



NEW LIFE

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

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The Life That Lasts

*By Rev Charles Seet, pastor of Life B-P Church, Singapore
Adapted from Life Church bulletin dated 6th September 2009*

In Matthew 7:24-27, our Lord Jesus lays out the stark contrast between hearing and doing what He has taught. He challenges us to do all that we have heard. And He cautions us against hearing what He has taught without doing it.

He does all this by using the familiar imagery of building. He likens the way that we live our life to the way that a builder builds a house. Whether that house is an abode that abides or a construction that collapses depends on how we build. And according to Christ, a life that lasts is characterised by 3 things:

It Is Based on the Bedrock of Obedience

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (v. 24)

As a carpenter, Jesus knew the importance of building on a solid foundation. In Matthew 16:18 He says that He would build His church on a rock. The point is this: Obedience to Christ is the only sure bedrock foundation for building your Christian life (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:10,11).

Dear Reader, is your life securely founded upon the principle of obeying Christ? If it is, you are a wise builder. You do not merely listen to the words of Jesus, but you also put them into practice. And you will reap the blessings that will come from practising those words.

James tells us in 1:22-25 *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

One of the blessings you can look forward to if you have built your life on the bedrock of obedience, is durability. What you have built will be able to withstand the storms of life!

Continued on Page 2...

It Is Tested by the Tempests of Tragedy

"And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." (v. 25)

Here is an important truth: Being an obedient Christian does not mean that your life will be free of trial and testing. Building well does not prevent the hurricanes of adversity from striking. I have known some who testified that after they became Christians they experienced even more trials than before (cf. 2 Timothy 3:12). Why is this so? Partly because God wants to reveal to us and to others the true quality of our life.

One striking example in the Bible is Job. When Satan questioned the quality of Job's loyalty to God, God gave him the permission to afflict Job with the most severe trials of life. But Job withstood the test well. He remained as loyal to God as ever. Through this, Satan was silenced and there was no more doubt about the quality of Job's loyalty.

Storms can reveal the real quality of the work of the builders. Under good weather conditions it may not be easy to tell how well a building has been constructed, because none can see its foundations or the ability of its beams and columns to withstand stress. There are hardly any noticeable differences between a weak building and a strong building until they are both subjected to extreme weather conditions.

The same thing is true of your life. The true test of the quality of your life is not the times when everything is going well for you, but the times when you face the most difficult trials and temptations.

When I was a young Christian I learned how to thank God for all His blessings. But I did not know what it means to be thankful for painful trials until I met with a road accident. I still cannot recall the point of impact when I was knocked down because my head hit the road and I became unconscious. But I distinctly remember that when I regained consciousness and realized what had happened, I was able to thank God for what happened to me. And that was something that I had really longed to know whether I could thank God and trust Him in times of trial as much as in times of blessing.

Do not be afraid to face times of great testing. The greatest testing you will undergo will be at the judgment seat of Christ when all that you have built will be tested by fire. If you have faithfully built your life upon the principle of obedience to Christ, you will emerge intact from this (I Corinthians 3:12-15)

When you respond to the Word of God that you hear with obedience, then you are building well to withstand anything, even the fire of God's judgment. But if your response to hearing it is merely a pretense of faith, or a mere intellectual commitment, or just "enjoying Jesus in small doses," then according to the definition given by Him, you are a foolish builder!

Continued on Page 3...

It Is Delivered from the Disaster of Destruction

"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." (vv. 26, 27)

In March 2006 the roof of a church building in Uganda collapsed as a result of a storm while about 1000 people were inside it. This resulted in a number of deaths and injuries. Investigations revealed that there were some defects in the building structure. When I was in the Philippines I witnessed the terrible devastation left behind by two typhoons that passed directly over Manila, uprooted trees, fallen electric poles and houses that were destroyed by the very strong winds and floods.

Such severe storms may also have occurred in Israel in the time of Jesus. The land was known for torrential rains that can quickly turn dry river beds into raging torrents. The 4th chapter of Judges records how this phenomenon gave the Israelites a great victory over the armies of Sisera. His formidable force of 900 iron chariots could not move when a sudden well-timed downpour turned the River Kishon into a raging flood which immobilised all his chariots and horses.

If rains and floods can destroy a whole army, just think of what it can do to a house that is built upon sand. As we read the words, *"great was the fall of it"* we can imagine the loud crashing noise of the walls and roof collapsing, and the piercing screams of all who are trapped inside it. It is certainly not a pleasant sight or sound. After the Hotel New World disaster which took 33 precious lives in March 1986 tighter building regulations were implemented to prevent a recurrence of it. I am sure none of us would ever want to see such a thing happen to anyone or to ourselves.

And this is the intended impact of Matthew 7:24-27 to serve as a severe warning not to build one's house upon the sand. It is a warning to be a doer of God's Word and not a mere hearer of it. Dear Reader, please take this warning seriously and ask yourself: What kind of dwelling are you building? Is your life a shanty of sin or is it a palace of purity? Will your house be able to stand the test? Or will it collapse?

May we all be committed to build our lives wisely from now onward, by obeying all that the Lord has taught us in His Word.

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

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: 08/11/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 15/11/2009</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Mrs Eka Mkpang to our worship services last Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Joey Seow	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Eld George Chew	
<i>Message:</i>	Christian Faith is True - Part 2	Moving On	
<i>Text:</i>	Psalms 73:24-26	Acts 3:1-20	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Grace	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Joey Seow	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Eld George Chew	
<i>Message:</i>	Faith in God's Creation	Why Do We Pray?	
<i>Text:</i>	Hebrews 11:3	Ephesians 6:18-24	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Sophia	Joy	
Other Duties			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
	<i>Today: 08/11/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 15/11/2009</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembrance Sunday: This morning, we will be observing a 2-minute silence at 11am. • Church Resident Minister: Thank God for sending Pastor Ki to minister to us for the past two Sundays. Pray for journey mercies as he returns this evening to Australia. Continue to pray for Pastor and Mrs Ki's preparation to return to London in December. • Bible Study: Today, we will cover Lesson 24 (Genesis 31). Please spend the upcoming week preparing for DHW Lesson 25 (Genesis 32 & 33). • Pray for those who are sick: - Yetta's mum (recovery from stroke & cancer), Constance (ankle), Douglas (knee pain), Barbara (Alzheimer's), Prema (thyroid & skin condition), Eld Jack Ford (old age and knees), Margaret (asthma), Mrs Ki's father (lung cancer), John (ankle, wisdom tooth check-up), Eld Chew (recovery from shoulder injury), Mrs Ki (recovery from back pain), Anthony (cold).
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jonathan / Daniel	John / Constance	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Brian	Lee Wei	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Lesson 24 (Gen 31)	Lesson 25 (Gen 32 & 33)	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 13 Nov	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Old Testament Messages	
Sat 14 Nov	4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Jonathan	
Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £820.70	Lunch: £28.00		
	Book Sales: £7.50		
Empty Conversations			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for those who are away or on travel: Pastor Ki (S'pore/M'sia/South Korea), Mrs Ki (Australia), Nicolas (Belgium) • Pray for those seeking employment/new opportunities: Joy, Brian, Yetta.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Adapted from "In Green Pastures" by J.R. Miller, D.D.</i></p> <p>Christian conversation should not be a mere jargon of empty, idle words. There are many people who talk incessantly and never say anything worth repeating or remembering. They never give any comfort to those who are in trouble. They never incite those who hear them to anything noble or good. Their words if gathered up would be millions of blossoms, and not one handful of fruit; tons of sand, and not one shining sparkle of gold. Surely such conversation is not worthy of immortal beings, children of God and heirs of glory, on their way home to glory.</p>			