



# 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. 18 No. 49

**LORD’S DAY 07 DECEMBER 2014**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Morning Service – 11am**

**Evening Service – 4pm**

**Prelude**

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

**Call to Worship**

Isaiah 49:8-13

Isaiah 59:2-6:2

**Opening Hymn \***

RHC 5 – “Command Thy Blessing From Above”

RHC 63 – “Jesus, The Glories of Thy Face!”

**Opening Prayer \***

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

**Gloria Patri \***

*Glory Be to the Father*

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**Responsive Reading**

Psalm 97

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**Second Hymn \***

*Psalm 97 verses 9-12*  
(to the tune of Kilmarnock, RHC 561)

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**Announcements & Memory Verse**

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

**Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \***

RHC 121 – “My Redeemer”

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**Scriptural Text**

Colossians 1:24-29

John 15:1-11

**Pastoral Prayer**

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

**Sermon Message**

***The Mystery Revealed***

***What is a Fruit Bearing Christian?***

**Closing Hymn \***

RHC 57 – “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

RHC 245 – “Channels Only”

**Benediction/3-Fold Amen \***

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

**Postlude**

*The Lord Bless You*

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\* 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 2014 – “Waiting for God” – Isaiah 30:18**

*From the pastor's heart...*

## **WAITING ON GOD – PART 8**

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 7th September 2014

Psalm 27:13-14, *"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."* <sup>14</sup> *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."*

Having read Psalm 27, I could not erase a very strong impression in my heart that this psalm is full of contrasts including desperation and hope, sorrow and joy, and depression and confidence. There are lots of up-moments and also many down-moments. Two extreme experiences in the psalmist's life are mentioned. It is amazing to see that such contrasts are interwoven and intertwined masterfully as a unit. The same situation is reflected in two opposite outbursts – anxiety and confidence.

Let me begin with the psalmist's down-moment experiences. He had enemies, rather wicked foes, who tried to eat him up (verse 2). They were not small in number, but a host of people came to war against him in verse 3. He had troubles in verse 5. False witnesses rose up against him in verse 12. He could not but be fainted as in verse 13. Against all the odds in life, he boldly demonstrates a totally opposite mood throughout the psalm. Verse 1 is a good example: *"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* He said this as if he was not afraid of the situation. He said that his enemies stumbled and fell in verse 2. He declared his boldness in verse 3: *"Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident."* He described his experience in such a calm and soothing way in verse 5: *"For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock."* In times of troubles, if the Lord had hidden him, what could be a trouble to him? Thus, he said in verse 6 that he would be lifted up. So far, we have seen two opposite moods in the mind of the psalmist. On the one hand, he was desperate because of overwhelming persecutions from his enemies, but on the other hand, he was very confident as if there was no reason to fear anything.

In between such fluctuations (contrasted states of mind), we see the third state of his mind. Psalm 27:7-9, *"Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me."* <sup>8</sup> *When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek."* <sup>9</sup> *Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation."* He cried to the Lord and prayed. He even expressed his desire to be in the house of the Lord in verse 4: *"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple."* I am sure that he was pursuing the path of righteousness and the joy of the Lord before His presence. In addition to such a thought, probably it is not too much to say that he did not have any other way to turn to in times of troubles. The thought of God gave him hope and confidence. In fact, when he said that he was confident in verse 3, he did not say in what he was confident. One thing is for sure; He could not be confident in himself, because he was hotly pursued by his enemies. The Hebrew word for *being confident* in verse 3 also means to trust. There was something that bridged him from being desperate to being hopeful. The answer is found in verse 1, *"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* The reason that he was able to encourage himself not to be a prey to negative circumstances and thoughts was that he had trusted in the Lord. The Lord was the strength of his life. He cried at times. He struggled at times, too. At times he even felt that the Lord was hiding His face from him and thus he pleaded with the Lord not to leave him and not to forsake him in verse 9.

H. C. Leupold aptly explains the psalmist's inner thoughts in his commentary on Psalms as following: "Faith grows timid and fearful. Doubts assail the writer: Will God hear him? So he pleads that God may not turn His face away, not turn His servant away in anger. His past experience affords him a footing: Thou hast been my help. Then follows the moving plea: 'leave [thrust] me not [aside], neither forsake me, O God of my salvation,' which means, O God, who hast been wont to save me. Whether all this argues for a sense of guilt on the writer's part or merely reflects the uncertainty which men feel in time of trouble cannot be easily determined."

Then, we come to verses 13 and 14: "*I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*"<sup>14</sup> *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*" "Wait on the Lord" is the solution or answer to his quest in times of troubles. Let us consider a few lessons from these two verses. First, it is not strange to find the believers in weariness. Though it sounds a very simple statement, many believers have not completely understood it yet. Thus, they have an idea that they should not feel any weariness, and weariness is only a sign of God's punishment or their lack of faith. However, we should know that there are times when even the believers of Jesus Christ feel weakened and tired due to trials, pain, and suffering in life. Christian life is not of constant upbeats and hypes for 24/7. The psalmist said that he had fainted. His situation was so bad that he felt nearly hopeless, if he had not trusted in the Lord. Second, the psalmist paid attention to the goodness of the Lord in such difficult times. He had a right perspective at the face of trials. While most people are complaining about God and doubting especially about His goodness, he was meditating on the goodness of the Lord, without which he could not keep himself in hope. Third, he kept waiting on God. There are two important lessons we must not forget. (1) One of the secrets that we will not fall into despair is to believe and know that our faith in God will not be in vain. The psalmist looked upon Him constantly by faith. (2) The despondent believers must believe in God in times of troubles. That is faith after all. Fourth, he persuaded himself to take courage, because the Lord would strengthen him. We find the expression, "be of good courage," throughout the Scriptures. It was often used for God's people before ferocious wars. It is almost like a war cry. Strong enemies are everywhere, and our hearts are fainted. However, we must let our hearts rise up and take courage. Believe in God and wait on Him. Fifth, "wait on God" must be meditated on continually and we must understand what it means. The most important element in waiting on God is that we are waiting on God, not anything else. It means that we ought to believe in God, and there is something more than faith, which is to fellowship with Him. 1 John 1:3 says, "*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*" We are so little accustomed to fellowship with Him. In this fellowship, we will experience at times that God hides Himself from us. That what the psalmist said in his prayer. We may have fears that God does not see and hear us, or our faith is too small to accomplish anything, or our desire to see how the Lord will lead us into our future is weak. Despite all these challenges, there is one voice from heaven, "wait on the Lord." Apart from such hope and prayer, we do not have any other hope and confidence. You, discouraged souls, keep waiting on God even today!

Lovingly,

Pastor Ki

# 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
Thurs 11 Dec 7:00pm <b>Bible Study - Study on the book of Mark</b>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Fri 12 Dec <b>No Young Adults Fellowship</b>	
Sat 13 Dec 4:00pm <b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b>	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<b><u>TODAY: 07/12/2014</u></b>  <b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan <b>Organist:</b> Anthony <b>Pianist:</b> Michael <b>Ushers:</b> Daniel / Evelyn <b>Sunday School:</b> No Sunday School <b>Lunch:</b> Tom <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Scott
<b>Message</b>	Do You Have a Cup of Suffering?	What Would You Give up for a Friend?	
<b>Text</b>	Colossians 1:24	John 15:12-17	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-lunch Bible Study:</b> Dr Martin will lead this week's study.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor &amp; Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Rev Colin Wong, Patricia, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Brian Green, Dr Tow, Elizabeth, Magdalene, Matthew, Jonathan's father, Tom.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Magdalene.</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Please pray for Pr Mok Chee Cheong's visa application.</li> <li>• <b>Ladies Fellowship</b> will be held after lunch today.</li> <li>• <b>Lord's Supper:</b> We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared.</li> <li>• <b>Christmas Day Service</b> will be held at 11am on 25th December 2014</li> </ul>	<b><u>NEXT WEEK: 14/12/2014</u></b>  <b>Chairman:</b> John <b>Organist:</b> Sarah <b>Pianist:</b> Matthew <b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Yetta <b>Sunday School:</b> Hannah / Rachael <b>Lunch:</b> Jonathan <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Jonathan
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £828.03, Lunch: £44.00 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 31 (A) 7 (C), Evening: 20 (A) 5 (C)	

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 45

**Q: Which is the First Commandment?**

**A: The First Commandment is, THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.**

Comments:

God wrote the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone. On the first table he wrote the first four commandments, which contain our duty to God; and on the second he wrote the remaining six commandments, which contain our duty to man. This First Commandment teaches us the only proper *object* of worship. It is GOD – and beside him there is no other. This is the simple meaning of the commandment, but in the Shorter Catechism each commandment is explained and expanded, by showing first what it *bids* us do, than what it *forbids* us to do, and lastly, what *special reasons* or motives there may be for its observance.

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p>“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.”</p> <p><b>Psalm 34:19</b></p>	<p>“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”</p> <p><b>Isaiah 53:4</b></p>	<p>“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”</p> <p><b>Isaiah 53:5</b></p>