



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. 21

LORD'S DAY 21 MAY 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 108:1-3

Psalm 126:1-6

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 16 – *"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"*

RHC 243 – *"The Comforter Has Come"*

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Keene Chen

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 64

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 64 verses 1-4, 10
(to the tune of Martyrdom, RHC 38)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Keene Chen

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 557 – *"Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing"*

Scriptural Text

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Jeremiah 23:1-8

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

What Is a Healthy Church?

The Lord Our Righteousness

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 413 – *"Rise Up, O Men of God!"*

RHC 291 – *"Nothing But The Blood"*

*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

THE FERVENT PRAYER LIFE OF A BELIEVER

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 7th May 2017

Introduction

The Word of God and prayer are closely intertwined together; one who loves the Word of God will love to communicate with the author of the Word in prayer and vice versa. Prayer is a **privilege** and the breath of godliness and the new nature in the saint, as the Word of God is their food. A prayerless Christian is a contradiction in terms. When the Lord assured the Damascus' disciple that Saul of Tarsus had been truly converted, He told him, '*Behold, he prayeth*' (Acts 9:11). On many occasions that self-righteous Pharisee go through his 'devotions', but this was the first time he had ever really prayed. This important distinction needs emphasising in this day of powerless forms (2 Timothy 3:5). They who content themselves with formal addresses to God know Him not; for 'the spirit of grace and supplications' (Zechariah 12:10) are never separated. Luke 18:7, '*And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?* Let us 'cry' unto Him, not merely 'say' their prayers. Remember that Jacob wrestled with God in prayer (Genesis 32:26-30) and God changed his name in the end.

The Word of God should be our directory in prayer. The Holy Scriptures is our infallible guide, as in 2 Timothy 3: 17, '*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*' since we are required to '*pray in the Spirit*' (Jude 20). It equally follows that according to the measure in which the Word of Christ dwells in us 'richly' (Colossians 3:16), the more will our petitions be in harmony with the mind of the Spirit, for Matthew 12:34 *for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh*. We must memorise or hide the Word in our hearts and it cleanses, moulds and regulates our inner man, then will our prayers be acceptable in God's sight (Psalm 119:9, 11).

The Necessity of Prayer

In Colossians 1:9-17, the Apostle Paul has told the Colossians that he is praying for them. He tells them he is thanking God for them and that his prayers on their behalf are unceasing. These are sincere intercessor for the want. Prayer is more than talking with God. We pray when we open our heart to the Almighty. True prayer is **sincere, humble and personal outpouring of the soul to God** submitting to his perfect will in all we ask and think.

Reasons for Prayer

There are several good reasons to pray. It is a great prerogative. Can you think of any greater honour than to have **an audience with the One who rules over ALL creation?** We are invited to seek counsel from the One who is all truth and wisdom. One who knows all things. The Puritan John Preston lays it out very plainly, **Prayer is a privilege purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. Christ died for this end; it costs him the shedding of his blood, so that we, through him, might have entrance to the throne of grace.**

Conversation is a part of any vital and growing relationship. We sometimes measure the quality of a marriage relationship by how deeply the couples communicate with each other. The same is true for our relationship with the Father. True, honest, heartfelt communication is a sign of a healthy relationship. Psalm 5:3 says, '*My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.*' There are three reasons why we should pray, namely:

1. We should pray because **we are in a fierce battle**. We are constantly warned of the Devil's intention to accuse and undermined God's people and demoralise the church. We are told that *our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms* (Ephesians 6:10). We are in a battle daily and under attack and we need the help of God and prayers of the saints. The enemy will subtly under us when we neglect prayer, we go into battle unarmed. Ephesians 6:18 says, '*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*'

2. Prayer is a **deterrent to iniquity** in our lives. In the quiet times of private, honest prayer God exposes the temptations that we vulnerable to sin against God and gives us victory over them. In prayer, God holds a mirror up to our lives so we can see the possible way of transgression and to avoid it by His grace.

3. Prayer **makes a difference** (2 Corinthians 1:11). We may not know how it "works" but that **circumstances do change when people pray**. Diseases are sometimes healed, strength is imparted, guidance is given, hearts are softened, needs are met. We know that when we pray for others it helps them. But we also know that when we pray, we are transformed in our hearts too. John 16:24 says, *Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*

The Content of Prayer

It is instructive to note what Paul asks on behalf of the Colossians (Colossians 1:9-17). Paul does not focus on the material and temporal. He is not primarily concerned with physical comfort but He is concerned for their spiritual growth as well.

Pray that they Discern God's Holy Will

Paul's request is this : He ask that *God fill us with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding*. The word "fill" means to be completely filled or totally controlled. Paul's primary concern is not for physical health, material prosperity, effective witnessing or a greater experience of spiritual gifts. Paul's first and primary concern is that the Colossians come to love and understand God and submit to His will. Ephesians 5:17 says, '*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*'

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He submitted to the will of the Father. We need to spend our time pleading with God that His will would be done. We want God to give us what He want. We want Him to see the "not of our desires" but that it be pleasing to God first.

We need to submit to God's will first in our prayers. In marriage and relationships we often hear and comprehend what our spouse say, to a certain request. How can we do this? We have come to understand our mate as we should. We know what they like and do not like. We have a good idea of what their "will" is. The same is true of God, we need to **delight ourselves in Him first and He will grant us the desires of our hearts** (Psalm 37:3-7).

We understand His plan for our lives in life when we come to know Him as our personal Saviour as we study the Bible, through prayer and through our obedience. Paul prays that the Colossians should not be satisfied with a superficial relationship with God. He prays that they should continue deepen a vibrant relationship with Him until they understand what God is doing and willing to follow His will.

Pray to Do God's Will

Paul does not only pray that the Colossians are able to discern God's will. He also prays that they might have the power to DO God's will (1 John 5:14, 15). In verse 10 we read that Paul prayed that they might understand "*in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way.*" Paul is not praying just that we might be more knowledgeable. He is praying that we might learn more about God and His Word so that we will live faithfully and walk worthy before Him.

We need to be balance spiritually in our lives. He prays that they might understand and when they have understood, that they might live on the basis of that understanding. Do you see how different the content of this prayer is from the prayers we often pray? Are you asking the Lord for superficial things and neglecting the greater things? Are you focusing on the temporary and neglecting the eternal? Do we spend all our time focusing on the temporal needs of the body and have no time to focus on feeding the soul which is eternal? (Colossians 3:1, 2) Something to pray and think about.

Overcoming Obstacles to Prayer

In this brief discourse on this vital issue of personal prayer, let us consider some obstacles to prayer.

Exacting Demands of a Secular Life

One of the biggest obstacles to prayer are the cares of the world upon us. Some say we cannot find time to pray. We are also busy with work, studies, family activities, leisure and HP games. We stay up late because we need to finish our work for the next day but never had the time to read the Word and pray. We may want to pray but often we do not have the energy and time.

Consider some questions. Which of these things is more important than building your relationship with the Father? Which of those things has an eternal dimension to it? If you really do not have time to pray . . . substitute prayer for one of those things you DO make time for. 1 Timothy 4:7, 8 say, '*But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*'

A Disciplined Mind and Body

If we were honest, many of us would admit that one of the greatest obstacles to prayer is the difficulty that we have in concentrating our minds on God. We start out in prayer but then our minds begin to wander even in worship, we are distracted. It seems futile, so we stop praying and Satan triumphed at that instance.

We need to learn to discipline our thought life. There are several ways to help a wandering mind.

- Pray at a time when you are most mentally alert i.e. in the morning (i.e. praying while you are lying in bed is not very effective as you may fall asleep).
- Pause to remember whom you are talking to. The more important we believe the conversation with a particular person, the more attention we give it. Students will give rapt attention when the teacher is telling them what to expect during an examination. We are having an audience with the King of kings and Lord of lords, who is the Person we are addressing to, in prayer and worship.

- Go to a quiet place where you will not be interrupted (Mark 1:35).
- Speak out and sing out loud too, if needed. Read a passage of Scripture verbally.
- Use a prayer list and be disciplined to pray systematically.
- Keep a pad of paper handy with a pen. When reminded of something you need to do, write it down immediately and then go on to pray fervently over it (James 5:16).

Practical Tips

Consider the following practical suggestions to enhance your prayer life:

1) **Set aside a time for prayer daily** (Daniel 6:10, Psalm 5:3). Get up early. Block off a certain time. Find a quiet place. Give prayer priority in your schedule everyday.

2) **Pour out your heart to our heavenly Father.** Too many times we "do our prayers" and then move on. We have taken care of our souls and come before the throne of grace. So, make your prayer time meaningful. Talk to Him honestly about your needs, confess your sins, your concerns and that of the church and family.

3) **Use the Word of God as a starting point.** Read through a passage of Scripture and then apply that Scriptures to your life. When you read a command to "forgive others", ask God to help you release the bitterness, vengeance, hatred and the hurt that makes you resist that command. When you read about the importance of "thinking pure thoughts" confess the areas where your thinking is corrupted and ask God for help to think praiseworthy thoughts. This practice will help you focus on God and spiritual issues rather than the superficial and temporal.

4) **Keep a prayer list.** Make a list of the church or family member and their needs you pray for. Be specific (Philippians 4:6-7). What needs do you want to help carry for another. When someone asks you to pray for them and add them to your list if necessary and remember to pray for them. PIN – **Pray It Now** is a good practice.

Conclusion

Prayer is **the barometer of our spirituality**. The purity and power of our prayer-life are another index by which we may determine the extent to which we are profiting from our reading and searching of the Scriptures. If our Bible study is not, under the blessing of the Spirit, convicting us of the sin of prayerlessness, revealing to us the place which prayer we ought to have in our daily lives and is actually bringing us to spend more time in the secret place of the Most High; it is also teaching us how to pray (Luke 18:1) acceptably to God, how to appropriate His promises and precepts and pleading them before Him, turning them into meaningful petitions, to the nourishment and enrichment of our souls, through our prayers and supplications.

- 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 24th May	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.
		Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony	
Fri 26th May	7pm	<i>"The Glory of God - Studies in Ezekiel - The Visions of the Siege and Judgment of Jerusalem"</i> - Mr Paul Toms	
Sat 27th May	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: 21/05/2017</u>
Message	Our Ascended Lord	The Ever Present God	Chairman: Jonathan / Keene
Text	Ephesians 1:18-23	Jeremiah 23:9-40	Organist: Michael
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. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch next Lord's Day. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Reformation Study Tour: Rev Jack Sin extended invitation to the congregation to join the tour on 27th May (9:30am) to British Museum and on 29th May (11:00am) to Museum of the Book. • Missions (Correction): In the 7th May bulletin, it was incorrectly reported that collections were made for Bible College of East Africa (BCEA) and Baalah. Please note that these were actually Missions contribution sent to BCEA (£858) and Baalah (£585). 			
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £1174.74; Love Gift: A\$300 Attendance - Morning: 70 (A) 10 (C), Evening: 11 (A) 3 (C)			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,390.50
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 67			
Q: What is the Sixth Commandment? A: The Sixth Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT KILL. Scriptural Reference: Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17			
MEMORY VERSE			
Last Week <i>"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."</i> John 15:5	This Week <i>"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"</i> John 1:12	Next Week <i>"That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: "</i> 2 Peter 3:2	