



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. 13

LORD'S DAY 26 MARCH 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 89:15-18

Psalm 117

Opening Hymn *

RHC 45 – *"We Gather Together"*

RHC 61 – *"O for a Thousand Tongues"*

Opening Prayer *

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

Gloria Patri *

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 56

Second Hymn *

Psalm 56 verses 1-12
(to the tune of No Other Plea, RHC 301)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *

RHC 307 – *"Amazing Grace"*

Scriptural Text

Hebrews 12:1-29

Philippians 2:1-30

Pastoral Prayer

Dr David Allen

Dr David Allen

Sermon Message

Consider Christ

Even the Death of the Cross

Closing Hymn *

RHC 284 – *"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"*

RHC 64 – *"Jesus! The Sinner's Friend"*

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Dr David Allen

Dr David Allen

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

SPIRITUAL OBSTACLES HINDERING OUR THIRST FOR GOD'S WORD

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 26th February 2017

Introduction

As a Christian, we need to ask ourselves if we have a growing appetite for God's Word. Do we need to check our spiritual hearts first to see if we truly do possess that new regenerate life in Christ?

Then we need to examine if there are things that can affect spiritual hunger for God and His word just as there are reasons to influence our physical hunger. Consider the following spiritual impediments:

1) Sinful appetites. Children who often have an unhealthy treat before dinner may affect or spoil their appetite. When we are full of worldly things of depravity, engaging or coveting the sinful things of life, can replace our hunger for God's Word. Proverbs 27:7, *"The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet."* Beware of besetting sins that is keeping us from seeking the Lord. Sin will keep you from the Bible or the Bible will keep you from sin.

2) Indolence / Tiredness. Beware of laziness or extreme tiredness (who we work our selves to exhaustion) which can cause a loss of spiritual appetite. We need to prayerfully seek the Lord to examine us, search our hearts for indolence, and see if there is anything in our lives that is quenching our hunger for Him and His Word. Industry is a blessing and it is the hardworking ant not the lazy pig that is our model Psalm 139:23-24, *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* We need to ask God to build up stamina, discipline and strength that we be industrious for Him in reading His Word, worship and prayer.

3) Excessive Work or so-called Service. Too much of secular work (working on Sundays or till late at night with overtime of 12 hours or more) or excessive secular studies can replace our time with Him with our worldly cares instead. Mary and Martha are our classic examples of the difference between busy (and frustrated) service vs. choosing "that good part" of giving time and attention to learning the Word at our Lord's feet (Luke 10: 38-42) like attending a Bible Study or prayer meeting. Let us strive to choose that which God has intended for us.

4) Manifold Distractions. Some of us can get so busy with other cares or interests like the social media, HP or computer games, watching movies or TV or Youtube, that we can forget to read, sleep or eat! Mark 4:19 lists three "distractions" which "choke" the Word: cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches, and lusts of other things. Luke 8:14 calls that the *"pleasures of this life."* Even excessive commitment to

sports can be a serious problems for some if they prevent you from worshipping or seeking God. We need to cast our worldly cares on Him (1 Peter 5:7) and remind ourselves of what the Word warn us about the worldliness, and the deceitfulness of riches. For example, we need to eat even when we do not feel hungry, just as we need to read the Word to keep up our spiritual health and strength for the sake of the well-being of our bodies and souls. We need to keep worldly pleasures in their proper place and be focused in the Lord.

5) Obstinance of the Heart. Consider the Pharaoh who hardened his heart against God and the parable of the sower speaks of one whose heart is “stony ground.” The parable is likely referring to an unsaved person, but some can be self-righteous or stubborn and throughout the Bible, God’s people are told to “harden not your hearts” (Hebrews 4:7) but to humble ourselves before God. Pride is a big problem to obedience and blessing in the Lord. Do we have a heart clogged with rebellion and unbelief? Hosea 10:12 says, *“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”*

6) People / Pastimes and Pleasures. Pets and parties or social events can distract us from our responsibility to feed ourselves or others under our care. Worldly (even legitimate) events or things like hobbies, pets obsession, plants and worldly projects can rob us of our time for God instead. When we are full of worldly cares, we will hear or read the Word inattentively, sleepily, or hurriedly. Matthew 6:21 says, *‘For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.’* If we are overwhelmed with the things of the world, we may not understand the Word and whatever truth we are supposed to have learnt, might be forgotten or lost as well.

Conclusion

As Christians, we need to pray for discipline and godly wisdom to develop (or kindle) an appetite for God’s Word. Seek God’s help to diagnose and deal with any issue that is quenching our hunger for it. Make a clear resolution to start partaking of God’s Word. We need to put God first and set our priorities right (Matthew 6:33) and put all things in its proper perspective. Make a conscientious effort to read a good Christian book (check out the Maranatha Resource Ministry) or a Psalm or a New Testament passage daily that would whet our spiritual appetites. Let us be soberly reminded of the relevance and importance of the Word of God (which is a lamp unto our feet and light to our path) to our souls and consider what we are missing if we neglect meditating on the Word to our spiritual detriment. Do something about it today.

- Rev Jack Sin

(edited and adapted from <https://barbarah.wordpress.com/2007/03/18/when-there-is-no-hunger-forgods-word/>)

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 29th 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 1st Apr	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: 26/03/2017</u>	
Message	The Church and the Cross	The Perils of Confronting Compromise	Chairman:	Jonathan
Text	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Jeremiah 20	Organist:	Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist:	Michael
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Pre-lunch Bible Study. • The Study of the Book of Psalms will resume next Sunday. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the minister and for the continuation of his PhD studies. • Church Maintenance Fund: The Church is currently undergoing some significant repairs; a Maintenance Fund has been set up for anyone wishing to offer a love gift to assist with the costs. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch today. • Easter Camp, 14th-17th April 2017: Camp theme - "God's Grace in our Daily Lives". Please see Yetta for more information. • The Task Force would like to wish all Mothers a Blessed Mothers' Day. 			Ushers:	Tom / Margaret
			Sunday School:	Hannah / Rachael
			Lunch:	Rev Lim
			Washing Up:	Volunteers
			PA Crew:	Scott / Joel n
<u>NEXT WEEK: 02/04/2017</u>			Chairman:	John / Keene
<p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £741.46; Lunch: £52.70; Church Building Fund: £220.50</p> <p>Attendance - Morning: 48 (A) 14 (C), Evening: 12 (A) 3 (C)</p>			Organist:	Anthony
			Pianist:	Joel
			Ushers:	Daniel / Yetta
			Sunday School:	Hannah / Rachael
			Lunch:	Hannah
<p>Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,240.50</p>			Washing Up:	Volunteers
			PA Crew:	Scott / Jonathan

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 59

Q: Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?

A: From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the CHRISTIAN Sabbath.

Comments:

The Patriarchal and Jewish Sabbath was held on the *Saturday*, because that was the day on which God rested from Creation. The Christian Sabbath is held on the *Sunday*, because that is the day on which our Saviour arose from the grave. The change was made in accordance with the practice of the Apostles and the early Church.

Scriptural Reference:

Genesis 2:3, Acts 20:7, Revelation 1:10

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"</i></p> <p>Titus 2:13</p>	<p><i>"In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."</i></p> <p>Psalms 56:11</p>	<p><i>"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.."</i></p> <p>John 3:36</p>