



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. 22 No. 22

LORD’S DAY 03 JUNE 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 150

Psalm 91:1-2

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 24 – “Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”

RHC 46 – “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:1-8

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 119 verses 1-8
(to the tune of Azmon, RHC 61)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 27 – “Now Thank We All Our God”

Scriptural Text

Habakkuk 2

Esther 9:1-22

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Mark Lehman

Rev Mark Lehman

Sermon Message

Justification

Esther

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 65 – “And Can it Be That I Should Gain”

RHC 21 – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Mark Lehman

Rev Mark Lehman

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.

THE SLUGGARD VS THE DILIGENT

Adapted from Life BPC Singapore Weekly, Sunday 29th April 2018

Proverbs 13:4 – *“The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.”*

This proverb provides a stark contrast between the sluggard and the diligent. The sluggard is a lazy or slothful person who refuses to work even though he is able to work. Some people work hard but have occasional bouts of idleness. The sluggard is not like that. Laziness has become a habit in him – a really bad habit which he needs to get rid of.

In the book of Proverbs, the sluggard is mentioned 18 times and always in a very negative light. Slothfulness is a sin, and we are warned not to be slothful.

Descriptions of the Sluggard

Proverbs 6:9,10 describes the sluggard as one who loves sleep. *“How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep...”* He is described as being so attached to his bed that he is like a door turning on its hinges (26:14).

Because he is slothful, he will not begin to do things and he will keep postponing them in order to get a little more rest. If he does make an effort to begin something, which is rare, he cannot finish it. Proverbs 12:27 says that, *“The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting...”*

He makes many excuses to avoid work, and he believes them. In Proverbs 22:13 *“The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.”* He rationalizes his laziness. He spends most of his time thinking up ingenious excuses and reasons that he can use for not working. He becomes so good at this that Proverbs 26:16 says, *“The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.”*

Some may think that what the sluggard lacks is motivation or ambition. Perhaps he is just too content to remain where he is. But that is not the case. As our proverb says, *“The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing.”* He is actually restless and dissatisfied. He has many unfulfilled dreams and wishes. He dreams of becoming rich and hopes for a windfall.

We see this in Proverbs 21:25,26 – *“The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour. He coveteth greedily all the day long...”* This makes him fall easily to ‘get-rich-quick’ schemes like betting and gambling.

The sluggard is useless to any who has to employ him. Proverbs 18:9 – *“He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.”*; If you hire these two characters to work for you, your business will be ruined. They will also be a constant source of painful irritation as Proverbs 10:26 says – *“As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.”*

The Purpose of These Descriptions

All these descriptions of the sluggard may sound quite amusing and you may laugh at them. But there are two reasons why they are used – The first reason is to help us remember better what is said about the sluggard. It is hard to forget truths that are portrayed in such a humorous manner.

The second reason for the amusing description of the sluggard is to hit home the message that we should not be slothful. To laugh at the ways of the sluggard is to admit that what he does is not good at all. Nobody likes to become the butt of jokes and ridicule.

And so if you recognize certain things in your own life that resemble the ways of the sluggard, please do everything possible to get rid of them.

Overcoming Slothfulness

Is there hope for the sluggard? Yes, there is. He must learn not to be lazy from two things: Firstly, from the example of the diligent 6:6-8 – *“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise...”* He must see that even a tiny ant can survive and build colonies because it works hard. He must learn that man was made to work and to find fulfillment in his work. When God made the first man and placed him in the Garden of Eden, he was immediately tasked with the work of taking care of the whole garden.

Those who are lazy must also learn from their own personal experience. They must suffer the consequences of their own laziness – which is to end up having nothing. Those who do nothing and make no effort to seek for gainful employment must be made to suffer for it. They must not be allowed to live off the earnings of others.

This problem existed among the Christians in Thessalonica. When Paul discovered it, he wrote to them, *“If any would not work, neither should he eat.”* (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The exception of course is those who want to work but are unable to, because of illness or a home quarantine order.

But even those who have been blessed with a huge windfall, should not think to themselves that they can now retire early and do nothing. They should still be gainfully employed and not idling around. Idle hands are the Devil’s workshop. Christians should be diligent workers.

The Rewards of Being Diligent

Proverbs 13:4 speaks of the diligent favourably. Because he works hard, his soul shall be made fat. This does not mean that he will put on weight and grow fat (then no one would want to be diligent!), but it means that he will have ample supplies, enough not only to sustain his life, but also some surplus to save for a rainy day and to give to those who are in need.

Those who are diligent will also be well respected and rewarded. We think of the parable of the talents where the two diligent servants were commended by their master – *“Well done thou good and faithful servant.”* (Matthew 25:21,23)

But let us be careful not to go to an extreme in being diligent. There are certain kinds of work where there is no fixed income, but the sky is the limit. If you are engaged in such kind of work, the temptation to drive yourself onward to make more gains is very hard to resist. You may get so caught up in it that it takes over your whole life, and your spiritual life goes downhill.

While the Bible tells us to be diligent workers to make an honest living, this does not mean that we should then become workaholics. Let us understand that work is only a means to an end, and must never become an end in itself. God must always come first in our life before anything else.

We are reminded of this in Proverbs 22:4 – *“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.”* We should work diligently with God’s help, and seek to please Him in our jobs. Therefore we must never allow our jobs to damage our spiritual health or to make us neglect our responsibilities to our family. Those who allow their jobs to take up all the time they should be spending at home with their loved ones to build a good Christian home, will have to answer to God one day for failing in their parental and marital duties.

May the Lord help us to strike a healthy balance between working diligently, and keeping our priorities in good order.

- Rev Charles Seet

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am** and **3.00 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 6th June | No 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 9th June | 3pm | Bible Study & Prayer Meeting <i>Study on the book of Hosea</i> | |
| Next Lord's Day | Morning Service | Evening Service | LORD'S DAY DUTIES |
| Preacher | Rev Mark Lehman | Rev Mark Lehman | <u>TODAY: 03/06/2018</u> |
| Message | TBC | TBC | Chairman: John |
| Text | TBC | TBC | Organist: Anthony |
| NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS | | | Pianist: Michael |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: This afternoon at 1:45pm the church will be holding Sunday School for young children and toddlers, led by Sisters Elizabeth, Nina and Barbara. Please invite friends and family to attend. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister. • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology 2018: 3rd - 5th July 2018. Theme: "<i>Depth and Scope of God's Truth</i>". • Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. | | | Ushers: Daniel / Tom |
| | | | Lunch: Maureen |
| | | | Washing Up: Volunteers |
| | | | PA Crew: Scott / Venise |
| | | | <u>NEXT WEEK: 10/06/2018</u> |
| | | | Chairman: Jonathan |
| | | | Organist: Anthony |
| | | | Pianist: Matthew |
| | | | Ushers: John / Tom |
| | | | Lunch: Venise |
| | | | Washing Up: Volunteers |
| | | | PA Crew: Scott / Anthony |
| Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £657.20; Lunch: £56.20, Baalah - £20.00 Attendance - Morning: 32 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 14 (A) 2 (C) | | | Church Maintenance Fund Total: £4,230.50 |
| SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 14 | | | |
| Q: What is sin? <i>A: Sin is <u>any want of conformity</u> unto, or <u>transgression</u> of, the Law of God.</i> <u>Comments:</u> We are here taught that there are two kinds of sins. The first consists in not doing what God commands; the second consists in doing what God forbids. Our first parents committed the latter. <u>Scriptural Reference:</u> Luke 10:31, Luke 22:61 | | | |
| MEMORY VERSE | | | |
| Last Week <i>"For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."</i> Psalm 84:10 | This Week <i>"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."</i> Psalm 86:15 | Next Week <i>"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."</i> Romans 8:30 | |