



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. 39

LORD'S DAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Deuteronomy 33:27-29a

Psalm 90

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 260 – *"The Church's One Foundation"*

RHC 21 – *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

*Apostle's Creed **

Apostle's Creed

Responsive Reading

Psalm 82

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 82

(to the tune of St Agnes, RHC 231)

Announcements &

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

Memory Verse

Tithes & Offerings &

RHC 36 – *"High in the Heavens, Eternal God"*

*Doxology **

Scriptural Text

1 Corinthians 8

Jeremiah 31:1-14

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Matters of Conscience - Part 2

The Message We Preach

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 454 – *"Make Me a Blessing"*

RHC 448 – *"The King's Business"*

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.

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

VICTORY OVER AN UNRULY TONGUE

Adapted from Life BPC Singapore Weekly, Sunday 10th September 2017

“...the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” (James 3:8)

We use many forms of personal communication every day, including the notes, cards and letters we write, the emails and SMSes we send out each day, and even on-line communication tools like Blogs, Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp. But no form of personal communication is more readily accessible and faster than speech. By writing we can convey our thoughts at a rate of 30 words per minute. Typing is faster: about 50 words per minute. Texting on a mobile phone is just as fast. But speaking can easily achieve 150 words per minute!

Studies have shown that both men and women speak an average of 16,000 words a day. If that indicates how much we speak, then let us pay close attention to what God’s Word teaches about it in James 3:1-12.

1. The Awesome Responsibility of Speech

When used properly, speech can do marvelous things. Words that are carefully chosen, arranged and uttered have rallied people together, built nations, and brought peace and prosperity. Some of history’s greatest speeches have been recorded for posterity like Churchill’s orations in 1940 that mobilised his battle-weary countrymen to defend England against a German invasion. But speech is a sword that cuts both ways. It has destroyed families, deceived millions of people, incited wars and caused untold misery, death and destruction.

That is why James says, *“Be not many masters.”* (verse 1) This refers to teachers and preachers in the church. Anyone should think twice before aspiring to teach or preach to God’s people because any carelessness on their part will have awful consequences on the church, and will bring much condemnation on themselves. Whatever is said by them will be heard by more people and can therefore hurt more people than others.

2. The Awful Tendency to Sin

Sinful speech is so natural to our fallen human nature. In describing the sins of all men Paul said, *“Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”* (Romans 3:13,14). James mentions the same thing in verse 2 – *“For in many things we offend all.”*

There is a huge variety of ways to commit sin by what we say: Telling lies or half-truths, making false accusations, giving exaggerated or dishonest reports, boasting, slandering, cursing, backbiting, and flattering, just to name a few. Remember those moments when you lashed out at someone in anger or when you deliberately slanted the truth in your own favour, and then you will realize how difficult it is to bridle your tongue.

3. The Amazing Power of the Tongue

In verses 3-6 James compares this little organ to three things: the small little metal piece that is placed in a horse's mouth to direct its movements, the little rudder at the back of a large ship which can turn it around, and a little fire that can reduce a whole forest to ashes. The point of these illustrations is the same: We must never underestimate the power of our speech.

In the next two verses, it is compared to a wild animal that no man can tame. This provides us with an important clue. Notice that it says that no *man* can tame the tongue. But what is impossible with man is possible with God (Luke 18:27). Man cannot tame the tongue, but God surely can. He alone has the power to subdue your tongue. And so you need His help to tame it and bring it under control.

4. The Ability to Tame the Tongue

This comes from two things that God gave to you when you were saved:

1. Regeneration

There can be no change in your speech until your heart is regenerated. James poses two rhetorical questions in verse 12 – “*Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs?*” The answer is of course, No. The only way to change the fruit is to change the nature of the tree itself. In the same manner, the only way to change your speech is to change your heart. This is something that only God can do.

After God regenerates the heart it will gradually give rise to a changed life. One of the noticeable signs of change in a new believer is in his speech. It will be increasingly marked by integrity, honesty, truthfulness, godliness, gentleness and love (cf. Luke 6:45).

Is your heart truly regenerated? If it is not, then you cannot have victory over your unruly tongue. You must receive a new heart from the Lord Jesus. And when you receive that new heart, you also receive the Holy Spirit to dwell inside it.

2. The Holy Spirit's Control

The Holy Spirit enables you to keep your tongue under control. Galatians 5:16 says, “*Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*” The Holy Spirit's power is available to every born again Christian. As long as you keep walking in the Spirit rather than in the flesh, you have His power to control the unruly tongue. This is because the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 includes temperance, which is self-control. So please be diligent to walk in the Spirit daily. Make it a habit to live under His influence every day.

However, walking in the Spirit does not automatically control the tongue, as if you have no part at all to play in controlling your tongue. Without relying on the Spirit's power you can't have any victory at all over the unruly tongue. But without doing your part you can't keep having victory over it. Thus you should still exercise great care over all that you say.

5. The Awareness of Our Need to Control the Tongue

Verses 9-12 tell us what happens when we fail to do our part: Sometimes we will bless but at other times we will curse. Out of the same tongue comes both blessing and cursing, both good and evil, both truth and falsehood. If a spring sometimes issues sweet water but at other times bitter water, would you depend on it to supply your drinking water? Probably not. How would you know when its sweetness will turn into bitterness? Therefore, while we walk in the Spirit daily we must also be vigilant about what we say, how we say it and why we say it. Here are three important criteria to apply to everything we say.

1. Be Truthful

At the end of verse 14 James tells us to *“lie not against the truth.”* This is the most important criterion for everything we say, and it has been permanently enshrined in the ninth commandment – *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”*

Truthfulness may not matter very much to a world that thrives on deceit, where things are not always what they seem, and where the truth is often hidden for selfish reasons. But it matters a lot to us because we are God’s children. If we are not careful in speaking, people will often challenge the truthfulness of our words, and we will end up having to make excuses, retractions and apologies for things we should never have said. If this goes on for too long who will believe what we say anymore?

2. Be Loving

Whatever we say must be said in love and not in malice (cf. Ephesians 4:15). Speaking the truth without love can be just as damaging as speaking a lie. It is cold, hard and legalistic. It hurts rather than helps. Paul said that speaking without love would make him just like a *‘sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal’* (1 Corinthians 13:1).

This is the reason why we must examine our hearts first before we point out any error or attempt to correct a brother who has sinned. Are we doing it with a heart of love? Without love all the truth that we use to convince him of his sin will not go down well with him. But if there is genuine persevering love, the truth will eventually be received as he realises that he is being helped and not hurt by us.

Being loving in what we say must also be applied to what we say about others. Without love, whatever we say about others becomes malicious gossip even if it is true. Love does not hide the truth from those who may be able to help the person we speak about. But love does not broadcast the truth to all and sundry who may use it against him. This is one of the worst things about social media – it brings everyone’s dirty linen into public space. Is this a loving thing to do?

So please be very careful when you talk about others. A good rule to follow is this: *“If you have nothing good to say about someone, then it is good to say nothing about him.”*

3. Be Sincere

In relation to speech, being sincere is to mean what you say and to say what you mean. Whatever you say to others should be consistent with what you think about them, without being unloving toward them. The people you talk to should have no reason to suspect that there is some hidden agenda behind what you are saying.

Speaking to someone very nicely while cursing and swearing at him inwardly makes you a hypocrite. Jesus warned His disciples, "...*Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*" (Luke 12:1) Outwardly they called Jesus "Master" or 'Rabbi' but among themselves they referred to Him as 'the Deceiver'. Listen to what God's Word says about hypocrites: "*For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate...*" (Job 15:34). We must therefore apply sincerity to everything we say.

It is hoped that this article will be taken seriously by everyone who reads it. Now that we have received God's instruction on this very practical issue, let us resolve to be doers of it. May the Lord help us all to have victory over an unruly tongue.

– *Rev Charles Seet*

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
The holy catholic* church;
The communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body;
And the life everlasting.

Amen.

**meaning the universal Christian church - all believers in Jesus Christ*

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 27th September 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 30th September No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson	Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson	<u>TODAY: 24/09/2017</u>
Message	The Trials of an Upright Man	The Sight that Moses Saw	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	Job 1-2	Hebrews 11:27	Organist: Anthony

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>". • No Sunday School today • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch this Lord's Day. • Church Pulpit Ministry: We thank God for the provision of Dr Carl Martin to serve as our Interim Minister. As his tenure will conclude on 30th September, please pray for God's leading and guidance as he progresses with his PhD study at Greenwich School of Theology. Also, pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for Rev Lim Chee Boon who will be ministering to us from 8th October. 	Ushers: Tom / Margaret Lunch: Luisa Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / John <u>NEXT WEEK: 01/10/2017</u> Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Joel Ushers: Tom / Jonathan Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / Anthony

Worship Service Collections - TBC Attendance - Morning: 28 (A) 8 (C), Evening: 11 (A) 3 (C)	Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,720.50
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SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 85

Q: What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?
A: To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST – REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE – with the diligent use of all the OUTWARD MEANS whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of Redemption.

Comments:

The Law of God says, 'Do this and live', or 'Do it not and die'. And man cannot do it. He breaks the Law daily in spite of his utmost efforts. But God is merciful, and has provided a way by which we may be saved. That way is here told us. It consists in faith and repentance, which are *inward* means of salvation, with the diligent use of all the *outward* means hereafter to be told.

Scriptural Reference:

Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week		Next Week
<i>"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."</i> 1 John 4:10	This Week <i>"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."</i> 1 John 4:11	<i>"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."</i> Proverbs 6:23