



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. 37

LORD’S DAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2010

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Evening Service – 4pm</i>
	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Prelude</i>		
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Matthew 16:13-18	Psalm 103:8-12
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 317 – “The Solid Rock”	RHC 114 – “At Calvary”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Joey Seow	Joey Seow
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 36	Jeremiah 31:31-34
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 36 verses 5-10</i> (to the tune of Ballerma, RHC 130)	RHC 112 – “Redeemed”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Joey Seow	Joey Seow
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 418 – “O Jesus, I Have Promised”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Hebrews 8:1-13	Isaiah 49:1-13
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Eld George Chew	Eld George Chew
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>A New Covenant</i>	<i>The Covenant Worker</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 56 – “Jesus! The Very Thought of Thee”	RHC 454 – “Make Me A Blessing”
<i>Benediction / 3-Fold Amen *</i>	Eld George Chew	Eld George Chew
<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”

THE JOY OF POVERTY

"But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position." (James 1:9)

Are you poor? By this I do not necessarily mean financial poverty. Nor do I mean being poor in spirit (*Matt. 5:3*), a good thing. James is contrasting the brother of humble circumstances with the rich man (*James 1:9-11*). So this means that James has something in mind far greater than financial need. He refers to poverty of any form — position, pedigree, or profession. You may be sick physically. You may seldom see your children or grandchildren. You may be in a job of low pay or little prestige. You may be of an ethnicity which is demeaned in your community. Poverty can take many forms. The believer, if he is lacking in anything, is to boast about his poverty, what James calls a high position. There are good reasons for boasting (*1 Cor. 1:31, Gal. 6:14, 1 Pet. 1:6*). What is this 'high position' about which you are to boast? We find in James 1:1 that the half-brother of Jesus refers to himself as the slave of the Lord Jesus Christ. James no longer mocks his brother's claim as Messiah (*John 7:4-5*). He no longer believes him to be emotionally unstable (*Mark 3:21*). He has seen the risen Jesus (*1 Cor. 15:7*), and this changes everything. So the high position to which James is referring is the fullness of our eternal salvation — our regeneration, justification, sanctification, adoption, reconciliation, and glorification. No wonder Paul says that he boasts in nothing else but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ!

So, regardless of your lot in life, regardless of your poverty, whatever it may be, you are called to boast or glory in your high position as the blood-bought people of the Lord Jesus! But why? Four reasons come immediately to mind. First, in your poverty, due to your high position, you ought to know that your life does not consist of your possessions (*Luke 12:15*). I know what the world says, but it is a lie. You are not who you are because of your money, status, or lack thereof. Second, if you buy into James' exhortation then you know that your limitations, whether money, position, prestige, or profession, are meant by God to diminish worldly distractions so you can serve God without restriction. Let's face it — our stuff mitigates heartfelt, earnest, hot pursuit of Jesus. Jesus said that the seed sown among thorns chokes off life, equating the thorns with the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things (*Mark 4:19*). Third, your high position is declared in many ways in Scripture. Among them God says that he loves you (*Rom. 8:38-39*), rejoices over you (*Zeph. 3:17*), and cares for you (*1 Pet. 5:7*). And fourth, as a warning, the failure to glory in your high position means that you are moving toward the end result of such disobedience — lusting, quarrelling, fighting, and murdering (*James 4:1-5*).

So here's what James is after for us — to know that the trial of abject poverty is a means for unparalleled joy. Are you there? In what ways are you poor? Are you boasting in your high position of poverty? Contrary to what our world believes, in your poverty God is actually doing you a huge favour. How so? Paul says that the sentence of death was on him so that he would not trust in himself, but God who raises the dead (*2 Cor. 1:9*). He later says that he is unknown, but known . . . poor but making others rich . . . having nothing, but possessing all things (*2 Cor. 6:9-10*). He said that when he was weak he was strong (*2 Cor. 12:10*). Things are upside down in Christ's kingdom. God knows that instead of his kindness leading us to repentance it tends to make us self-absorbed, idolatrous, moving us to forget the One who has blessed us (*Deut. 8:11-14*).

For four years I was a full time evangelist, having resigned from the pastoral role in a local congregation. This was very difficult on my wife. She suffered numerous losses. She lost her position as a pastor's wife. She lost many of her close friends because we changed churches. She lost much of my companionship because I travelled extensively. On many occasions, upon my return home, she wept, asking me how much longer I would do this. She was sick for six weeks with a bronchial infection, during which she hardly slept for eight straight nights. But God did a great work in her. She found herself repeatedly going to our bedroom walk-in closet and prostrating herself on the floor, face buried in the carpet, crying out, 'Jesus, help me!' Jesus was very, very sweet to her during this time of affliction. When I later received a call to pastor another church she was fearful of me taking the call. She wondered, due to easier circumstances, if she would lose her intimacy with and hunger for God!

In what ways are you currently poor? Can you see God in your circumstances? Are you boasting in your high position? Are you using the trial of your abject poverty as a means of unparalleled joy? You may be somebody in the world due to your prestige, pedigree, position, money, education, or accomplishments. But the moment you walk into your church you are on equal footing with everyone else (*Gal. 3:28*). And you may be a nobody in the world, due to your lack in the things our world considers impressive, but your entrance into the community of believers means you are somebody. If the church of Christ would 'get this', sooner than later, it could make a profound and lasting impact on our world. The world is always clamouring for an artificially contrived egalitarianism through racial quotas and affirmative action. Here is true egalitarianism, wrought by Christ through his death on the cross! If the 'poor' believer would get it, then he would be able to live with a godly swagger — a confidence and boldness, enabling him to overcome the fear of man, moving him to spend and be spent for the sake of the gospel.

How do we get there? Paul tells us that Jesus, though he was rich, became poor for our sakes, that we may become rich in him (*2 Cor. 8:9*). Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, very God of very God, from all eternity was in perfect, loving communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He was rich in the perfection of Trinitarian love, yet he willingly took on human flesh, exposing himself to the harsh realities of a world gone mad in sin, rebellion, and degradation. He was mocked, accused of demonic possession and emotional and psychological instability. He was betrayed, abandoned, and rejected by those he came to save. He took the wrath of his Father upon himself, experiencing the untold misery of hell. He died as a condemned and wicked criminal. He became poor that we might become rich. If you are in Christ, then you are truly and eternally rich. Don't look at your poverty of pedigree, position, or position. Glory in the fact God is showing you that your poverty is a means of unparalleled joy.

Rev. Allen M Baker is Pastor of Christ Community Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Adapted from Banner of Truth dated 2nd July 2010

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 17 September	7:30pm	No Young Adults Fellowship	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Mr Johnson to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Sat 18 September	4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: (led by Eld George Chew)	
Next Lord's Day			LORD'S DAY DUTIES
	Morning Service	Evening Service	Today: 12/09/2010
Preacher	Eld George Chew	Eld George Chew	Chairman: Joey Seow
Message	Purpose of the Church	Oil and Dew	Organist: Joy
Text	Romans 12:1-21	Psalm 133	Pianist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Ushers: Daniel / Jonathan
<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, Joey Seow will be leading a study on the topic "The Christian in the Workplace". • Remember to pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Eld Ford, Lydia, Margaret, May Chew, Jonathan, Sonia and Deborah Sherwood. Thank God for Brian completing his radiotherapy sessions. • Remember to pray for those who are/will be travelling: Eka & family (Nigeria), Nick (Belgium), Lydia (Paris), Pastor & Mrs Ki (Australia), Brian (M'sia). Thank God for safe arrival of Constance back in UK and Rev & Mrs Lim in S'pore. • Pilgrim Tabernacle will be celebrating their 23rd Church Anniversary on 18th September, 2:30pm. If you wish to attend, please see either Jonathan or John for more details. 			Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: John
			Next Week: 19/09/2010
			Chairman: Jonathan Kim
			Organist: Anthony
			Pianist: Joy
			Ushers: John / Yetta
			Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: John / Joshua
Worship Service Collections Last Sunday: £809.40, Lunch: £43.50			MEMORY VERSE
Attendance - Morning: 24 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 11 (A) 2 (C) Prayer Meeting (11/09): 6 (A)			Last Week
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 37			<i>"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live"</i>
Q: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?			Romans 8:13
<i>A: The souls of believers are at their death made <u>perfect in holiness</u>, and do immediately PASS INTO GLORY; and their <u>bodies</u>, being still <u>united to Christ</u>, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.</i>			This Week
Comments:			<i>"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."</i>
Having learned the blessings which true Christians receive from God in this life, we are now taught the blessings they receive when this life is ended. 1. The <i>soul</i> is then made perfectly holy, or free from all sinful tendencies, and taken at once to heave; 2. The <i>body</i> rests in the grave in union with Christ till the last day.			Romans 8:14
Proofs:			Next Week
Revelation 21:27, Luke 23:43, 1 Thessalonians 4:14			<i>"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."</i>
			Romans 8:15