



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. 12 No. 52

LORD’S DAY 28 DECEMBER 2008

My dear readers,

1. Isaiah looks down the ages

With God-given prophetic eyesight, Isaiah the OT Gospel prophet foretells with inspired certainty, *“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined”* (Is 9:2).

The god of this world, our mortal enemy number one, holds the masses of men and women captive in the land of the shadow of death, without light and without hope. No man can help for all men are in the same plight, helpless and hopeless. Help must come from beyond man.

Through the gloom Isaiah sees God’s eternal plan preparing to go into action. By a great light He would visit the benighted people of the world to dispel the darkness and give them liberty – release from the bondage of sin and darkness, *“deliverance to the captives.”*

This was God’s plan, the design of Gospel grace with power to break Satan’s yoke of sin.

But God must intervene, must enter into history to free mankind from Satan’s power, and free man from his iron grip, into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

2. Immanuel shall come

Amazing stratagem was God’s almighty plan, sending His anointed servant, Messiah (the Saviour of promise), Immanuel, the Virgin’s son earlier foretold (Is 7:14). So sure and certain is the miraculous conception and advent that the Prophet speaks of the event in the past tense, a thing as though already done. Did not our all-wise God announce the event when Adam and Eve fell in sin? (Gen 3:15).

So the virgin’s Son (like the Lamb slain) was born *“from the foundation of...”*

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the world" (Rev 13:8). This virgin-born "*Son of God*" was also the **eternal Word**, our **Mediator**, the **Anointed Saviour**.

3. See Him in His humiliation

At this season of year, as we recall the holy birth, see the mighty God appear in human form, a little child, "*God clothed in human flesh.*" The **Ancient of Days** become a helpless infant, the "*Everlasting Father*" become Son of man. Such was His condescension in taking our human nature. Thus He humbled and emptied Himself for our sakes, to become as one of us – "*God in flesh appearing.*"

To all who will receive Him, He is freely given and freely received. John says it in his Gospel 3:16. Amazing gift denied to the angels which sinned, was given freely to us. Recall the angels' message, "*Unto you is born this day, a Saviour.*"

This one event, God's gift of His own Son, is the foundation of our hope, the fountain of our joys, our comfort in the midst of grief and fear of death.

4. See our Lord Jesus in His exaltation

Jesus is given to us freely, Son of God and Son of man. He is able to do us the greatest kindness: for He holds the highest honour and power, and He is become our Friend!

Because He humbled Himself, God the Father advanced Him to the highest position, and gave Him a name which is above every name. To Him the Father appoints the highest office. He is the Wonderful Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

In His human flesh, He came, fashioned as a man, our Lord, "*...he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him ...*" raised Him from the grave, gave a name, "*... which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*" (Phil 2:7-11).

5. Consider again His royal dignity

His name is above every name. He is the Wonderful Counsellor. One day, all people shall acknowledge Him in worship. They shall submit to Him, and honor Him. Mighty angels admire and wonder at His majesty. His life lived as one of us would have no equal: His lowly birth, His humble life, His death with the lowliest of criminals, and His amazing resurrection to dazzling power – all this made Him more than Wonderful. "*Great was the mystery of godliness.*"

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He is the Counsellor, filled with the unsearchable wisdom of God from eternal ages. Only He the God-Man, was able to give us worthwhile and infallible counsel, and for our good. His is the wisdom of the Father: He excels all and none teaches like Him. He is the pre-eminent Teacher without compare.

As His wisdom, so His power. By it, He is able to save to the uttermost those who put their trust in Him. How wonderful is He in the role of our Mediator for He combines in His person the paternal role of a Father who is from everlasting to everlasting. Be thankful for His fatherly care, His incomparable love and ability to meet our every need, in every detail.

To him who comes to God, who receives the Son, is given life everlasting and joy unspeakable, freedom from the bondage and oppression of sin. All the blessings come from Him to us freely – not to angels.

6. He is the “*Prince of Peace*”

Finally, see Him as the “*Prince of Peace*” for His is also the “*everlasting Father*” who makes peace and preserves peace for all His children. His Kingdom is a kingdom of peace. He Himself is our peace. And He rules in our hearts to give us unending peace, enduring and prevailing over all who belong to Him.

Not only is He “*Prince of Peace*” but He is “*King of kings*” who throne and reign never ends.

To Him is ascribed all rule and authority over all powers. “*The government shall be upon His shoulder*” – only His. Supreme in power, supreme in authority, our Lord shall rule unchallenged and sovereign.

His government, unlike the world’s, shall be an increasing government; its bounds shall continually grow and enlarge. It shall shine more and more unto the perfect day. His rule over His people shall be by love, wonderful and perfect, love which fills every heart. Our Lord Jesus shall order it, and establish it with justice and judgement – in total perfection.

His joy and happiness will never be spoilt by earthly woes and imperfections. Such also is His everlasting throne – even the throne of David. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts shall perform it. Amen.

*Lovingly in the Lord,
Dr SH Tow, Sr Pastor, Calvary Pandan B-P Church, S’pore
(article dated 28 December 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: 28/12/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 04/01/2009</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Hui-en & Lucy Teo, M. Raman & family and Christine & Richard Chin to our worship services last Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	Mark Chen	
<i>Message:</i>	Purge Out the Old Leaven	Live the Gospel, Leave the Bustle	
<i>Text:</i>	1 Corinthians 5:1-13	1 Peter 1:8-25	
<i>Organist:</i>	Grace	Anthony	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	<p style="text-align: center;">NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling of Resident Minister: Continue to pray for the Lord's calling for a resident minister. The church leaders are praying about calling Rev Timothy Ki. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas (knee pain), Maria (ankle and joint pain), Constance (left heel pain), Maureen (knee pain), Anthony (recovery from collarbone fracture), John (recovery from fractured toe), Margaret (recovery from sprained wrist) • Pray for those who are seeking employment: John, Constance • Pray for Journey Mercies: Mark & Hui Min (USA), Douglas (Ghana), Hubert (S'pore), Jiak Eng (S'pore), Yetta (South Africa), Joey & family (S'pore/Switzerland), Sophia (S'pore), Joshua (S'pore), Lee Wei & parents (Europe), Nicholas (Belgium), Peng Yu & Louise (Egypt), Joy (USA), John & Sharon (Peterborough) <p>The Task Force wishes all members and worshippers a "Happy New Year".</p>
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	Mark Chen	
<i>Message:</i>	Walking As Jesus Walked	Tbd	
<i>Text:</i>	1 John 2:1-29	Tbd	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Anthony	Grace	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 28/12/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 04/01/2009</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel / Hannah	Daniel / Evelyn	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Hannah	Hannah	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Joshua	Joshua	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 2 Jan	Young Adults Fellowship: No YAF Meeting		
Sat 3 Jan	4.00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Rev Yeo Seow Phong	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £357.00		Lunch: No Collection	
Memory Verse			
<i>Last Week (December 08 Wk 3): 1 Corinthians 13:10</i>			
But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.			
<i>This Week (December 08 Wk 4): 1 Corinthians 13:11</i>			
When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.			