



# 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. 20 No. 19

**LORD'S DAY 08 MAY 2016**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Evening Service – 4pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 33:1-4

Psalm 105:1-4

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 217 – *"Rejoice - the Lord Is King!"*

RHC 31 – *"Blessed Be the Name"*

*Opening Prayer \**

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 11

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 11*

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(to the tune of Bethlehem, RHC 15)

*Announcements & Memory Verse*

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 207 – *"Golden Harps Are Sounding"*

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*Scriptural Text*

Acts 1:9-11

John 18:39-40

*Pastoral Prayer*

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Sermon Message*

*What Is The Ascension of Christ?*

*Choosing a Substitute for Jesus*

*The Lord's Supper*

Dr Carl Martin

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*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 212 – *"Hail, Thou Once-Despised Jesus!"*

RHC 269 – *"Come to the Saviour"*

*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.

***"Growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" - 2 Peter 3:18***

*From the pastor's heart...*

## **THE GOSPEL, THE HOPE OF MANKIND (PART 7)**

**Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 10th April 2016**

As I continue to talk about the gospel, the current poor conditions of Christian churches, and the privatization and fragmentation of professing believers of Jesus, I need to return to one common misunderstanding of Christianity and the Christian religion. Many people tend to relate Christianity to Christian culture in their societies and countries. Thus, when they see the decline of so-called Christian culture, they understand it as a decline of Christian religion. I think that there is a serious flaw to such a thought. I could see this flaw from two sides. One, Christianity and Christian culture are not to be identified with each other. It is possible that any dominant thoughts, ideologies, or religions could influence on our societies, which results in certain cultures. However, we ought to refuse to identify the Christian religion with Christian culture. It is because the Christian faith and religion are far bigger than any culture; the Christian religion actively existed even without Christian culture. We think of the Roman Empire, which declared Christianity to be its official religion. Thus, lots of Roman cultures were formulated according to Christian ideals afterwards. We know that this empire has gone a long time ago. Christianity did not share the fate of Roman Empire at all. The empire died, but Christianity flourished later. Think about even the British Empire which had sent out missionaries to all over the world. Today there is only a shadow of Christian faith found in the heart of the British and its subjects. However, Christianity has not gone anywhere but is still with us. In fact, the Christian faith has been growing in Asia and Africa. Empires came and disappeared, but Christianity has not perished as some people have wanted and predicted. We may say that the medieval culture was Christian, but we cannot say that its Christianity was pure. Reformation was needed not mainly in culture but in religion. Two, fervent and sincere believers think that the decreased influence of Christianity in social contexts and cultures is a sign of the coming demise of human civilization. Thus, they become dooms days evangelists. It is true that the world is going to get worse as the Day of the Lord comes nearer. However, we also need to understand that the existence or survival of culture or civilization does not depend on Christian religion, either. Before there was a so-called Christian Roman Empire, there was also a pagan Roman Empire. The famous Greek culture and its renowned philosophers were not the products of Christian religion, either. Think about Babylonian, Persian or even Chinese cultures. They all enjoyed their glory in the past, but they were not Christian at all. Therefore, identifying any culture or civilization with Christian religion wholly could endanger and jeopardize the genuine value of Christianity. Being a minority in one part of the world does not mean that Christianity is about to disappear. In fact, true Christian churches have always been a minority. We must be cautious not to put Christianity and Christian culture on the same plane and judge the former in the light of the latter.

Then, some of us may be wondering if we can find a significant role of the Christian faith in this world. At this point, we need to think about the key elements each society needs in order to keep and maintain peace and progress. A society consists of people, i.e., individuals. These individuals have different preferences, lifestyles or interests. How can any culture, civilization, community, and country unite all of them together under one banner? Though this question looks complicated, the answer is relatively simple. The uniting force of any human society, culture or civilization is not physically tangible, but rather mental and spiritual in nature. For example, the world today is divided over religions. There are many conflict zones from the Middle East to Asia, and from Africa to the Americas (North, Central, and South America). They fight because they believe in different religions (Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and many more) or different economic systems and ideologies (capitalism, socialism, or communism). If we go into deeper level, there are more branches of thought in religions and economics.

Humanists may want to argue against this explanation, but they are also a part of ideologies or belief systems. Hitler united his people with ideas of eugenics, the superiority of German race and the necessity to eliminate the Jews. His messages of hatred united his people, not his tanks or riches. What Yuvan Noah Harari says in his book is true. He says, "Only a sophisticated religious or ideological system could sustain such efforts [to unite people]" (Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, Penguin Random House, 2011, Kindle loc., 1381). Though I do not agree with him on many points in his book, I cannot but agree with him on this.

Os Guinness says the same thing in a slightly different way in his book, Renaissance, "Behind every civilization lies a vision and a worldview, and none is greater or more lasting than the strength of its vision" (Kindle loc., 715). What we believe and think determines our culture and civilization. In this regard, we understand that though Christianity may not be visible in secular society, it does not mean that society becomes irreligious or non-spiritual. It is simply against Christianity but still religious and spiritual in different ways. It means that the world loses biblical values and perspectives by taking some other perspectives and worldviews. Thus, it will be a great loss to the world, I think. Christianity has contributed to the understanding and improvement of human rights for minorities, women, children, and even slaves. Compassion for the needy, widows and children, orphans or the sick is an incomparable attribute of Christian faith. Christianity has exalted heterosexual monogamous in love and marriage. It has emphasised a lasting and exclusive relationship between husband and wife. Education is another area greatly improved by the teachings and influence of Christianity. Governments and law and order have been established on ideals of righteousness and justice as the Bible teaches. We cannot forget that basically the fathers of all fields of science were Christians. Science was not an enemy of the Christian faith and Theology was known as the crown of all sciences in the olden days. We cannot forget the ideas of free enterprises, freedom, morality and work ethics directly coming from the Bible. Through the Christian faith and institutions, art, architecture, music, and literature have experienced their growth. Despite all such benefits that mankind has enjoyed from Christian values and religion, we cannot ignore that the world has rejected it anyway. The easiest way for professing Christians to explain the reason why is to say that the world is evil and man's heart is corrupt. The world is too dark to see the light coming from Christ. I am sure that this spiritual darkness of the world has contributed to its rejection of Christ. However, I am not going to dwell on this point now. I want to turn our attention to our role in its rejection of Christ.

Romans 2:23-24 say, "Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? 24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written." Paul is speaking to the Jews who have the law of God, the truth. They even boast of their privilege of having the law of God. They despise the Gentiles because the latter do not know the law of God. However, they have failed to glorify God, though they have, believe, and confess the law of God. Instead, the name of God is dishonored and blasphemed. What is the cause? Is the law of God a problem? Is God a problem? Interestingly, Paul argues that through the Jews themselves the name of God is blasphemed. The world does not see the law of God, or God Himself. It sees the confessors of God, or the believers of the truth. Then, the world responds to them, their religion, and their God with derisions. Doesn't it sound very familiar? I have read and heard one same comment quite a few times, which is, "I love Jesus the Bible speaks about, but I do not love Jesus you confess." Or, some people say, "I think that Christianity is good, but I do not like the kind of Christianity Christians have shown to me." In other words, the believers of Christ have not lived up to their confessions of faith. Their life has been neither salt nor light. They are not different from the people without God in terms of integrity, kindness, love, patience, compassion, or sacrifice for others. Christians are selfish, proud, and judgmental. It is also possible that Christians have departed from God to mammon. Mega churches have many wishful followers of Christ for more money, prosperity, success, and health. They have firmly believed that success in business is a token of great faith. Christians try to persuade the poor, the needy, and the sick that they can be rich or richer and healthy if they believe in Jesus. It is true that their god is not God but mammon. It is no wonder that even the world is laughing. Only professing Christians do not know it. How foolish....

- Rev Okman 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
Weds 11th May	7pm	<b>Mid-Week Outreach Bible Study</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.
Sat 14th May	4pm	<b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b> Study of Calvin's Institutes	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TODAY: 08/05/2016</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> John</p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Anthony</p> <p><b>Pianist:</b> Keene</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Evelyn</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael / Keene / Hannah</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Maureen</p> <p><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>PA Crew:</b> Joel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 15/05/2016</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Peter / John</p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Anthony</p> <p><b>Pianist:</b> Michael</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Joel / Yetta</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> Rachael / Keene / Hannah</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Nina</p> <p><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>PA Crew:</b> Scott</p>
<b>Message</b>	Godly Church Discipline	Found Faultless	
<b>Text</b>	Titus 3:8-11	John 18:38	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-lunch Bible Study:</b> This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations".</li> <li>• <b>Basic Bible Knowledge Class, 3pm today:</b> Dr Martin will be leading a series of studies for those wishing to become members of the Church.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor &amp; Mrs Ki, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Dr David Allen, Ps Pooyan Mershahi, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Matthew, Jonathan's father, Magdalene, Douglas Jr, Nana, Grace Lin.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Nana.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those on travels this week:</b> Dr Scott-Pearson, Eyo Benson, Jonathan, Magdalene &amp; Meredith, Anthony, Beth Martin.</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and as he seeks guidance for his PhD studies.</li> <li>• <b>Registry of Members &amp; Gift Aid Forms:</b> Please can all members of the congregation complete and return the forms to John as soon as possible.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £1969.92, Lunch: £72.11</p> <p><b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 44 (A) 13 (C), Evening: 15 (A) 2 (C)</p>			

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 13

**Q: Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?**

*A: Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.*

Comments:

Adam and Eve did not keep God's command. They sought to please themselves instead of seeking to please God, and so they fell from a state of innocence into a state of sin.

Scriptural Reference:

Deuteronomy 30:19, Genesis 3:6

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."</i></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 1:5</b></p>	<p><i>"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."</i></p> <p><b>Habakkuk 3:18</b></p>	<p><i>"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."</i></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians 9:8</b></p>