



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. 14

LORD’S DAY 08 APRIL 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 34:1-3

Psalm 84:1-2

Opening Hymn *

RHC 29 – *“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”*

RHC 16 – *“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”*

Opening Prayer *

John Poh

John Poh

Gloria Patri *

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 110

Second Hymn *

Psalm 110 verses 1-6
(to the tune of Maitland, RHC 391)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *

RHC 315 – *“Walk in the Light”*

Scriptural Text

Genesis 1:26-2:3

Genesis 1:26-2:3

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Mark Lehman

Rev Mark Lehman

Sermon Message

A Christian View of Work

God Wants You to Rest

The Lord's Supper

Rev Mark Lehman

Closing Hymn *

RHC 186 – *“Wounded for Me”*

RHC 80 – *“The Day Thou Gavest, Lord”*

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.

SELF-PRAISE IS NO PRAISE

Adapted from Life BPC Singapore Weekly, Sunday 18th March 2018

Proverbs 27:2 – *“Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.”*

This proverb deals with the subject of praising oneself. Praise is a very specific kind of communication. It is not about communicating objective facts about yourself like your occupation, your family. We do this often in our daily conversation with people. Neither is it about communicating tangible qualities like your abilities, skills, qualifications and achievements, like what we would include in a CV or in the answers we give at a job interview.

Praise goes beyond all these objective facts and tangible qualities. It includes subjective qualities and intangible attributes like goodness, smartness, beauty and wisdom. So if a person says, *“I’m a Singaporean Chinese graduate married with two kids”* that is not praise. But if he says, *“I’m a good Singaporean. I am not only a good-looking Chinese, but also the smartest graduate, and wise in raising my two kids,”* that is praise. The most distinct characteristic of self-praise is its purpose: It is designed to draw attention to oneself and evoke admiration from others.

According to our proverb, there is nothing wrong with letting another man praise you. When others praise you, it is because they have found something in you that they admire, and they express their admiration through praise. This can be helpful to them if what they admire in you is good for them and it inspires them to improve and change themselves for the better. But when you praise yourself you do not help anyone at all, not even yourself. There are at least two reasons for this.

Self-Praise is very Deluding

Whenever you praise yourself you make a very huge assumption – You assume that you know yourself better than anyone else. Do you really know yourself? If you do, then you are just like an examiner who grades his own test paper; or a high court judge who judges his own crime. The problem is that this kind of assessment will always be biased in your favour, since you cannot see your own faults.

Anyone who claims to know himself well, really doesn’t. He is under a delusion. The proverb just before this one highlights a similar delusion: *“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”* (Proverbs 27:1) Like boasting of what we will do tomorrow, self-praise is based on a delusion – the delusion of knowing what we don’t really know.

The Christians of Laodicea were deluded about themselves. They were boasting, *“I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.”* But they were actually wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked and they needed all the help they could receive from Christ. (Revelation 3:17,18). It is a very humbling and painful experience to discover what you do not know about yourself.

For example, most people who engage in social drinking think that they know when to stop, and that they will never get drunk. This delusion has caused thousands to end up as alcoholics. Let us therefore take heed to God’s Word when it says, *“let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”* (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Instead of being deluded by self-praise, let us be profited by letting others praise us. This is especially so if they are strangers (as the proverb says) because strangers have nothing to gain or lose by what they say about you. Your colleague or subordinate may sometimes not be the best person to praise you because he may be afraid to offend you, and so he will let you hear only what you like to hear about yourself.

Examinations that are set, marked and accredited by an external source have more value than those that are set and marked by your own teachers. Because of this, many institutions invite an external examiner or judge to assure a more objective assessment. Thus it is profitable to be praised by ‘strangers.’

But this does not mean that we should love the praises of men. If we do that, we will end up becoming men-pleasers, and we would be no better than the Jews who lived in the time of Jesus who *'loved the praise of men more than the praise of God'* (John 12:43). This then is the kind of praise we should seek – not self-praise nor men's praise but God's praise.

Does God ever praise anyone? Yes He does! When our Lord was on earth, He praised the faith of a Roman centurion (Matthew 8:10 – *"Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."*). He also praised a Canaanite woman who sought His help to deliver her demon-possessed daughter (Matthew 15:28 – *"O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt."*)

We should all do our best in the Lord's service in order to receive the commendation *'Well done, thou good and faithful servant!'* (Matthew 25:21) This is the best praise that any Christian can ever receive! The Lord's assessment of us is always accurate, trustworthy and objective. *"For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."*(2 Corinthians 10:18)

Self-praise is very Dangerous

It is the worst way to use one's mouth and one's lips. Self-praise has caused the downfall of many. In the Book of Esther, Haman boasted to his family and friends about *"the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king."* (Esther 5:11) But shortly after that he was hanged by royal decree.

A story is told of a frog that was wondering how he could get away from the cold winter climate. Some wild geese suggested that he migrate with them. The problem, though, was that the frog couldn't fly. "Just leave it to me," said the frog. "I've got a splendid brain." He thought about it and then asked two geese to help him by picking up a strong reed, each holding one end. The frog planned to hold on to the reed with his mouth.

In due time, the geese and the frog started on their journey. Soon they were passing over a small town, and the villagers came out to see the unusual sight. Someone cried out, "Who could have come up with such a clever idea?" This made the frog so puffed up with a sense of importance that he exclaimed, "I did it!" His pride was his undoing, for the moment he opened his mouth he lost his hold and fell to his death. How dangerous it is to praise oneself! What should we do then?

Learn to praise others. Let our lips be used to compliment rather than to criticise. However, our motives must be right when we do this, otherwise it becomes flattery. Whenever we offer praise it must be sincere and truthful. We want to give the person only the credit he deserves and not credit he does not deserve.

And whenever we offer praise it should be intended to edify and not to destroy. Praise can be a form of encouragement to motivate your fellow pilgrims to keep pressing on the upward way. Be ready to commend a good work done for the Lord by a brother or sister in Christ. Doing this makes better use of your mouth than praising yourself.

The best use of your lips is to use it to praise God. Hebrews 13:15 says, *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."* We were made to glorify God and not ourselves. Let all that is within us praise His holy name. Follow the example of John the Baptist who said, *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* (John 3:30)

Finally, let us learn to do what God says in Jeremiah 9:23-24– *"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory [i.e. boast] in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."*

Let us cultivate the habit of praising God and glorying in Him! And what should you do when people praise you and compliment you? Always be ready to respond sincerely by saying, *"Thank God for that."*

- 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 11th April | 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 14th April | 3pm | Bible Study & Prayer Meeting | |
| Next Lord's Day | Morning Service | Evening Service | LORD'S DAY DUTIES |
| Preacher | Rev Mark Lehman | Rev Mark Lehman | TODAY: 08/04/2018 |
| Message | TBC | TBC | Chairman: John |
| Text | TBC | TBC | Organist: Anthony |
| NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS | | | Pianist: Anthony |
| <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>". | | | Ushers: Tom / Daniel |
| | | | Lunch: Sharon |
| | | | Washing Up: Volunteers |
| | | | PA Crew: Scott / Venise |
| | | | <u>NEXT WEEK: 15/04/2018</u> |
| | | | Chairman: Jonathan |
| | | | Organist: Anthony |
| | | | Pianist: Matthew |
| | | | Ushers: Tom / Yetta |
| | | | Lunch: Volunteers |
| | | | Washing Up: Volunteers |
| | | | PA Crew: Scott / Venise |
| Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1,208.92; Lunch: £47.30; Good Friday Offering (Missions Fund): £754.34 Attendance - Morning: 32 (A) 6 (C), Evening: 19 (A) 5 (C) | | | Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,970.50 |
| SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 6 | | | |
| <p>Q: How many persons are there in the Godhead? <i>A: There are <u>three</u> persons in the Godhead – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are <u>one</u> God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.</i></p> <p><u>Comments:</u> The Bible tells us that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet it tells us that these three persons form only <i>one</i> God, exist and act together as one, and must be honoured and worshipped alike. This is a subject on which we know nothing except what is revealed.</p> <p><u>Scriptural Reference:</u> Matthew 28:19, Deuteronomy 6:4</p> | | | |
| MEMORY VERSE | | | |
| <p>Last Week <i>“And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.”</i> 1 John 3:23</p> | <p>This Week <i>“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”</i> 1 John 3:24</p> | <p>Next Week <i>“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”</i> Psalm 51:10</p> | |