



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. 21 No. 29

LORD'S DAY 16 JULY 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 98:1-4

Psalm 42:1-5

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 17 – *"Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme"*

RHC 38 – *"As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams"*

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 72

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 72 verses 17-19
(to the tune of Maitland, RHC 391)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 310 – *"Glorious Freedom"*

Scriptural Text

1 Corinthians 5

Jeremiah 26

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Morality and Spiritual Power

The Blessings of Persecution

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 431 – *"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"*

RHC 346 – *"Be Still, My Soul"*

*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.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." - Proverbs 4:23

UNFORGETTABLE LESSONS FROM THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Adapted from Maranatha BP Church Singapore Weekly, Sunday 9th July 2017

Introduction

*This book will make a traveller of thee,
If by its counsel thou wilt rule be;
It will direct thee to the Holy Land,
If thou wilt its directions understand:
Yea, it will make the slothful active be;
The blind also delightful things to see.*

John Bunyan

In 1678, a godly puritan called John Bunyan was jailed for not conforming to the State requirement of only using the Book of Common Prayer in public worship and services (i.e. the Act of Uniformity in 1662) in Bedford. But in his 12 years in prison (in the prison cell, he asked for three books, namely, the Bible, a Concordance, and his much loved copy of the Book of Martyrs), he wrote an allegorical account of the life of a Christian in his quest from spiritual hopelessness to eternal life. He was a tinker and not a learned scholar like the other puritans (i.e. our Chinese version of the ar na gon nee man) but the content is of an excellent quality. The book, Pilgrim's Progress gives a sound Puritanical view of Christianity. It is a legendary story of a believer's journey to heaven. It has many different characters whom Christian met on their journey from the City of Destruction, to finally their destination, the Celestial City which is heaven. This allegory reveals many biblical, practical and theological themes, it depicts the arduous path to salvation in Christ and the many impediments that Christians may face on the journey to heaven, yet sustained by his sovereign grace and mercy.

Characters of Interest

When you read the book (and I strongly encourage you to and it is available in our Maranatha Resource Ministry), you will be introduced to some of the most interesting characters in the book including the villains and good men — the characters who will try the Christian travelers or are to help the Christian travelers along. Let us consider some of the characters and learn from them:

- **The Interpreter** - This is the Spiritual guide who shelters Christian. The Interpreter instructs Christian in the art of reading religious meanings hidden in everyday objects and events, which he houses in his Significant Rooms and he will guide Christian on his way later.
- **Valiant-for-truth** – this is a brave, sword-wielding pilgrim. Valiant-for-truth fought three attackers single-handedly and joins Christiana's group at the end of their journey. He is a faithful comrade that we can trust in the walk of faith.
- **Gaius** - This is the kind homeowner and host at the end who welcomes Christiana and her group. Two of Gaius's daughters marry two of Christiana's sons and later he will make his way to the Celestial City too.
- **Hopeful** – This is the Pilgrim who replaces Faithful as Christian's travel companion and confidant after leaving Vanity, all the way to the Celestial City. Hopeful saves Christian's life in the river before the gates to Mount Zion and is an encouraging and needful friend along the way.

- **Apollyon** – This is to symbolise Satan and is a fire-breathing beast attacks travelers on the road, trying to distract, destroy or discourage them and is a deadly foe of all believers. We need to put on the whole Armour of God to with stand his wiles. Satan often tries to convince us our faith in Christ or Christ's love for us is not real.
- **Giant Despair** – This allegorical enemy lives in Doubting Castle, torturing travelers in his dungeon and if possible, put them in bondage of depression. He was slayed by Great Heart and Christiana's sons. Some Christians are attacked with doubt about their salvation because of sin in their lives, and they can fall into depression and we need to be vigilant against it.
- **Worldly Wiseman** – This false or deceptive teacher tries to lead travelers astray by giving them wrong directions in life leading to the village of Morality instead. Beware of those who give worldly counsel and believe we only need to live a moral life and we will be free of our guilt and be right with God.
- **Pliable** – This weak-willed character gets trapped in the Swamp of Despond, gives up, and later he changed his mind and he gave up and went back home and was mocked by his friends. Some are exposed to Christianity and see it only as depressing religion of shame, guilt, and condemnation and did not embrace the true saving faith in Christ.
- **Talkative** – This character seems like a great companion at first, but he is all talk but no action. He or she is just a godless prayerless, hypocrite. There must be real faith and real conversion leads to repentance of sins and action and a changed life.
- **Flatterer** – A "man black of flesh, but covered with a very light robe," who induces the two Pilgrims to follow him, leading them a circular course into a net from which there appears to be no means of escape. But a Shining One appears with a whipcord, cuts the net, and leads them back to the Holy Way.
- **Ignorance** – A lad who comes down from the Country of Conceit and encounters Christian and Hopeful in the Holy Way. They think he is all wrong in his ideas, but he tells them to mind their own business and refuse to learn. Trailing along behind, Ignorance makes it all the way to the gates of the Celestial City. But as he does not have the proper credentials, the "King" (God) has him thrown down a side pit into Hell.
- **Evangelist** – This is the Preacher of the Holy Word, always ready to help those who are seriously concerned about the state of their souls and about finding the way to Heaven.
- And there are many others like Prudence, the daughter who is a godly lady and who has a kind and pleasant disposition and Faithful, a friend of Christian who died at vanity fair and not forgetting Christiana who is the wife of Christian and she followed his footsteps bringing her two daughters along and there are others which we will not be able to cover all of them here (i.e. you need to read the book for yourself).

Lessons from Bunyan

Karen Hardison correctly observes "The many morals include being faithful to Christian theology, belief and practice; being hopeful toward the coming resurrection and union with the God of Christianity; aspire toward attaining a place in the "Celestial City" of Heaven; don't be feeble minded and blown from your path by every idea that comes along; be valiant in defending the truth of Christianity; don't yield to despondency; be forever honest with persons; be steadfast in pursuing the righteous of those who attain the Celestial City; bear no ill-will toward others; don't prejudge persons, places or ideas; don't be ignorant, lacking in knowledge, training and information; don't be obstinate about doing what is good or right; continue progressing on the pilgrim's path to the Celestial City and righteousness."

Luke Gikerson quoted the famed London preacher Charles Spurgeon as saying, "Next to the Bible, the book I value most is John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress.' I believe I have read it through at least a hundred times. It is a volume of which I never seem to tire; and the secret of its freshness is that it is so largely compiled from the Scriptures." Literary critic and playwright George Bernard Shaw believed Bunyan was a better character artist than even William Shakespeare."

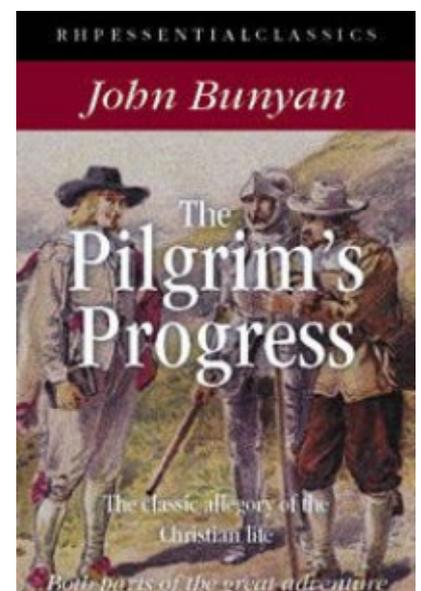
The earliest biographer of Bunyan records that "He comforted those that wept about him, exhorting them to trust in God, and pray to Him for mercy and forgiveness of sins, telling them what a glorious exchange it would be to leave their troubles and cares of a wretched mortality to live with Christ for ever, with peace and joy inexpressible, expounding to them the comfortable Scriptures, by which they were to hope and assuredly come into a blessed resurrection in the last day. He desired some to pray with him, and he joined with them in prayer; and his last words, after he had struggled with a languishing disease, were these, 'Weep not for me, but for yourselves; I go to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will, through the mediation of His blessed Son, receive me, though a sinner, where I hope were long shall meet to sing the new song and remain everlastingly happy, world without end'."

Conclusion

The Pilgrim's Progress, The Holy War, Grace Abounding are three books by John Bunyan that I have read earlier in my Christian life and they had a strong impact on my spiritual walk and revived my heart unto greater consecration, perseverance and devotion to God (he has other works as well). It reminded us of the now World famous tinker, John Bunyan who died at sixty years of age. His body was taken to Bunhill Fields in London and placed in a tomb where others like Isaac Watts had been buried. The ever refreshing and insightful Pilgrim's Progress has been a famous and memorable Christian classic for over 300 years and it has enjoyed a wide readership among young and old. It has been translated into more than 200 languages. It has been claimed that no English Christian book (except the King James Bible), has the greater readership as Pilgrim's Progress. Have you read it yet? If not, get a copy from the MRM and read it and be richly challenged and inspired by its sound content and let it warn and guide you in the arduous journey of everlasting life towards the Celestial City one day.

(see John Bunyan, The Pilgrim's Progress, Rickfords Hill Publishing, 2013 and edited from <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/p/the-pilgrimsprogress/character-list> <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/pilgrims/characters.html> and <http://www.intoxicatedonlife.com/2014/11/02/teens-adults-read-pilgrimsprogress/>)

- Rev. Jack Sin



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 19th July 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 22nd July 4pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 16/07/2017</u>
Message	The Christian and The Courts	Which Yoke Fits Better?	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	1 Corinthians 6:1-11	Jeremiah 27 & 28	Organist: Anthony
			Pianist: Anthony
			Ushers: John / Yetta
			Sunday School: Rachael
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Scott / Joel

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "<i>Building Firm Foundations</i>". • Study of the Book of Psalms (3pm): Dr Martin will lead the study using the book "<i>The Flow of the Psalms</i>" by Palmer Robertson. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Church Maintenance Day: Saturday 22nd May, 11am. All are encouraged to come and help do maintenance to the church building. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 23/07/2017</u></p> <p>Chairman: John</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Joel</p> <p>Ushers: Daniel / Jonathan</p> <p>Sunday School: Rachael</p> <p>Lunch: Elizabeth</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott / Jonathan</p>

Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £553.70; Baalah: £200.00 Attendance - Morning: 30 (A) 9 (C), Evening: 12 (A) 3 (C)	Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,490.50
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SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 75

Q: What is forbidden in the Eighth Commandment?

A: The Eight Commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbour's wealth or outward estate.

Comment:

This commandment refers to *money* and *property*. It acknowledges that it is right and proper to gain money, and that it is wrong in a man to squander his own property, or to plunder another's. It commands us to work for the supply of our own needs, and to help others as well as ourselves to increase in wealth. And it forbids aught that would tend to hinder these ends.

Scriptural Reference:

Romans 12:17, Ephesians 4:28

MEMORY VERSE

	This Week	Next Week
Last Week <i>"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion."</i> Psalm 71:1	<i>"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."</i> 2 Timothy 2:15	<i>"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"</i> 1 Peter 3:15