



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. 14 No. 15

LORD’S DAY 11 APRIL 2010

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Evening Service – 4pm</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 8:1-9	Psalm 99:9
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 29 – “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”	RHC 76 – “Day Is Dying in the West”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 14	Exodus 2:1-15
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 14</i> (to the tune of St Anne, RHC 21)	RHC 347 – “Under the Care of My God, The Almighty”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 67 – “Praise the Saviour”	---
<i>Scriptural Reading</i>	Matthew 5:20-26	Hebrews 11:23-29
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>The Law and its Lessons</i> “The Law Commands and Makes Us Know	<i>Moses’ Faith – Part 2</i> RHC 425 – “Take the World, but Give Me Jesus”
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>		
<i>Benediction / 3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	<i>RHC 13 (stanzas 1 & 4)</i>

* Congregation Stands

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

Church Theme 2010 – “Believers Built in Christ”

WORSHIP PART 14

We have read arguments against the use of musical instruments from last week's article. Hence we need to evaluate their point of view as they object to musical instruments for worship out of their love for God. They are not enemies of the truth but are our brethren. If they believe musical instruments do not have place in their worship of God, they must have reasons why. By looking into their reasons, we may be edified. They have two kinds of reasoning: (1) biblical reasons and (2) other reasons (I simply call them "other reasons," but I will specify them more in detail a bit later). The first argument is interesting, although not very convincing. Having read their articles and books, I must say that the most prominent biblical argument from their views is about the translation or interpretation of the Greek word, *psallo*, found in a few places in the New Testament such as Romans 15:9 (*sing*); 1 Corinthians 14:15 (*sing*); Ephesians 5:19 (*making melody*), or James 5:13 (*sing*). For example, Albert Barnes, a famous Bible scholar, says in his commentary, *Notes on the New Testament*, "Psallo ... is used, in the New Testament only in Romans 15:9 and 1 Corinthians 14:15, where it is translated sing; in James 5:13, where it is rendered sing psalms, and in the place before us. The idea here is that of singing in the heart, or praising God from the heart" (comment on Ephesians 5:19). However, it is not so desirable to make a solid principle based on controversial translations. We have already seen that the KJV translators used "making melody" for the same Greek word, which is musical. Most lexicons will testify that the word means "pluck off, or put out." In ancient Greek writings, the word means "to cause to vibrate by touching, or to twang." More specifically, it was used to refer to touching or striking the chord, or twanging the strings (of a musical instrument so that they gently vibrate). It also means "to play on a stringed instrument," or "to play the harp." *Psallo* was used when the Septuagint translated a Hebrew word, *zimmer*, which means "to sing to the music of harp." I have not given all these lexical meanings to defeat the arguments of the opponents of musical instruments. What I want to say is that quite often lexicons cannot offer the final answer to our serious questions. That's why I feel that their biblical argument is rather weak. In fact, they do not want to consider the Old Testament part at all in their discussions, which is rather sad.

Now, I am going to talk about the other kind of reason. This study is more sombre and requires prayerful approach. It is because their reasons do reflect their sincerity and faithfulness to the Lord. If you understand their concerns, you will know what I mean. Let me list other reasons why they oppose the use of the musical instruments. (1) They are intimately associated with the sensual heathen cults. In fact, sensuality and false religions are issues brought into this argument. (2) They are associated with shameless performances for the degenerate theatre and circus. (3) They tickle only the ears. (4) Even the performers themselves do not understand their own music. (5) They have secularized the church. Secularized music has been brought into Christian church worship. Having read every one of these reasons, I wonder how you feel about them. Personally, I consider them all to be very relevant issues to our churches today. All of them are the reasons why we oppose certain types of music and musical performances in worship services today.

There are so many styles of church music these days, which prevents me from talking about every kind of church music. Thus, I will just choose one particular kind and find some relevant issues from it. Probably lots of contemporary church music is pure rock. They use hard beats and a back beat. It is amazing to see that lots of young people are attracted to Christian rock which is not different from worldly rock and roll. Their excuse is that the lyrics matter, not the beat or style of music. However, we have already seen that music matters even apart from lyrics. It has been a consistent teaching amongst God-fearing people that Christian music and rock should not go together.

Read the following excerpts and compare them with the list of the reasons why some groups have opposed the use of musical instruments in the previous paragraph. Irwin Sibling of *Sing Out* magazine said, "The great strength of rock & roll lies in its beat. It is a music which is basically sexual, unpuritan . . ." (May 1965, p. 63). Debra Harry of Blondie says, "The main ingredients in rock are sex and sass" (*Hit Parader*, Sept. 1979, p. 31). Chris Stein, lead guitarist for Blondie says, "Everyone takes it for granted that rock and roll is synonymous with sex" (*People*, May 21, 1979). Rocker Tom McSloy says: "Rock is visceral. It does disturbing things to your body. In spite of yourself, you find your body tingling, moving with the music" ("Music to Jangle Your Insides," *National Review*, June 30, 1970, p. 681). Simon Frith, author of *Sound effects*, said, "We respond to the materiality of rock's sounds, and the rock experience is essentially erotic" (New York: Pantheon Books, 1981, p. 164). Malcolm McLaren, punk rock manager, said: "Rock 'n' roll is pagan and primitive, and very jungle, and that's how it should be! The moment it stops being those things, it's dead ... the true meaning of rock ... is sex, subversion and style" (*Rock*, August 1983, p. 60). Bill Haley said, "I felt that if I could take a ... tune and drop the first and third beats and accentuate the second and fourth, and add a beat the listeners could clap to as well as dance this would be what they were after" (cited by Charlie Gillett, *The Sound of the City: The Rise of Rock and Roll*, p. 14). "I dig that rock and roll music; it has a back beat; you can't lose it" (Chuck Berry). Even secular *Time* magazine, (March 11, 1985 p.60) in an article about Contemporary Christian Music titled the article, "New Lyrics for the DEVIL'S MUSIC."

All I need to say is that the music style itself can be unholy as we can see from above. When we put such music together with Christians, there is an unholy alliance. In 1997, *Rolling Stone* reviewed a sampling of 30 Christian rock songs and rendered this verdict: the Christian songs were no more insipid or derivative than 30 songs "randomly selected from the *Billboard* Hot 100 in a given week." There is no more division between sacred and secular as far as contemporary music is concerned. Of course, many of CCM singers use rap, hip-hop, and R&B for their music. Joe Bob Briggs once defined CCM as "bad songs written about God by white people." There is enough truth in this statement to get our attention except the last part as CCM is not confined only to a particular race or ethnic group. The queen-bee of Christian rock for a long time was Amy Grant. Amy's song, "Baby, Baby," was unprecedented in Gospel Music history, topping the chart as the number-one spot on *Billboard* magazine. *People* magazine (July 15, 1991 p.71) says, "There's saintly Amy cuddling some hunky guy, crooning 'Baby, Baby' into his ear and looking pretty **SLEEK AND SINFUL**. . ." After all, Amy confesses, "I'm trying to look **SEXY** to sell a record . . ." (*Rolling Stone*, June 6, 1985 p. 10). I see similar pictures on lots of cover sheets of CCM CDs.

Having said all these negative points on contemporary Christian or even worship music, I must make a few warnings: (1) CCM should not be despised simply because it is new and contemporary. There are lots of good things in new things. There are good contemporary composers and good music pieces; (2) there must be differentiations between worship music and some Christian inspiring or entertaining music. Entertainment should not be brought into worship; (3) there is a connection between businesses and most CCM performers and their songs. We should not forget that CCM is a multi-billion dollar industry. The music is used to generate good financial returns; (4) there are unhealthy components in CCM such as triumphalism, commercialism and individualism, even apart from theological soundness. Interestingly, Mark Allan Powell, a professor of the New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, said that about 10 percent of current CCM might be in the "theologically mature" category; (5) the way of presenting music is equally important as the style of music. It includes not only the playing of music but also the use of vocals; and (6) we must be careful about the use of emotions in worship. Emotion is a divine gift. However, emotions also have their boundaries. Basically, CCM appeals to the emotions of the worshippers, while worship is given to God. All this points out one important lesson: we should cultivate our musical taste. I'll continue next week.

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 16 April	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Bible Study on Philippians	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Rupa, May Forwell, Ernest Low, Vera Sun, Gideon Chia, Heather Philip, Gloria & Shuen-ern Low to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Sat 17 April	4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Shorter Catechism (led by Rev Ki)	
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES <u>Today: 11/04/2010</u> <i>Chairman:</i> John Poh <i>Organist:</i> Joy <i>Pianist:</i> Grace <i>Ushers:</i> Jonathan / Anthony <i>Sunday School:</i> Joy / Grace <i>Lunch:</i> Maureen <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Joshua <u>Next Week: 18/04/2010</u> <i>Chairman:</i> Joey Seow <i>Organist:</i> Grace <i>Pianist:</i> Anthony <i>Ushers:</i> John / Yetta <i>Sunday School:</i> Jonathan / Joy / Grace <i>Lunch:</i> Mrs Ki <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Lee Wei
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	
<i>Message</i>	Lessons about Moral Purity	Moses' Faith - Part 3	
<i>Text</i>	Matthew 5:27-30	Hebrews 11:26	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<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: Pastor Ki will continue on the series of studies based on "<i>The Doctrine of Church.</i>" • Church Anniversary to be held on 9th May. • Pilgrim Tabernacle Ladies Conference to be held on 15th May. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas (knee pain), Barbara (Alzheimer's), Prema (thyroid & skin condition), Eld Jack Ford (old age and knees), Margaret (asthma & hayfever), Eld Chew (recovery from shoulder injury), Brian (awaiting doctor consultation for future treatment), Lydia (migrane), Constance (cold), Yetta (cough), Mrs Ki (ear infection) • Pray for those who are/will be travelling: Nicolas (Belgium), Eka & Family (Nigeria), George & Susan (M'sia), Sharon (Harlow), Lydia (Paris – doctor's appointment), Vera (Hong Kong), Brian's uncle (travel to UK) • Bereavement: The Church extends her condolences to Vera for the recent passing away of her grandfather 			
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £746.13 Total Chile Fund: £315 Attendance - Morning: 40 (A) 1 (C), Evening: 23 (A) Prayer Meeting (10/04): 13 (A)			
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 15			
<p>Q: What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?</p> <p><i>A: The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.</i></p> <p><u>Comments:</u> The particular sin which Adam and Eve committed, and which constituted their fall, consisted in their eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of which God had said they should not eat.</p> <p><u>Proofs:</u> Genesis 3:6</p>			MEMORY VERSE Last Week <i>"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."</i> Philippians 3:11 This Week <i>"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."</i> Philippians 3:12 Next Week <i>"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,"</i> Philippians 3:13