nor unmindful of the glorious truths of everlasting life.

The Psalmist says in Psalm 119:105, *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* The believer is to have a deep hunger and thirst for the Word of God which is *a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.* Jeremiah 15:16 says, *Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.* They are to relish and cherish the Word of God and to be properly grounded and rooted in the doctrines of grace and be willing to share with others as

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well, as God enables (2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:12).

3. Remembrance of Christ in The Sacraments

Paul reiterated the **keeping of the Lord's Supper** that Christ instituted when He was alive with his disciples on the night before the crucifixion (1 Corinthians 11:23-28). It is designed to be a sobering occasion of commemoration of His death, communion with the saints and consecration of our hearts to Him, as we examine ourselves before we come to the table (it does not heal us of any sickness at all). The Westminster Shorter Catechism speaks of it as the means of grace God gave to us where the benefits of the covenant are represented, sealed and applied. The early disciples met regularly to break bread (Acts 20:7) and to baptise new believers in the Lord (Matthew 28:18-20). It is important that the believer does not miss Holy Communion to remember the Lord's death till He comes. As for baptism, it is the **duty of every believer's desire to be baptised** (although it does not save us) and to be **identified with Christ in a local Church as a member** (Colossians 2:11-12). It is vital that every committed Christian should consider membership in the Church that they worship prayerfully and not delay it unnecessarily.

4. Regular Assembly at Sabbath Worship & Fellowship

One of the key disciplines of a child of God is the Sabbath where he sets aside a day from work and worship God in obedience to the 4th commandment.

The Christian honours God by observing the Sabbath by retiring from his work and labour and enter into God's home for collective reverential sabbath worship with other believers. Exodus 31:16, 17 say, *Wherefore the children of Israel shall **keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath** throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed and Isaiah 58:12,13 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words.* Be early for worship for the Sabbath day is to be kept holy and wholly and the child of God is to **honour the Lord always and to worship Him on the Lord's day** in spirit and in truth, delighting in His Word, prayer and other ministries and not in ourselves and worldly employment (Hebrews 10:24, 25; Malachi 3:16).

5. Stewardship of Our Substance to the Lord

Christian discipline affects the manner we use our substance as well, stewardship of our time, talents and treasure. The Gentile believers learned from their Jewish counterparts the importance of giving to the Lord as in the Old Testament days. In Leviticus 27:30, 32 say, *And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD. ... And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD, **the Israelites gave their tithe of 10% to God regularly.*** Paul speaks of **joyful or cheerful giving** in 2 Corinthians 9:7 and the early Church shared their needs tangibly by the giving of their substance to God, which it is not compulsory as in a coercive way. It is nonetheless a biblical guide for all to follow today who honour the Lord. It is a joy and responsibility that all believers should want to **support and encourage the growth and progress of the ministry of the Word** and the extension of God's kingdom on earth.

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6. Evangelism with the pure Gospel of Christ

In 2 Kings 7:9, there is an account of four lepers who found in a Syrian camp food for themselves and their starving countrymen. After eating, the conclusion they draw were given in verse 9, which says, *Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.*

This is a good analogy for believers too who have found the food and drink of everlasting life in Christ and are to share the good news of salvation with others as well. 1 Peter 3:15 says, *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*** Jesus told the new convert in Mark 5:19, *Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and **tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*** The early Church believers were zealous and faithful witnesses for Christ as they were dispersed all over the Roman empire due to persecution all over the known inhabited world (Acts 4:1-5). Let us strive to be effective and faithful witnesses today, not the truncated gospel of the popular Alpha Course or the perverted gospel of the Hollywood movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, which is without the resurrection of Christ and the need for repentance of sins, but the pure and unadulterated gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6, 7).

7. Vigilant Defence of the Faith

The final discipline of a believer is to **warn others of falsehood and error and to zealously defend and propagate the faith** once delivered to the saints (Judges 3:4). Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 2:15, *Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word.* The Apostle John in Rev 1:9 writes **for the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.** Paul again stressed in Philippians 1:27, *Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with **one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.*** We live in a world of deception and ecclesiastical seduction as we witness the worldwide ecumenical movement in the WCC uniting all faiths together in a new religious world order. There is also the enigmatic and pervasive charismatic movement of tongue speaking, prophetic dancing, dream interpretation and contemporary worship services, so-called healing, being slain in the Spirit, miracles and the new age movement of crystals gazing, horoscopes and feng shui, yoga, other occultic obsessions and practices like the Harry Potter movies and the cults in Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Freemasons, Seventh Day Adventist, Christian Science and other extreme or aberrant or hyper-fundamentalistic groups that propagate their own brand of doctrine as dogma not supported by scripture with a false zeal. **The doctrine of Christ and the truth of the Word of God is to be defended against the liberals and modernists who undermined the deity of Christ, the Trinity, inerrancy, authority, sufficiency, and perspicuity of the Holy Writ and the doctrines of sovereign grace.**

Conclusion

A disciple is a committed follower of Christ. There are serious disciplines required of the faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. **Salvation is rich and free but discipleship comes with a price tag.** We need to **renew our devotion to Christ and be willing to deny self**, take up the cross and follow Christ which is our joy and prerogative.

*Rev Jack Sin, Maranatha B-P Church, S'pore
(adapted from Maranatha Messenger 3 February 2008)*

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON
CHURCH THEME: WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING. (Philippians 2:12)

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	<i>Today: 17/02/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 25/02/2008</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We would like to welcome Lincoln to our morning worship service.
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	Pr Gervase Charmley	
<i>Message:</i>	Biblical Molting	Tbd	
<i>Text:</i>	Colossians 3:5-11	Tbd	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Joy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAF meeting with SGAT: Please note that the SGAT monthly meeting will be held on Friday, 22 Feb 08, at 7 pm. For 2008, the theme is on "Prophecy". The title of the message is "The Revelation of Prophecy". • DHW Bible Study: DHW will reconvene next week, 25 Feb. For those requiring the notes, please see Jonathan. • Memory Verse Exercise: Please note that the memory verse final review exercise for the entire year of 2007 has been extended to the end of February 2008. For those who have completed the exercise, please e-mail them to Pr Mok. • Church Easter Camp – 21 to 24 Mar: The speaker will be Ps Jeff O'Neil. More details will be made available later. If you would like to assist with the logistics of the camp, please inform Anthony. • Those serving on the Lord's Day for both morning and evening worship services: Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer.
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Pr Mark Chen	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	Pr Gervase Charmley	
<i>Message:</i>	Biblical Mummification	Tbd	
<i>Text:</i>	Colossians 3:12-17	Tbd	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Hubert	Sophia	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 17/02/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 24/02/2008</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel/Esmeralda	Josiah/Sharon	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Hui Min	Esmeralda	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	No DHW Class	DHW Class	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 22 Feb	7:00pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Combined Meeting with SGAT	
Sat 23 Feb	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Pr Mark Chen	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £163.15		Book Sales: £6.00	
<u>Memory Verse</u>			
<i>Last Week (Feb 08 Wk 2): Psalm 1:4</i>			
The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.			
<i>This Week (Feb 08 Wk 3): Psalm 1:5</i>			
Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.			