



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. 09

LORD'S DAY 26 FEBRUARY 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 97:1-6

Psalm 86:9-12

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 41 – *"Before Jehovah's Aweful Throne"*

RHC 20 – *"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"*

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 52

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 52

(to the tune of Green Hill, RHC 192)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 558 – *"We Plough the Fields"*

Scriptural Text

Malachi 4:6

Jeremiah 18

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

Heart Responsive Children

The Potter's Vision

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 471 – *"A Christian Home"*

RHC 421 – *"Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"*

*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

SABBATH WORSHIP ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 12th February 2017

Introduction

The worship of God is an awesome universal duty. This fact is generally acknowledged by all men except atheists. The Christian faith rests upon a fundamental premise that God's favour is extended only to those who come to Him through the person and work of Christ. Yet, while many profess faith in Christ, professing Christians and churches differ widely in the manner in which they conduct their Sabbath worship. There is a disturbing trend among Charismatic and Contemporary Churches today in self-styled worship.

Such diversity in practice may prompt an inquiry. What means of worship does the Lord approve of? What pattern of worship does the Lord truly require of His people? Is there a specific biblical measure by which we may evaluate various practices of worship?

The present ecclesiastical scene illustrates the urgency of seeking a biblical understanding of worship. Some churches are introducing "contemporary" modes of worship: drama, magic shows, 'sacred prophetic dance' with loud jarring instruments, multi-media productions – even puppet shows. Others advocate free-style services, wherein anyone present may exercise his "gifts" spontaneously – religious democracy with a vengeance. There are still others who are alarmed by growing ecclesiastical anarchy; their solution is to embrace the liturgical forms of Rome, Canterbury or Eastern Orthodoxy. Holiness and reverence before the Almighty God is lacking or totally missing.

Principles of Reformed Worship

Many churches, even some former conservative churches take worship for granted today and have not sought the Word of our Lord as we ought to in this matter. The reformed churches hold a different perspective. We noted that the Bible contains specific principles which regulate all matters of worship. First, religious worship must be directed to the Lord God alone; worship must not be given to false deities, human or any created thing. Second, the only acceptable means of worship are those established by God. We will refer to it as the scriptural law of worship, as a reminder that the Lord regulates the worship of His people by means of His Word (see Westminster Confession of Faith). Orderliness and decency are important in sacred honouring worship (1 Corinthians 1:14, 40). We need to observe a correct perspective of the character and nature of God in worship. After the death of King Uzziah, Isaiah was overwhelmed with the holiness of God and conscious of his own depravity, so he humbled himself before God (Isaiah 6:1-8). That should be our attitude to holy worship too.

The Reformed Churches premise differs sharply from the contemporary attitudes toward worship. Many people claim that Christians are free to employ a variety of practices in worship, as long as the means employed are not specifically forbidden in scripture. (If something is not forbidden, it is accounted to be alright). The worldly spirit of self-centred, amusement and entertainment with contemporary hypnotic music is the order of the day.

We reject this view as inadequate. Certainly, any method of worship which is demonstrably unbiblical should be discarded immediately. Beware of every new fad and fashion in modern worship that violates some particular scriptural prohibition.

We believe that the scriptures contain general guidelines for worship which God himself has instituted. This is the force of scripture law of worship; it guards against man-made innovations in worship like showmanship, entertainment and choreographed dancing and other ostentatious behavior in modernistic and liberal churches.

John 4:22-24 says, *'Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.'* The advocates of unsound worship always seek to subvert or exterminate true worship among the people of God. This is the real source of conflict over worship and we cannot overlook that fact. If we seek to practice genuine biblical worship, we will encounter heated opposition from the advocates of mystical worship of man which is man-centred and fleshly.

Characteristics of Sound Worship

All of our worship should possess these pre-eminent characteristics :

1. We must come punctually and prepared to worship the Lord with sincere hearts filled with love and fear for Him (1 Chronicles 16:29-32);
2. We must worship God using only the means established in His Word. Any worship which lacks either of these qualities is unacceptable; we must not approach the Lord with corrupt motives or with improper methods (Leviticus 10:1-5).

We are to humbly submit to God's sovereign rules of worship in the scriptures alone and not invent new ones. During the worship service, members are to note the following : (as given by the Westminster divines in the Directory of Public Worship)

The congregation being assembled, the minister, after solemn calling on them to the worshipping of the great name of God, is to begin with *prayer, in a call for worship followed by a hymn or the reading of scripture.*

“The public worship having begun, the people are wholly to attend upon it forbearing to read anything (including HP or laptops), except what the minister is then reading or citing; and **abstaining much more from all private whisperings, conferences, salutations, or doing reverence to any person present, or coming in; as also from all gazing, sleeping, and other indecent behaviour, which may disturb the minister or people, or hinder themselves or others in the service of God.**

If any, through necessity, be hindered from being present at the beginning, they ought not, when they come into the congregation, to betake themselves to their private devotions, but reverently to **compose themselves to join with the assembly in that ordinance of God** which is then in hand.”

Practical Guidelines

Do consider prayerfully, the following practical guidelines for the preparation for holy worship on the Lord’s Day.

1. **Prepare your heart (and your children)** for the beginning of the Lord’s Day and **frame your mind** for reverential public worship and prayer.
2. Enter into the holy assembly of saints in the presence of God reverently and punctually, not carelessly (and the Lord’s Supper) and flippantly. Never miss the Lord’s Day worship service except for valid reasons of absolute necessity or if one is on a bed of affliction.
3. Do not judge or be prejudiced against the message or messenger of the Word. Mark and attend fully to the Word of God, which is being read and preached to you.
4. **Beware of a slothful and sluggish disposition.** Be attentive, receptive and **pray for the minister and for yourself** in the humble reception of the Word preached to us.
5. Apply all the Word of God to yourselves according to its **relevance and usefulness.** As you leave the church, ask **“How do these promises reproof, or counsel, comfort or exhortation or direction concern me and how can I apply it throughout the week?”**
6. Above all, resolve to obey what God shall make known to be **His will for you.** Careless hearing and living tend toward a hardened heart and possible spiritual decline.
7. Do not be a mere hearer of prayers of the preacher, but pray with the minister and beseech heaven corporately to answer our feeble cries and petitions for the saving of souls and edifying of the saints.

8. **Stir up your hearts** to alacrity and joy in the singing of hymns, the worship of God and sing aloud joyfully with the congregation.
9. **Be meditative and sober** in the whole worship service, ready to receive any instruction from God; be it from a prayer, hymn or the Word preached.
10. **Confess your sins and repent** of your evil ways and seek the Lord for forgiveness and pardon.
11. **Do not be distracted** by the things around you and do not let the cares of the world cloud your mind during the service.
12. Consider how you may **apply the message or practice** what you have learnt into your life today.
13. **Share** with someone a relevant lesson that you have learnt from the service and let another be blessed by the Word.
14. **Teach our children** to respect God's house by paying attention and keeping silent, especially when the service is on.
15. At the close of the service, after the benediction, spend a few **quiet moments** to **reflect** or ponder to thank God for His Holy Word.

Conclusion

Genuine worship is a discipline and it requires us to prepare the night before by resting earlier and to come early for worship on the Lord's Day and not be late. Children are also to be trained by parents to be disciplined in not running around or shouting or playing. Let us teach our children to be quiet in times of reverential worship in the sanctuary. Worshippers are to be attentive and receptive to the Word. They are not to distract others by dreaming, sleeping or talking (or playing HP games) but pay attention to the preaching of the Word and singing from their hearts to the hymns and praying together with the chairman or the Pastor. 1 Chronicles 16:29 says, '*Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*' After the service, let us meditate on the Word on its application and ponder about it throughout the rest of the day. If possible, fathers strive to have family worship with your children on the Sabbath afternoon or evening. We are to share it with others and our family, friends and members and to exhort and encourage others in the most holy faith.

- 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 1st Mar	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 4th Mar	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: 26/02/2017</u>
Message	The Choice is Yours	The Justice of God's Vengeance	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	Malachi 4:6	Jeremiah 18:11-17	Organist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Keene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations". • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Study of the Book of Psalms: at 3pm, Dr Martin will lead a Bible Study on the book of Psalms, using the book "<i>The Flow of the Psalms</i>" by Palmer Robertson. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch today. • Church Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday 26th March 2017 after morning service. Please see Jonathan or John for more information • Last Lord's Day offering was designated for the Baalah Fund in order to help their urgent request for funds for famine relief. Please see Jonathan or Elizabeth if you would like more information about the missionary work in Baalah, Kenya. 			Ushers: Tom / Yetta
			Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael
			Lunch: Nina
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Scott / John
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 05/03/2017</u>
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday Baalah Fund: £3,366.00; Lunch: £34.91 Attendance - Morning: 35 (A) 6 (C), Evening: 13 (A) 3 (C)			Chairman: John / Keene
			Organist: Anthony
			Pianist: Michael
			Ushers: Jonathan / Evelyn
			Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael
			Lunch: Hannah
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Joel
			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £2,240

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 55

Q: What is forbidden in the Third Commandment?

A: *The Third Commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh himself known.*

Comments:

The Third Commandment forbids us to use irreverently or wrongly any of the names or things which more especially express and declare God. Everything connected with *him* should be sacred.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 5:34-35

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
"Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish." Proverbs 12:1	"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18	"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35