



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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WHAT THIS FAITH INCLUDES AND WHAT THIS FAITH EXCLUDES

*By Rev Charles Spurgeon, A sermon delivered on Sunday Morning, February 17th, 1861
(Conclusion of "Faith: What it is, and what it leads to")*

"He that believeth on him is not condemned." If we are not condemned, then at no time does God ever look upon his children, when they believe in Christ, as being guilty. Are you surprised that I should put it so? I put it so again; from the moment when you believe in Christ, God ceases to look upon you as being guilty; for he never looks upon you apart from Christ. You often look upon yourself as guilty, and you fall upon your knees as you should do, and you weep and lament; but even then, while you are weeping over inbred and actual sin, he is still saying out of heaven, "So far as your justification is concerned, thou art all fair and lovely." You are black as the tents of Kedar—that is yourself by nature; you are fair as the curtains of Solomon—that is yourself in Christ. You are black—that is yourself in Adam; but comely, that is yourself in the second Adam.

Oh, think of that!—that you are always in God's sight comely, always in God's sight lovely, always in God's sight as though you were perfect. For ye are complete in Christ Jesus, and perfect in Christ Jesus, as the apostle puts it in another place. Always do you stand completely washed and fully clothed in Christ. Remember this; for it is certainly included in my text.

Another great thought included in my text is this; you are never liable as a believer to punishment for your sins. You will be chastised on account of them, as a father chastises his child; that is a part of the Gospel dispensation; but you will not be smitten for your sins as the lawgiver smites the criminal. Your Father may often punish you as he punisheth the wicked. But, never for the same reason.

The ungodly stand on the ground of their own demerits; their sufferings are awarded as their due deserts. But your sorrows do not come to you as a matter of desert; they come to you as a matter of love. God knows that in one sense your sorrows are such a privilege that you may account of them as a boon you do not deserve. I have often thought of that when I have had a sore trouble. I know some people say, "You deserved the trouble." Yes, my dear brethren, but there is not enough merit in all the Christians put together, to deserve such a good thing as the loving rebuke of our heavenly Father.

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Perhaps you cannot see that; you cannot think that a trouble can come to you as a real blessing in the covenant. But I know that the rod of the covenant is as much the gift of grace as the blood of the covenant. It is not a matter of desert or merit; it is given to us because we need it. But I question whether we were ever so good as to deserve it. We were never able to get up to so high a standard as to deserve so rich, so gracious a providence as this covenant blessing—the rod of our chastening God. Never at any time in your life has a law-stroke fallen upon you. Since you believed in Christ you are out of the law's jurisdiction.

The law of England cannot touch a Frenchman while he lives under the protection of his own Emperor. You are not under the law, but you are under grace. The law of Sinai cannot touch you, for you are out of its jurisdiction. You are not in Sinai or in Arabia. You are not the son of Hagar or the son of a handmaid, you are the son of Sarah, and are come to Jerusalem and are free. You are out of Arabia, and are come to God's own happy land. You are not under Hagar, but under Sarah; under God's covenant of grace. You are a child of promise, and you shall have God's own inheritance.

Believe this, that never shall a law-stroke fall on you; never shall God's anger in a judicial sense drop on you. He may give you a chastising stroke, not as the result of sin, but rather as the result of his own rich grace, that would get the sin out of you, that you may be perfected in sanctification, even as you are now perfect and complete before him in the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ.

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The Enigma that is Man

*By Rev Ian Hamilton, Pastor of the Cambridge Presbyterian Church
Adapted from Banner of Truth website*

'Man is an enigma, whose only solution can be found in God.' So wrote Herman Bavinck, the great Dutch theologian. What Bavinck wrote is immediately applicable to fallen men and women. Science cannot explain who we are and what we are. Science cannot tell us what will ultimately become of us. It cannot explain the mystery that is man. For we are a mystery, even a contradiction. When science (so-called) seeks to explain us in purely humanistic, evolutionary terms, we rebel. We know that we are more than a chance amalgam of sub-atomic particles. We know, even when we do not want to acknowledge it, that there is more to us than meets the eye! Man is an enigma whose only solution can be found in God.

What is less obvious to many Christians, however, is that what Bavinck writes is no less applicable to believers. There is, even in the most blessed of Christians, a perplexity that can at times be overwhelming. We get a glimpse of this perplexity in Paul's confession in Romans 7:15ff:

I do not understand what I do, but what I hate I do . . . I have the desire to...

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do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it . . . What a wretched man that I am!

Paul is an enigma to himself. He is deeply perplexed by the contradiction of his life.

Paul is not some abnormal, un-spiritual, Spirit-deficient Christian. He is acknowledging the inescapable tension that lies within the heart and life of every true believer. He is a child of God, but yet marked by frail, fallen flesh. He is an heir of God's glory, but yet encompassed with weakness. He is united to Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, but living in an environment ruled and defaced by the devil. He is a sanctified Christian, but is troubled, and at times all but overwhelmed, by indwelling sin. The Christian is an enigma whose only solution can be found in God. This is Paul's conclusion in Romans 7:24-25: 'Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!' The enigma and contradiction will not last forever. Our union with the glorified God-Man is the guarantee that we will all, one coming day, share in his 'perfect resolution'. Now we 'groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons' (Rom. 8:23). The day has not yet arrived when our lowly bodies will be transformed to be like his glorious body - but that day is coming, God has ordained it! The triumph of the Saviour assures it!

Now we live in the intersection of two worlds - this fallen world that is passing away, and the world to come, which has already come in the Persons of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, both sent from the Father. There is therefore an inescapable ache in every truly Christian heart: we are not yet home. And that ache is at times heightened by the aggravations of indwelling sin and the assaults of the devil. So much so, that we can think that because we do not do what we long to do, but do what we hate to do, we cannot be Christians. If we are not grieved and humbled by this indwelling enigma, we should seriously ask ourselves whether indeed we can possibly be Christians. But if you are perplexed and humbled by your contradictions, and grieve over the inconsistencies and contradictions in your lives, I would suggest you evidence one of the marks of authentic saving faith.

I write these lines not to excuse our contradictions, but to cheer, hopefully, the heart of any saint who is burdened by their contradictions. One day the Lord will finally deliver all his people from their 'body of death'. Then we will cease to be wretched men and women (who are at the same time sons of the living God), but be glorified saints, with all our enigmas and contradictions forever expunged from our lives, conformed perfectly to the likeness of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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	Today: 10/05/2009	Next Week: 17/05/2009	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Pastor KK Yap & family, Yoke & Fong Ling, Paul Poh, Alice Low, Andrew Loke & family, Ellen and Christine our worship services last Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Joey Seow	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Eld George Chew	Pr Gervase Charmley	
<i>Message:</i>	Who Am I?	Why?	
<i>Text:</i>	John 6:35, 48; 8:12; 9:5	Luke 13:1-5	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Grace	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Joey Seow	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Eld George Chew	Pr Gervase Charmley	
<i>Message:</i>	The Vine	Distress and Deliverance	
<i>Text:</i>	John 15:1, 5	Psalm 6	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS • Calling of Resident Minister: Continue to pray for the Lord's calling for Rev Timothy Ki to serve as our resident minister. Pray for his visa application. • DHW Bible Study today: Today, we will cover Lesson 3 (Genesis 4). Please spend the upcoming week preparing for Lesson 4 (Genesis 5). • Examinations: Please pray for the students who are preparing for their examinations. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas (knee pain), Maria (ankle and joint pain), Constance (left heel pain), those suffering from hay-fever • Pray for on travel: Peter & Hazel Chong (S'pore), Joshua & Hannah (New Zealand), George & Susan (M'sia). • School of Theology at Metropolitan Tabernacle – 7th to 9th July: The theme for this year programme is "Reviving the Lost Art of Evangelistic Proclamation". Copies of the programme are available at the Book Table.
<i>Pianist:</i>	Sophia	Hubert	
Other Duties			
	Today: 10/05/2009	Next Week: 17/05/2009	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel / Sharon	Anthony / Yetta	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	No Sunday School	No Sunday School	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Jonathan	Nicholas	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 15 May	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Bible Study – Survey of the Old Testament	
Sat 16 May	4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Jonathan	
<u>Last Week's Worship Service Collections</u>			
The collection figures will be printed in next week's bulletin			
<h2 style="margin: 0;">The Peril of Failure</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Adapted from "In Green Pastures" by J.R. Miller, D.D.</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">Myriads of lives with magnificent possibilities have been utter failures because men and women have not gone promptly to duty at the divine call. They were intended to fill certain places. God made them for these places and qualified them for them; but when they were summoned to their work they excused themselves on one plea or another, and buried their talents in the earth. Let us train ourselves to obey every call of God, lest in our hesitancy, distrust, or disobedience we fail of the mission for which we were made, and meet the doom of the useless in God's universe.</p>			

The “I AMs” of Christ as found in John

John 6:35, 48

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6:51

I AM THE LIVING BREAD WHICH CAME
DOWN FROM HEAVEN

John 6:12 & 9:5

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 10:7, 9

I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

John 10:11, 14

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 14:6

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

John 15:1, 5

I AM THE TRUE VINE

John 11:25

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE