

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....

WORSHIP PART 32

Last week, we studied that both the tabernacle and temple constructions were possible because of the instructions both Moses and David had received from the Lord. Hebrews 8:1-5 is worth noting: "Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; ² A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. ³ For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore *it is* of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. ⁴ For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: ⁵ Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount." Anything related to the Temple and its services was clearly and precisely instructed and prescribed by the Lord. God told Moses to anoint the priests, to build a tabernacle, and everything in it was shown to him. The kinds of offerings and sacrifices, the ways to offer them to the Lord, and individual duties in Temple services were meticulously instructed. When anyone broke God's command, he was to be removed. Therefore, service in the biblical worship is not arbitrary like anybody's will. 1 Timothy 3:15 says, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Paul, the senior pastor, wanted to teach his junior minister Timothy how he should conduct himself in God's church. It means that the ones who want to serve need instructions first. Sometimes, overly zealous people want to serve the Lord in local churches, but very unfortunately they want to serve in the ways they like, instead of following the instructions given to them. One interesting observation is that all the gifts Christ has given to His church in Ephesians 4:11 (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) are related to teaching ministries. It is very obvious why Jesus gave such gifts to his church. 4:12 says, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." They are responsible to teach others to be ready or mature enough for the work of the ministry. Thus, Christian service includes learning. While Paul talks about putting off our old man, he says in Ephesians 4:20-21, "But ye have not so learned Christ; ²¹ If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus." Learning is important for Christian service and true worship. Thus, service preparation must include learning.

Fifteen, preparation includes mutual encouragement and readiness. 2 Chronicles 35:15, "And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them." Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Through our mutual encouragement, we can do more and be strengthened more. Ecclesiastes 4:12, "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." This point probably indicates that proper Christian fellowship is necessary for the preparation of our services. For example, James warns us that our friendship with the world is enmity with God in James 4:4. Or, Proverbs 22:24 says that we have to be careful when we make friendships with an angry man. It does not surprise us that the early Christian church continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship according to Acts 2:42. Of course, the foremost important fellowship we can think of is the fellowship with the Son of God as 1 Corinthians 1:9 states. Fellowship with devils will ruin us as 1 Corinthians 10:20 says. We are to fellowship with righteousness, not with unrighteousness or darkness as 2 Corinthians 6:14 teaches. Ephesians 5:11 says, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*." When the apostles knew of Paul, they offered him the right hands of fellowship as Galatians 2:9 explains. Fellowship must be found in the gospel as Philippians 1:5 indicates. We are encouraged to fellowship with one another as 1 John 1:7 urges us. Thus, we ought not to behave as if we are loners. We do not exist apart from the body of Christ. We need one for the other, and we need mutual encouragement and exhortations. In order to serve effectively, we need good Christian fellowship with other fellow believers.

Sixteen, preparation is necessary for right service. 2 Chronicles 35:16, "So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the passover, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of king Josiah." Matthew 26:17, "Now the first day of the *feast of unleavened bread* the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?" Luke 23:56, "And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment." Sacrifices had to be properly prepared (Numbers 15:5-12). The fulfillment of God's promises also include our preparations (Joshua 1:11). Religious duties do require us to prepare for services (1 Chronicles 9:32; 2 Chronicles 35:4, 10, 14-16). 2 Chronicles 27:6, "So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God." David prepared lots of things for Solomon to build the house of God (1 Chronicles 22:5; 29:2). In order to serve the Lord according to His instructions, we need to be prepared (2 Chronicles 35:6). Proper preparation is a necessity (Luke 1:17). Luke 12:47 says, "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*." God uses people who are prepared for His service. Timothy 2:21 says, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work." Preparation also involves active practice of faith. Hebrews 11:7 says, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Even the angels of the Lord called for His service are prepared (Revelation 9:15).

Seventeen, preparation involves the heart and is related to the Law of God. Ezra 7:10, "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." It is also understood that Ezra gave his heart to seek the law of God. 1 Samuel 7:3, "And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, *then* put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." Job 11:13, "If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him." The heart preparation is related to our relationship with the Lord. 2 Chronicles 12:14, "And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD." 2 Chronicles 30:19, "*That* prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though *he be not cleansed* according to the purification of the sanctuary." Then, my natural question is, "Is your heart prepared?" This question can be even more specified. Is your heart prepared for being ushers, welcomers, musicians, Sunday school teachers, finance officers, and so on? Are you really prepared in your heart to serve Him? Really?

Lovingly,

Your Pastor

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.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK			WELCOME
Fri 15 October 7:30pm Young Adults Fellowship			
Sat 16 October 3:00pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: “Why KJB?” (led by Dr Tow)			
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	
Preacher	Dr Tow Siang Hwa	Dr Tow Siang Hwa	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
Message	The Lord is Coming!	The Falling Away	We like to welcome Checkie Ma and Marcus Tan to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Text			
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saturday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Come and join us every Saturday to pray and study God's Word. Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Today, Pastor Ki will continue on the series of studies based on “The Doctrine of Church.” Dr Tow Siang Hwa: By Gods' grace we are fortunate to have Dr Tow preaching at New Life London these next 2 Sundays. Please invite your family and friends to come along and listen to the messages. Saturday 16th October: Dr Tow will be leading a special study on “Why King James Bible?” The session will commence at 3pm. Dinner will be provided after the meeting, so please stay behind for some fellowship. Remember to pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Eld Ford, Lydia, Margaret, May, Maureen, Mrs Ki, Sonia. Remember to pray for those who are/will be travelling: Eka & family (Nigeria), Nick (Belgium), Lydia (Paris) Thank God for journey mercies: Dr Tow, Lee-Wei (S'pore to UK) Thank God for new job opportunities: Brian 			<u>Today: 10/10/2010</u>
Worship Service Collections Last Sunday: £1623.41, Lunch: £64 Attendance - Morning: 39 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 26 (A) 2 (C) Prayer Meeting (09/10): 8 (A)			<u>Next Week: 17/10/2010</u>
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 41			MEMORY VERSE
Q: Where is the Moral Law summarily comprehended? A: The Moral Law is summarily comprehended in THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.			Last Week
<u>Comments:</u> The Moral Law is the law which teaches us how we ought to think and act with regard to God and man. When God created man, he set this Moral Law in his heart, so that he knew his duty without a Bible. But when man sinned, this knowledge was partly lost, and God therefore had to give it anew. He gave it fully in the Bible, and briefly in the Ten Commandments.			<i>“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”</i> Romans 8:17
<u>Proofs:</u> Deuteronomy 10:4, Matthew 19:17			This Week
			<i>“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”</i> Romans 8:18
			Next Week
			<i>“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”</i> Romans 8:19