



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. 17

LORD’S DAY 28 APRIL 2013

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 145:1-3

Psalm 148:1-5

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 37 – *“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”*

RHC 29 – *“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 15

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 15
(to the tune of Ballerma, RHC 130)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 384 – *“My Jesus, I Love Thee”*

Scriptural Text

Genesis 15:1

John 1:10

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Timothy Ki

Rev Timothy Ki

Sermon Message

A Message of Encouragement from God
Mr Stephen Miller

God’s Communication with an Unbelieving World
Mr Stephen Miller

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 353 – *“God Will Take Care of You”*

RHC 429 – *“We Have Not Known Thee as We Ought”*

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Timothy Ki

Rev Timothy Ki

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

May the Grace of Christ Our Saviour

* 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

ASTOUNDING GRACE

By Rev Ian Hamilton, pastor of the Cambridge Presbyterian Church. Reprinted with the permission of Rev Hamilton

One of the most remarkable statements in the Bible is found in Isaiah 62:5, 'as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you'. The prophet Zephaniah takes the thought a step further, and deeper: 'The Lord your God is with you . . . he will rejoice over you with singing' (*Zeph. 3:17*). It is quite breathtaking to imagine the everlasting and ever-blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rejoicing over weak, poor, inconstant, shallow, doubting, believing sinners - and he does, astonishingly.

The greatness of what Isaiah and Zephaniah wrote does not lie however in the wholly undeserving objects of God's rejoicing, but in the astounding grace that gave birth to his rejoicing.

I fear, if you are anything like me, that grace is such a commonplace in the evangelical Christian's vocabulary, that the thought of it rarely if ever moves and thrills you, far less overwhelms you. It is a biblical truism that we are saved by grace, that salvation in all its parts is 'from him, and through him, and to him . . . To him be the glory for ever! Amen' (*Rom. 11:36*). We know that grace truly is 'amazing'. We understand that grace is undeserved, saving kindness to judgment-deserving sinners. We know this. We confess this. We sing this. Some of us preach this. But when were we last humbled and overwhelmed by the heart-stopping wonder of grace?

Thomas Goodwin, the great English Puritan, wrote insightfully about God's grace:

Grace is more than mercy and love, it super-adds to them. It denotes not simply love, but the love of a sovereign, transcendent superior, one that may do what he will, that may wholly choose whether he will love or no . . . Now God, who is an infinite Sovereign, who might have chosen whether ever He would love us or no, for Him to love us, this is grace.

Goodwin has surely captured the heart and glory of grace, 'For him to love us, this is grace.' Him! It has always helped me when thinking about the grace of God to change the word order to 'the God of grace'. Grace is not a 'spiritual substance' that God parcels out to us from a heavenly treasury. Grace is God giving himself to us. In essence, Jesus is the grace of God (read *John 1:14, 17*). He is God's gift of love to the world. In him, and in him alone, God gifts to us his love, his kindness, his mercy. Grace is deeply personal.

The implications of this are profound. It means above all else that we are to glory in the God of grace and not in the grace of God. I hope I am not making an artificial distinction. Of course Christians will love and cherish the doctrines of grace. Of course we will celebrate the inexplicable sovereignty of that grace. But there is always the danger that we isolate the blessings of the gospel from the Person of the Saviour. If Jesus Christ himself is the grace of God in its revealed fulness (*John 1:14, 17*), then our lives will be marked first by love and adoration to him, the essence and epitome of God's grace. What Peter wrote about the exiles of the dispersion should be true of all Christians, 'Though you have not seen him, you love him' (*1 Pet. 1:8*).

When our Lord Jesus asked Peter three times, 'Do you love me?', he was surely not only speaking to Peter. Was he not asking every one of us, as he asked Peter, 'Do you love me?' It is not love to Christ that saves us - but nor is it faith in Christ that saves us! It is Christ who saves us through faith - this is grace. Again, this is not trying to be clever with words. Rather it is what God's holy Word again and again impresses on us. Our boast as believers is not that we have faith, but that the Lord Jesus is our heavenly Bridegroom and that he, yes he, rejoices over us with singing.

AN EXTRAVAGANT LOVE FOR THE LORD JESUS

By Rev Ian Hamilton, pastor of the Cambridge Presbyterian Church. Reprinted with the permission of Rev Hamilton

Reading the *Letters of Samuel Rutherford* is to enter a world where love to the Lord Jesus Christ is the absorbing preoccupation. Writing to a lady parishioner in 1637, he said, 'Christ is a well of life; but who knoweth how deep it is to the bottom? . . . And oh, what a fair one, what an only one, what an excellent, lovely, ravishing one is Jesus.' Such language, and, vastly more importantly, such heart affection, appears remote, perhaps even embarrassing, to many Christians today. Neither our language about the Saviour, nor our discoursing on the Saviour, gives the impression that he is the love of our lives, the One we cherish and adore above life itself. Why are we such strangers to the unembarrassed ardour that so marked Rutherford's (and multitudes of other Christians' past and present), relationship with the Lord Jesus?

One answer that is sometimes given is that our temperaments are somewhat culturally conditioned and cannot be expected to be 'fulsome' and 'uninhibited': we are English/Scottish after all! We don't wear our hearts on our sleeves! Aside from the fact that Rutherford was as Scottish as you can get, this answer is a pathetic excuse. There is little doubt that the Lord has given his world a wonderful cultural and temperamental diversity. But according to our Lord Jesus, the extravagance of our love to him is not conditioned by the genetics of our temperament, nor by the geography of our nationhood, but by our grasp of his grace to us in the gospel!

In his Gospel, Luke recounts for us, in the greatest detail, the anointing of the Lord Jesus by a 'sinful woman' (7:36-50). As the woman lavishes her love on the Saviour, Simon, Jesus' host, says to himself, 'If this man were a prophet he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is - that she is a sinner.' Jesus' response takes us to the heart of the matter. As he concludes his searching exposure of Simon's heart, he says, 'therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven - for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.' Consider what our Lord is saying to us. The reason why the sinful woman lavished her affections so openly and extravagantly on the Lord was because she had a deep sense of the wonder of the forgiveness of sins. The reason we love our Saviour so haltingly and so mutedly, is, at heart, because we have lost the sense of the wonder and blessedness and glory of the forgiveness of our sins.

It is an evangelical commonplace that 'the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from every sin.' We are able to talk about Christ and the gospel, and to my great shame, preach about them, and not be captivated by the sheer glory of the divine mercy. We sing about 'Amazing Grace', but if the truth be told, just what is so 'amazing' to us about God's forgiving grace in Christ? 'He who has been forgiven little loves little.' It has nothing to do, at heart, with nationality or genetics; it has everything to do with grasping the glory of the cross and the wonder of being a forgiven sinner, a friend and child of the living, thrice holy, triune God.

How then can we begin to love him better? How can we love him more ardently, more extravagantly, less self-consciously? There are no slick formulae, no out-of-this-world-experiences to cultivate. Simply this: Consider Jesus! Contemplate Calvary! Make the time and take the time to meditate on God's amazing grace to hell-deserving sinners.

There is no substitute for loving Christ. Let Rutherford have the last word:

Give Christ your virgin love: you cannot put your love and heart into a better hand. Oh! If ye knew him, and saw his beauty, your love, your liking, your heart, your desires would close with him and cleave to him . . . Oh Fair sun, and fair moon, and fair stars, and fair flowers, and fair roses, and fair lilies, and fair creatures, but O ten thousand times fairer Lord Jesus.

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 01 May		No Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Nina's friends and family, and Rachel Phang to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Fri 03 May	7:00pm	Young Adults Fellowship	
Sat 04 May	4:00pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Mr Kyle Graham	Mr Kyle Graham	<u>TODAY: 28/04/2013</u>
Message	TBC	TBC	Chairman: John Organist: Sarah Pianist: Jasmine Ushers: Alan / Margaret Sunday School: Hannah / Joy Lunch: Mrs Ki Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott
Text	TBC	TBC	<u>NEXT WEEK: 05/05/2013</u>
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Chairman: Alan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Jasmine Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn Sunday School: Hannah / Joy Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Yangfan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Mr Miller will lead a short study before lunch. • 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, Jonathan, Tobias & Elliora, Scott. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta. • Pray for those on travel: Nnabugwu. • Church ACM: This will be held after morning service today. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held today after lunch. Please see Sis May or Sis Elizabeth for more information. 			
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £861.95, Lunch: £61.00 Attendance - Morning: 46 (A) 8 (C), Evening: 30 (A) 6 (C)			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 67

Q: What is the Sixth Commandment?

A: The Sixth Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:13

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.”

Deuteronomy 31:8

This Week

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

Romans 11:33

Next Week

“In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Colossians 2:3