



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. 15

LORD'S DAY 10 APRIL 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 62:5-8

Isaiah 55:8-11

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 1 – *"O Worship the King"*

RHC 7 – *"God Moves in a Mysterious Way"*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 7

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 7 verses 1-6
(to the tune of Kilmarnock, RHC 561)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 125 – *"Jesus is the Joy of Living"*

Scriptural Text

Titus 2:13-15

John 18:28-32

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

The Hope of Christian Living

Legal or Not?

The Lord's Supper

Dr Carl Martin

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 200 – *"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"*

RHC 13 – *"Abide with Me"*

Benediction/3-Fold

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Amen **

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.

"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 4)

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 20th March 2016

As we have been considering some social and cultural aspects of the world in relation to Christian churches today, we cannot but consider a serious exhortation from our dear apostle Paul. He says in Romans 12:1-2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." I see at least four elements from the passage that make this very relevant to our discussions: (1) Our bodies: they are not spiritual bodies but physical, which implies that this passage speaks about our life here and now, which is under the influence of culture, trends, and philosophies of the day, (2) this world: again it does not refer to the spirit world but the physical world we are living in, (3) not conformed to this world . . . be ye transformed by renewing of our mind: it appears to speak to us about our attitude, responses, and reactions to the things that the world offers. It could lead us to consider matters of culture, morality, norms, or civilization, and (4) prove what . . . will of God: mindless acceptance of the offers from the world is not to be tolerated. There are many more elements in the passage that require our more careful considerations. However, at least these four points indicate that Paul's Christianity was not irrelevant to this world and life here and now. It means that our spiritual life is not about heavenly life in eternity but our everyday life here on earth.

From Paul's exhortations, there are a few lessons we need to consider in relation to our cultural issues. First of all, I cannot but point out that the phrase, "renewing of your mind," may open the door for further insights about our attitude toward culture and the world. (1) The necessity to renew our mind tells us about our natural inclinations. Instead of strengthening our natural mind, what we need to do is to renew it. Lexicon definitions of the word "renewing" are "a renewal," "renovation," or "complete change for the better." In other words, we should not respond and react to the world with our natural inclinations, which implies that they need to be fixed or corrected one way or another. Or it means that we should not trust in our natural inclinations as reliable resources. The consequence of relying on our natural inclinations will be to be confirmed to the world and its offers. (2) The necessity to renew our mind implies that this renewal does not come from our self-reliance because the object of the renewal is none other than our mind. Thus, this renewal requires external assistance. And also, this renewal is not simple reformation of our behaviors only. It has to be a renewal of our internal faculty, the mind. Second, the phrase "renewing of your mind", tells us about the scope of renewals. The Greek word for "mind" has a huge spectrum of meanings. Let me show you the lexical meanings as follows. The word "mind" means "1) the mind, comprising alike the faculties of perceiving and understanding and those of feeling, judging, determining 1a) the intellectual faculty, the understanding 1b) reason in the narrower sense, as the capacity for spiritual truth, the higher powers of the soul, the faculty of perceiving divine things, of recognising goodness and of hating evil 1c) the power of considering and judging soberly, calmly and impartially 2) a particular mode of thinking and judging, i.e thoughts, feelings, purposes, desires." If we think about these meanings of mind, we must know that the areas of renewal are truly vast from thinking, understanding, desiring, and feelings, to inner purposes and the state of mind. All of them have to be renewed. Again, what does it tell us about our attitude toward the world and its offers including culture? Well, do not accept them without discerning them first. If our mind is not renewed, we are in danger of being their servants.

Second, there is an inevitable question we must raise if we sincerely and seriously desire to be renewed in mind and not conformed to the world. How do we know when we are not conformed but transformed? How can we know if our mind is renewed or not? These questions are basically the same as the following question, “how can we transform ourselves by not conforming us to the world?” It speaks about the means or instruments we can apply or use to know if any transformation has taken place or if any conformity to the world has happened in our lives. These means or instruments are referring to the measurement made from our understanding and thinking to emotions, desires, and purposes of life. These means or instruments must be comprehensive enough to offer us with principles and guidelines. At the same time, these measuring standards must meet two requirements: (1) They cannot be from either the world or from any man including ourselves. It is because we are expected not to be conformed to the world and our minds are expected to be renewed and eventually transformed. Thus, the measuring standards are from without the world and us. (2) They have to be absolute truth. If they are not both truthful and absolute, they cannot help us to be renewed and transformed accordingly. It is because the ultimate goal is to present our bodies to God as reasonable services and to prove the will of God. In both cases, God is the ultimate being to be praised and honored. God is perfect, holy, eternal, truthful, and absolute in all things. Therefore, we cannot think of any way to measure us to worship God and prove His will but the absolute truth. It speaks to us about the supreme place of the Scriptures as God’s inspired Word in our faith and religion.

Third, we may approach this matter from a more practical point of view. Many professing Christians are afraid that their churches and religion have become irrelevant to the people in general. They argue that churches must offer things to accommodate the people outside of the church one way or another. Their reason is that we should bring people to church and God. Thus, we need to open the doors for them to come without being stumbled. As a result, they have changed lots of things from messages to praises. They say that it is important for Christian churches to present unified, peaceable, and harmonious messages to the world. However, what Paul exhorts us today is somewhat different. It is because his exhortations do imply the inevitability of struggles and conflicts within the genuine Gospel message and Christian faith and living. (1) We cannot but expect conflicts with the world, because we refuse to be conformed to the world. Walter Lowrie wrote in his introduction to Kierkegaard’s *Attack upon Christendom*, “The world does not persecute the world when it discovers it in the Church” (Walter Lowrie, “Introduction,” in Søren Kierkegaard, *Attack upon “Christendom,”* trans. Walter Lowrie, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1968, p. xi). Liberals come along and say that we cannot follow the Bible completely because of... and so on. Thus, they deal with the Bible fragmentally. Instead of recognizing the Bible’s absolute authority over all things, they take the Bible according to their preferences, by which they want to remove the conflicts with the world. However, it leads them only to be conformed to the world, which is forbidden. (2) We cannot but expect conflicts internally within our hearts, thoughts, and minds. It is because we have to be transformed and also renew our mind. It is like a battle against our nature. It may explain why the American style of health-and-wealth theology and the so-called prosperity gospel have gained such popularity even within Christian churches. Any conflict is considered wrong. Thus, they have become obsessed with public opinions and numbers. They are accustomed to go by numbers and statistics. Thus, if the majority vote for something, it must be considered good. We often forget that depending on numbers and statistics does not have anything to do with faith. Rather, Moses warned his people in Exodus 23:2a, “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil....” They have forgotten that many people will follow the broad way and only a few people who are a separate and distinct people will follow the narrow way. It is interesting to know that as for the prophets of God, the nation of Israel was not to be governed by the opinions of the majority of people but by “Thus saith the Lord.” I’ll continue....

- *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 13th April	7pm	Mid-Week Outreach Bible Study	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 16th April	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Study of Calvin's Institute			
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES		
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 10/04/2016</u>		
Message	The Heart of Christian Activity	Jesus before Pilate	Chairman: John		
Text	Titus 3:1-2	John 18:33-38	Organist: Anthony		
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Matthew		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations". • Basic Bible Knowledge Class, 3pm today: Dr Martin will be leading a series of studies for those wishing to become members of the Church. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Dr David Allen, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Matthew, Jonathan's father, Magdalene. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travels this week: Jiak Eng, Constance. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and as he continues his PhD studies. • Church Maintenance Day: Saturday 16th April, 10am. All are encouraged to come and help do maintenance to the church building. Please see John for more information. 			Ushers: Joel / Yetta		
			Sunday School: Rachael / Keene / Hannah		
			Lunch: Hannah		
			Washing Up: Volunteers		
			PA Crew: Scott		
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 17/04/2016</u>		
			Chairman: Peter / Jonathan		
Organist: Anthony					
Pianist: Keene					
Ushers: Tom / Yetta					
Sunday School: Rachael / Keene / Hannah					
Lunch: Nina					
Washing Up: Volunteers					
PA Crew: Josias					
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £1039.90, Lunch: £59.22 Attendance - Morning: 40 (A) 14 (C), Evening: 18 (A) 2 (C)					

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 9

Q: What is the work of creation?

A: The work of creation is God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

Comments:

The first thing that God did in relation to us was to make the world we live in. Now, when we wish to make anything, we require materials. Thus, to make a chair, we need wood. But God made all things *of nothing*, by merely speaking the word. We are here told also of the time in which he made all things – six days; and of the condition in which they were when made – very good.

Scriptural Reference:

Hebrews 11:3, Genesis 1:31

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."</i> 1 John 4:15	<i>"O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:"</i> Psalm 7:1	<i>"So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."</i> 1 Corinthians 3:7