



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. 17 No. 27

LORD’S DAY 07 JULY 2013

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 146:1-5

Psalm 92:1-5

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 15 – “How Shall I Sing That Majesty”

RHC 48 – “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 25

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 25 verses 1-5, 8-10
(to the tune of Martyrdom, RHC 38)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 43 – “God is Still on the Throne” verses 1&2

Scriptural Text

Romans 12:5

Psalm 119:1-3

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Colin Wong

Rev Colin Wong

Sermon Message

Members of One Another

Happiness

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 261 – “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

RHC 125 – “Jesus is the Joy of Living”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Colin Wong

Rev Colin Wong

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* 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 2013 – “Understand and know God” – Jeremiah 9:24

BIBLICAL PICTURES OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD:

PART 3 - DEW

By Rev Dewi Higham (Tabernacle, Cardiff). Reprinted with permission from Free Church Witness magazine dated December 2008

The choice of phrase in the Scriptures, when describing the presence of God, provides us with something of an insight into the nature of God. Fire conveys something of the overwhelming power of God, whilst the Dew and the Dove convey His wonderful gentleness. There are also a number of other pictures, which we could have noted, such as the Wind and the Anointing. The three selected pictures of Fire, Dove and Dew, will provide us with a view of God which is full of awe and grace. Such is the nature of God's presence that both awe and grace can be experienced in the same moment.

Dove and Dew Contrasted

The dew and the dove provide a similar picture of the presence of God. The gentleness found in the dove is somewhat reflected in the quietness of the dew. The dew comes unannounced, and silently appears on the ground and the surfaces of the vegetation, as the water vapour in the atmosphere condenses on cool surfaces.

The Dew of Hermon

The dew of Hermon mentioned in Psalm 133 is a most charming picture of blessing, where we read, 'Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore' (Ps.133:1-3).

To introduce the dew of Hermon, it is worth mentioning the parallel picture of the precious ointment. This precious ointment, and its clear connection with the presence of God, adds some authenticity to our connecting the dew with the presence. The precious ointment was poured on the head of Aaron, and ran down his beard, even to the edges of his garment. The fragrance represents the delightfulness of God. The holy context of the ordination of a high priest adds holy reverence to the picture. The fact that it is poured from above is also indicative of God coming down upon a man, to bless his soul.

Furthermore, this language of anointing is used throughout Scripture, and is associated with the blessing of God upon a man's ministry. We often speak of a man being anointed, which carries the idea of an effusion of God, and outpouring of the Spirit.

It is, therefore, with expectation that we turn to the dew of Hermon, and the dew that descended on the mountains of Zion. If the ointment is so clearly a picture of God's presence and blessing, then the dew will surely carry some other aspect of God's presence. Even the very mention of the dew descending, brings us again to the thought of God coming down. It is, in particular, the ability of dew to refresh the ground and bring with it fruitfulness, that is most relevant to the presence of God.

As we consider Hermon and the surrounding area, we should note that these arid areas depended much on the heavy dew that was so typical of those parts. The dew of Hermon, it seems, was particularly heavy. This heavy dew would bring much-needed moisture to the parched ground. The shepherds, also, would depend on this dew to refresh their sheep, as they travelled from fold to fold.

The Dew that Refreshes the Ground

With regard to the refreshing of the ground, we might first think of the parched ground as a picture of our poor hearts. The hard ground, interspersed with cracks, could represent the world, and, even to some extent, the church in our day. Yet in the church there is a thirst for God. This godly thirst could be pictured as the readiness of the parched ground to draw in the moisture as it descends.

We gain much hope from this picture, for nature is quickly revived after a heavy shower, or in this case, after the descent of a heavy dew. We will find that the presence of God is an animating presence. It is a feature of our services, where men often arrive weary, but leave full of physical and spiritual energy. This is, of course, more than the body recovering from tiredness, for there is something powerful in the energising of the soul that affects the whole constitution of man. Not surprisingly, we find this animating power in revival accounts, where men abounded with strength in worship and service.

Forgive me for bringing in a personal example with regard to my father, who was also my pastor for many years. I can testify, as many others also can, to the blessing of God upon his ministry. One of the most remarkable features of this ministry, especially as his physical strength wanes, is his appearance in the pulpit. Outside of the pulpit, he shows his age, and perhaps even more than his age, since the wear and tear of a faithful ministry has left its mark. However, a pastor and friend recently remarked that my father sheds twenty years when he enters the pulpit and begins to preach the Word.

This dew can also be widespread, where the lethargic church, full of drooping hearts, suddenly becomes a different place altogether. The people are full of godly interest, the prayer meeting swells in attendance and life abounds.

The Dew that Leads to Fruitfulness

This dew brings fruitfulness. If you see ground saturated with moisture, you just know that there will be fruit. Likewise, when God is present, we have good reason to expect fruit. I recently attended a conference where the Lord was near. I thought to myself, I am sure there will be fruit from this conference. It seems that this has been the case.

We could add the thought that these conditions of heavy dew on the slopes of Hermon would produce certain plants and flowers not found elsewhere. Likewise, you see graces in the house of God that you do not find in the world. Connected with this thought is the fact that some of the Lord's people seem to capture more of God and display more of Christ than others. I was told by a gentleman who has some knowledge of those parts that a certain type of flower is found on Hermon, where the petals form a cup-like shape. The flower is then able to capture and retain more of the moisture. Such are the hearts of some people, where their hearts become receptacles of the blessing of God.

There are times when the dew is exceptionally heavy. We can think of periods in the history of the church when the fruit and the flower were exceptional. Some evidence of this beauty is captured in the writings of those times.

All this reflects the glory of Jesus Christ. If such beauty can be produced in human hearts, what must our Saviour be like? He is, indeed, the Rose of Sharon.

The Dew and Unity

We cannot pass by the significance of the context of this most special Psalm, where the dew and precious ointment is associated with the unity of brethren. How delightful is this true unity, where men stand on the same truths, with great love for each other! There is much misunderstanding today on Christian unity. Suffice to say, that the unity put forward by many is a pale reflection of what is meant here. Nevertheless, we must say this, that the unity described in Psalm 133 goes hand in hand with blessing and God's presence. How important, therefore, is true unity! How beautiful is true unity! It is like the dew of Hermon.

Imagine a Service

Imagine a service where God is present. The people are attentive and listening, as the dew is descending on them. The Lord is upon the sermon, as the preacher finds ease of utterance. The Lord is upon the congregation, where all untimely interruptions are prevented. The Lord is upon the hearts of the people, as the words sink deeply. Surely, we might reflect, there will be fruit.

The Fruit of Revivals in Wales

This fruitfulness and sense of refreshing was seen in Wales during those two centuries of almost unbroken blessing. It was said that on the Lord's Day you could walk the length of one of the valleys of Glamorganshire, and never be out of earshot of chapel singing. As you drew near one chapel, the singing could be heard, and would grow louder as you drew level. As you made your way past that chapel, the singing would fade, but before fading altogether, the singing of another chapel could be heard. Such was the fruit of God's presence, that chapels sprung up all over the land.

The character of the Welsh people was also greatly affected at this time. Like all nations, the Welsh temperament has its faults, but to a large extent, those faults were submerged in the times of His presence. There were even occasions when the white glove was presented to a county, where no court cases had been presented throughout the year.

What could be the cause of such a change as this? It is the dew of Hermon. It is the presence of God.

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 |
|---|--------------------|--|--|
| Wed 10 July | | No Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study | We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Sarah to our worship services last Lord's Day. |
| Fri 12 July | 7:00pm | Young Adults Fellowship | |
| Sat 13 July | 4:00pm | Bible Study & Prayer Meeting | |
| Next Lord's Day | Morning Service | Evening Service | LORD'S DAY DUTIES |
| Preacher | Rev Colin Wong | Rev Colin Wong | <u>TODAY: 07/07/2013</u> |
| Message | Accept One Another | Essentials to Living a Victorious Christian Life | Chairman: John |
| Text | Romans 15:7 | Psalms 119:4-8 | Organist: Joy |
| NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS | | | Pianist: Jasmine |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Rev. Wong will lead a discussion on this mornings' sermon "<i>Members of One Another</i>". • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Pastor Ki, Hannah, Eld Chew's mother, Sharon & Elliora, Rev Colin Wong. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. • Pray for those on travel: Pastor & Mrs Ki, Sarah, Yangfan. • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. • Thank God for the safe arrival of Rev & Mrs Wong and that they were admitted into the UK by immigration. | | | Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn |
| | | | Sunday School: Hannah / Joy |
| | | | Lunch: Maureen |
| | | | Washing Up: Volunteers |
| | | | PA Crew: Anthony |
| Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1451.20 | | | <u>NEXT WEEK: 14/07/2013</u> |
| Attendance - Morning: 30 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 25 (A) 2 (C) | | | Chairman: Jonathan |
| | | | Organist: Anthony |
| | | | Pianist: Joy |
| | | | Ushers: Tom / Constance |
| | | | Sunday School: Hannah / Joy |
| | | | Lunch: Hannah |
| | | | Washing Up: Volunteers |
| | | | PA Crew: Scott |

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 78

Q: What is forbidden in the Ninth Commandment?

A: *The Ninth Commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name.*

Comment:

This commandment refers to our *words*. It commands us to be careful to speak *the truth* at all times, to stand up for it when it is assailed, and to seek to advance it by all means in our power. And it forbids us to do anything which might make others believe what is not true – which is *lying*; and especially where anyone's character is concerned – which is *slander*. In ordinary intercourse the rule is, Speak the truth in love. In witness-bearing the rule is, Speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Scriptural Reference:

Ephesians 4:31, Psalm 15:3

MEMORY VERSE

| Last Week | This Week | Next Week |
|--|--|--|
| <p><i>Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.</i></p> <p>Philippians 4:11</p> | <p><i>"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."</i></p> <p>Hebrews 13:5</p> | <p><i>"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."</i></p> <p>Jeremiah 9:24</p> |