



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. 27

LORD’S DAY 08 JULY 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Revelations 19:11-16

Psalm 92:1-3

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 34 – “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

RHC 81 – “Lord of the Sabbath”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:65-80

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 119 verses 73-80
(to the tune of All Saints New, RHC 438)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 110 – “Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul”

Scriptural Text

Matthew 9:35-38

Psalm 1

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Clay Gibbons

Mr Clay Gibbons

Sermon Message

The Heart of our Saviour

The Key to be Blessed

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 395 – “A Heart Like Thine”

Psalm 1
(to the tune of Vox Dilecti, RHC 298)

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Clay Gibbons

Mr Clay Gibbons

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.

LOOKING FOR PRAYER WARRIORS

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 3rd June 2018

“Prayer does not change the purpose of God. But prayer does change the action of God” (Chuck Smith).

“Prayer does not influence God. Prayer surely does influence God. It does not influence His purpose. It does influence His action” (S.D. Gordon).

The community of Israelites left the desert of Sin, moving from one place to another at the command of the LORD. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water there to drink. They complained to Moses. Moses prayed earnestly to the LORD. The thirsty people were almost ready to stone him. The LORD commanded Moses to bring the leaders of Israel to a rock at Mount Sinai. He commanded Moses to strike the rock and water would come out of it for the people to drink. And Moses did it in the presence of the leaders of Israel. The place was named Massah (i.e. tempted) and Meribah (i.e. contention), because the Israelites complained and put the LORD to the test when they asked, “Is the LORD with us or not?” (Exodus 17:1-7).

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses sent Joshua and some of his men to go and fight them the next day while he, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill to pray for them. As long as Moses held up his arms, the Israelites won, but when he put his arms down, the Amalekites started winning. When Moses’ arms grew tired, Aaron and Hur brought a stone for him to sit on, while they stood beside him and held up his arms, holding them steady until the sun went down. In this way, Joshua totally defeated the Amalekites. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.” Moses built an altar and named it Jehovah-nissi (i.e. “The LORD is my Banner”) because the LORD hath sworn that He would have war with Amalek from generation to generation until they are utterly destroyed (Exodus 17:8-16).

The Church of Jesus Christ is constantly at war, not with human beings, but with the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age (Ephesians 6:12). For that reason, she needs prayer warriors to resist the enemy’s attacks. Prayer warriors are hard to find. Faithful prayer warriors are even harder to identify. When we find them, we must not let them go. We must do our best to keep them because it will take some time to find such faithful prayer warriors again.

There are many prayer warriors found in the Bible. One of which was Epaphras. He was an excellent example of a faithful prayer warrior in the New Testament Church. He was a convert of Paul (Acts 19:10). He was probably the founder and pastor of the Colossian church (Colossians 1:7). He visited Paul in the Roman prison to inform him of a certain heresy that was threatening the churches of the Lycus valley. When he found Paul, he stayed with him for a while and in a sense, became his fellow prisoner (Philemon 23).

Epaphras was a man of prayer. Though he was in Rome with Paul, he still continued to minister to the churches by remembering them in fervent prayer. Paul called him a servant of Christ. He was very proud of him because he was one of their numbers and had demonstrated what servanthood is. He said, “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God” (Colossians 4:12).

Unlike many Christians, Epaphras did not just “say” prayers periodically for the flock which God had entrusted to him. Paul testified that he was “always labouring fervently” for them in fervent prayers. “Little praying is a kind of make believe, a salve for the conscience, a farce and a delusion” (E. M. Bounds).

These words “always labouring fervently” means Epaphras always agonised in prayer for them. The same word is used in 1 Corinthians 9:25 to speak of the grueling competition endured by athletes in the games. It also speaks of fighting or wrestling in prayer in Romans 15:30 and in reference to Jesus’ agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:44).

E.M. Bounds rightly said, "What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use – men of prayer, men mighty in prayer." In the same vein, Hudson Taylor aptly said, "Since the days of Pentecost, has the whole church ever put aside every other work and waited upon Him for ten days, that the Spirit's power might be manifested? We give too much attention to method and machinery and resources, and too little to the source of power." Sadly, the church today relies too much on technology, organization and novel methods in doing God's work instead of men whom the Holy Spirit can use – men mighty in prayer. Many of our committee meetings last for long hours but when it comes to praying corporately for the Lord's work, very little time is given to it.

Let the words of A.J. Gordon remind us – "You can do more than pray after you have prayed; but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed." We need to remember that time spent in fervent prayer will yield more than that given to work. Prayer alone gives work its worth and its success. Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us. Let our chief work as God's messengers be intercession; in it we secure the presence and power of God to go with us (Andrew Murray). Every man of God can testify to it.

I was greatly blessed and encouraged by the five days of prayer with fellow Lifers at Beulah House many years ago. We came together to labour in prayer for the church and her pressing needs. One sister wrote, "Thank God for the privilege of being able to cast my care on him through praying with my fellow brethren. The five days of prayer brought teens, grandparents, English speaking members, Mandarin speaking members, new church members as well as old church members together. I was very blessed during the prayer sessions as the Lord answered many of our prayers immediately. The other blessing was that this daily small prayer groups provided a means of Christian fellowship to provide spiritual encouragement. This has indeed helped me grow a bit more spiritually." Another old Lifer witnessed the change of our people from a laissez-faire attitude into a submissive and God-focused demeanour.

The book of Nehemiah has valuable lessons for us to learn. One of the lessons is protecting the name of God. What was the purpose of God for calling Nehemiah back to Jerusalem? According to his testimony, Nehemiah was called home to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that the people of God would no more be a reproach (Nehemiah 2:17). Like the Great Wall of China, the wall of Jerusalem was built to protect the city and its people from outside forces invading them.

Spiritually speaking, there are many "walls" in our lives – the wall of testimony, prayer life, Bible reading, fellowship and the list goes on. If any of these walls is broken down, then it will bring shame to the name of God. What would you and I do if any of these walls is broken down? We must take immediate action to restore the damage before it brings shame to God and His Church. Is the wall of the prayer life of the church broken down? If it is, are we not going to take immediate action to repair and restore it?

With regard to prayer, there is a verse in Ezekiel that says, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30). Here we are told that God was seeking for a man among the princes, priests, prophets and people of the land to stand in the places where the walls had crumbled and defend the land so that God would not destroy it, but He could find no one. The sins of Israel had caused much anger to God, and He would destroy them if He could not find someone to present himself before Him on behalf of the people to seek mercy for them (Ezekiel 22:31).

The Church of Jesus Christ needs prayer intercessors. You can play a part of an intercessor on behalf of the people of God to seek mercy for them. Like Abraham who pleaded for the few righteous of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18) and Moses did for the people of Israel (Exodus 32:11-14; Psalm 106:23). E.M. Bounds aptly said, "Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still."

God is looking for someone who can build a wall, who can stand in the places where the walls have crumbled and defend the people of God when the anger of the Lord is about to destroy them (Revelation 2:5). Will you be the one or will He find none? May God help us! Amen.

- Pastor Colin Wong

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
Sat 14 th July No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting			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.
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Mr Gavin Fernandes	Mr Gavin Fernandes	TODAY: 08/07/2018
Message	The Story of Two Wayward Sons	The Difference Between Hurt & Bitterness	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	Luke 15:11-32	John 12:1-7, John 13:1-30	Organist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Anthony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Sunday School for young children and toddlers will be held at 1:45pm, led by Elizabeth, Nina and Barbara. Please invite friends and family to attend. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the ministers for July (Mr Charles Scott-Pearson, Mr Clay Gibbons, Mr Gavin Fernandez and Rev Gabriel Gan). Also, pray for the calling of a new minister. 			Ushers: Tom / John
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Scott
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1330.25, Lunch: £38			Church Maintenance Fund
Attendance - Morning: 31 (A) 10 (C), Afternoon: 16 (A) 6 (C)			Total: £4,230.50
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 19			
Q: What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?			
<i>A: All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his <u>wrath and curse</u>, and so made liable to <u>all miseries in this life</u>, to death itself, and to the pains of <u>hell</u> for ever.</i>			
<u>Comments:</u>			
We are here taught the extent of the misery which has come upon us through Adam's sin. We are told that we have, in consequence, no longer that intercourse with God which Adam enjoyed, but are living under his displeasure, and therefore exposed to all the sorrows of this life, the pangs of death, and the pains of hell for ever. This is the condition in which we all are by nature; and, unless God had taken pity on us, this is the condition in which we should all have remained.			
<u>Scriptural Reference:</u>			
Isaiah 59:2, Ezekiel 18:4, Genesis 3:17, Psalm 9:17			
MEMORY VERSE			
Last Week	This Week	Next Week	
<i>"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."</i>	<i>"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."</i>	<i>"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."</i>	
Romans 12:2	1 John 1:9	John 15:10	