



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. 19 No. 07

LORD’S DAY 15 FEBRUARY 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

1 Chronicles 29:10b-13

Romans 5:18-21

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 18 – “Come, Thou Almighty King”

RHC 139 – “One Day!”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 107

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 107 verses 1-8
(to the tune of Arlington, RHC 433)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 326 – “Like a River Glorious”

Scriptural Text

Colossians 2:18-23

John 16:17-22

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Why Man’s Rule Can Hinder Spiritual Growth

Measuring Time – But by Whose Standards?

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 379 – “O for a Faith That Will Not Shrink”

RHC 221 – “When We See Christ”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

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 2015 – “Build a God-Honouring Family” – Joshua 24:15b

From the pastor's heart...

WAITING ON GOD – PART 13

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 30th November 2014

Psalm 130:5-6, *“I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.”*

This psalm has been known to us as one of the penitential psalms. Since the time when one of the renowned Old Testament scholars, Delitzsch, paid attention to this psalm, it has been a common understanding that “[Martin] Luther ventured to classify it as Pauline in character, obviously because it stresses the thoughts that this great apostle specially emphasized” (H. C. Leupold, *Exposition of the Psalms*, 902). The Wikipedia notes that Luther also paraphrased this psalm as his first attempt to make the psalms accessible to Protestant church services in German. It was likely in 1523 when it happened. He sent it to his friends to encourage them to write psalm-hymns to be used in German worship.

There are two versions of this hymn: one in four stanzas and the other in five stanzas. The longer version expressed essential Reformation doctrines and was widely used at funerals including Luther's own on the 20th of February, 1546, in Halle. The hymn title in German was “Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir,” translated into English, “From deep affliction I cry out to you” or “Out of the depths I cry to you.” Johann Sebastian Bach also used the complete chorale of this hymn as the base of his chorale cantata with the same title. I'll give you a version of four stanzas for your reading as translated by Gracia Grindal as following:

Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me calling.

In-cline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling.

Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my spirit needs; without it I am nothing

All things you send are full of grace; You crown our lives with favor.

All our good works are done in vain without our Lord and Savior.

We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from the grip of death; our lives are in your keeping

In you a-lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own merit.

We rest our fears in your good word; up-hold our fainting spirit.

Your promised mercy is my fort, my comfort, and my strong support; I wait for it with patience.

My soul is waiting for you, Lord, as One who longs for morning;

No watcher waits with greater hope than I for your returning.

I hope as Israel in the Lord, who sends redemption through the Word. Praise God for grace and mercy!

There are a few interesting features in this psalm. First, as mentioned before, it has been known as one of the penitential psalms (Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 106, 143). This psalm puts much focus on sin itself and not so much on the consequences of results of sin. Second, there are ample indications that it carries the Gospel message including forgiveness. Verses 3-4 say, *“If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.”* Thus Luther said, “It treats of the chief article of doctrine necessary for salvation, namely, justification.” There are also remarks

of redemption in verses 7-8. Hence we need to read verses 5-6 once again to appreciate what the psalmist is talking about: *“I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.”*

I need to point out two things quickly before moving into a deeper understanding of the psalm: (1) Hebrew words for “wait” and “hope” are synonyms, which indicates that there is an element of hope in waiting and vice versa. (2) “Wait” includes an idea of intense and eager waiting, not just casual and mindless waiting. The intensity of waiting is well described in verse 6.

The psalmist’s waiting was more earnest and anxious than the watchmen’s waiting for the morning light. We may think of different kinds of watchmen. The first kind we may consider is military sentinels. The enemies are lurking here and there, and they are looking for opportunities to break into the city to conquer and devour its inhabitants. The watchmen must be alert, and they cannot hide their fear of the hidden enemies’ sudden attack. The enemies are hidden behind the curtains of darkness. The watchmen are longing to see the daybreak. Many of us have kept the side of our beloved ones’ sickbeds. At night, usually the sick tend to become even sicker. They seem to feel more pain at night. The watchmen for them are wishing that the dawning of the day may come soon.

The psalmist frankly admits and confesses that he is in such a situation. Verse 1 says, *“Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD.”* What depths is he talking about? “It so happens that the usage of this word is confined to the figure of a man who is caught in dangerous and deep waters (cf. Psalm 40:2; 69:2, 14; Isaiah 51:10; Ezekiel 27:34).” It may include every conceivably dangerous situation we may face physically, emotionally, or spiritually. Though the psalmist does not specify one particular situation as a reference to his situation, one thing is sure: he is in an extremely difficult situation. He cries out to the Lord out of the depths, which means that he is in such depths at the present moment. He is completely overwhelmed by the situation. Though we do not know a particular situation he is involved with, we know that his precarious and dangerous situation has been brought to him because of his sins. He speaks about iniquities and forgiveness together in this psalm.

Two facts are established: he has sinned and needs forgiveness. In such a spiritual condition, he does not depend on his own resources but gives himself to a complete resignation. There is no one who can stand before God (verse 3). Thus, he waits by hoping in His word [of promise] as in verse 4. He rests on God and His promises. Then based on His Word, he is waiting for God. I found an interesting absence of the result of his waiting in this psalm. The psalmist speaks of his waiting and hoping for God, but he does not talk about the end results of his prayers.

The psalm does not say whether he is forgiven or delivered from his afflictions. After all, what matters to him is that he trusts in the Lord as the object of his faith and subsequently waits and hopes for His deliverance or forgiveness. We ought to be reminded that the psalmist was a worshiper of God. However, it did not mean that he was perfect by any means. He was in trouble because of his uncleanness before God. He was in the depth of afflictions. He knew that there was no other way to resolve his issues but to wait for God. Let us recognize that there are times when we must humbly bow before God only in faith and wait for Him.

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
Thurs 19 Feb 7:00pm Bible Study - Study on the book of Mark	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Sarah and Chen Liang Fang to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Sat 21 Feb 4:00pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting - Study on the book of Nehemiah	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	<u>TODAY: 15/02/2015</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Keene Pianist: Ernest Ushers: Tom / Yetta Sunday School: No Sunday School Lunch: Tom Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott
Message	Tbc	Tbc	
Text	Tbc	Tbc	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations". • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor & 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, Jonathan's father, Sarah • Pray for expecting mothers: Sharon, Magdalene. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travel: Margaret, Hannah, Rachael, John, Fung, Jiak Eng, Heidi, Daniel & Maureen, Sharon & children, Anthony & Helen, Sarah, Serene • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Pr Mok's visa application. • Bereavement: The Church extends her deepest condolences to Daniel Poh and family following the recent passing away of his mother. • Chinese New Year Carry-In Lunch: Postponed till further notice. • Ladies Fellowship @ 22/5: Meeting will be held after lunch. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 22/02/2015</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Keene Pianist: Matthew Ushers: Tom / Margaret Sunday School: No Sunday School Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott</p>
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £935.90, Lunch: £33.00 Attendance - Morning: 26 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 12 (A) 2 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 55

Q: What is forbidden in the Third Commandment?

A: The Third Commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh himself known.

Comments:

The Third Commandment forbids us to use irreverently or wrongly any of the names or things which more especially express and declare God. Everything connected with *him* should be sacred.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 5:34-35

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p>"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"</p> <p>Matthew 7:22</p>	<p>"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."</p> <p>Matthew 7:23</p>	<p>"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."</p> <p>Matthew 10:32</p>