



# 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. 28

LORD’S DAY 15 JULY 2018

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Morning Service – 11am*

### *Afternoon Service – 3pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 146:1-2

Psalm 113:1-3

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 15 – “How Shall I Sing  
That Majesty”

RHC 93 – “To God Be the  
Glory”

*Opening Prayer \**

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 119:81-96

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 119 verses 81-88*  
(to the tune of Green Hill, RHC 192)

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*Announcements & Memory  
Verse*

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings &  
Doxology \**

RHC 384 – “My Jesus, I Love  
Thee”

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*Scriptural Text*

Luke 15:11-32

John 12:1-7 and John 13:1-30

*Pastoral Prayer*

Mr Gavin Fernandes

Mr Gavin Fernandes

*Sermon Message*

*The Story of Two Wayward Sons*

*The Difference Between Hurt &  
Bitterness*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 268 – “Lord, I’m Coming  
Home”

RHC 76 – “Day Is Dying in the  
West”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Mr Gavin Fernandes

Mr Gavin Fernandes

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

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\* 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 PROBLEM OF FORGIVENESS

Adapted from New Life BP Church Singapore Newline, Sunday 3rd June 2018

Forgiveness is a problem for many people due to their misunderstanding of what forgiveness involves and confusion about what forgiveness really is. Part of the issue is that sometimes we are unable to distinguish between forgiveness and feeling forgiven. Sometimes our feelings can get out of sync with the reality of forgiveness.

Once a man came to talk to me about feeling greatly distressed because of his guilt. He said that he had committed a particular sin and had prayed and prayed about it but hadn't received any relief. He wanted to know what he had to do to experience God's forgiveness. But since he had confessed his sin and begged God to forgive him, I told him that he needed to ask God to forgive him for a different sin—the sin of arrogance. God says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). When we don't believe that God has in fact forgiven us when we have confessed our sin, we are calling into question His faithfulness. We are saying that God's promise cannot be trusted. That is supreme arrogance, so we need to ask God's forgiveness for our refusing to believe His promise.

There is more to this problem of forgiveness. When we sin, one of the most difficult things for us is accepting free, gracious, merciful forgiveness. We are creatures of pride. We think that God's forgiveness is fine for other people, but when we do something wrong, we want to make up for it. However, this is absolutely impossible for anyone to do. God requires perfect holiness. Once perfection is lost, we cannot regain it. We are debtors with a debt we cannot pay. This is difficult for us to accept because we want to be able to pay our own way. It's because of our pride and arrogance, both fruits of our sinfulness, that we refuse to accept the forgiveness of God.

Back to the distinction between forgiveness and feeling forgiven: forgiveness is objective but the feeling of forgiveness is subjective. I can feel forgiven but not be forgiven because I haven't repented. I can excuse myself when God has not excused me, and that false feeling of forgiveness can lead me astray. But I can also not feel forgiven even when I actually have been forgiven. If God declares that a person is forgiven, that person is in fact forgiven. Our lack of feeling forgiven does not negate the reality of what God has done.

What is the authority in our lives? Our feelings, which are subjective, or the Word of God, which is objective truth? The Christian must live practically each day by the Word of God rather than by his feelings. The issue of forgiveness is not whether we feel forgiven, but whether we have repented. If we confess our sin and ask God for forgiveness through Christ, we can be assured that He forgives us.

*Forgiveness is objective but the feeling of forgiveness is subjective.*

Sometimes we don't forgive ourselves even though God has forgiven us. But who are we to refuse to forgive one whom God has forgiven? What makes us so wicked that God's forgiveness is not enough to cover our sin? In effect, we're saying that we're so evil that even the grace of God can't help us. No, we're so proud that we refuse God's grace.

Now let's look at what forgiveness is. **The Bible teaches that when God forgives us, He forgets our sins. This doesn't mean He erases them from His memory. It means that He doesn't hold them against us anymore.**

How many times has someone told you that he has forgiven a sin you committed against him, and then, the next time you have a fight, he brings up what you did the last time? That person has, in a sense, rescinded his forgiveness. God doesn't do that. If I am pardoned by God, it is settled and is never to be brought up again. God puts those sins aside and will never speak of them. However, we often reopen old wounds. We allow them to disturb the relationship. If I have forgiven someone, I should never again mention that sin. **Forgiveness means not bringing it up.**

There is another issue to look at, and that is our obligation to forgive others who sin against us. If such people confess their sin and repent, it is our moral obligation to forgive. However, if they don't repent, we are not required to forgive. We may forgive, as Jesus did for those who killed Him (Luke 23:34). But in doing that, Jesus didn't command that we must always forgive those who don't repent. You can go to those who have wronged you and tell them they have offended you (see Matt. 18:15). If they repent, you have won them. But you are not called to forgive if they don't repent. You are not allowed to be bitter or vindictive. You have to be loving, caring, concerned, and compassionate, but you don't have to forgive. You can still talk about it and seek public vindication.

Here is one last problem related to forgiveness that we deal with often as elders in Christ's church. A husband or wife commits adultery, repents deeply, and then asks his or her spouse for forgiveness. In such a situation, the offended spouse must forgive the guilty partner. However, that spouse is not obligated to stay married to that partner. The Bible makes a provision for the dissolution of a marriage in the event of adultery. The person is required to treat the repentant person as a brother or sister in Christ but not as a spouse.

Another example is a man stealing from us fifty times in our office and repenting each time. We must forgive him, but we can ask for restitution. We don't have to keep him in our employ, but we must still treat him as a brother in Christ. This situation is an important practical application of the concept of forgiveness. We can have forgiveness and restored relationships, but that does not necessarily mean there are no lasting consequences for our sin.

*- by the late Dr. R C Sproul, taken from the February issue of Tabletalk magazine.*

# 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 21st July	<b>No Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b>		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>	<b>LORD'S DAY DUTIES</b>
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev Gabriel Gan	Rev Gabriel Gan	<b>TODAY: 15/07/2018</b>
<b>Message</b>	A Faith that Overcomes Family Dysfunction	How to Become a Citizen of Heaven	<b>Chairman:</b> John
<b>Text</b>	Genesis 30:1-24	John 3:1-17	<b>Organist:</b> Michael
<b>NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>			<b>Pianist:</b> Anthony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday School:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Church Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Rev Gabriel Gan as he ministers to us for the next 6 weeks. Also, pray for the calling of a new minister.</li> </ul>			<b>Ushers:</b> Daniel / Yetta
			<b>Lunch:</b> Maureen
			<b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers
			<b>PA Crew:</b> Scott
			<b>NEXT WEEK: 22/07/2018</b>
			<b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan
			<b>Organist:</b> Anthony
			<b>Pianist:</b> Venise
			<b>Ushers:</b> Tom / Yetta
			<b>Lunch:</b> Helen
			<b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers
			<b>PA Crew:</b> Scott
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £420.50, Lunch: £23.20 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 28 (A) 6 (C), Afternoon: 15 (A) 6 (C)			<b>Church Maintenance Fund</b> <b>Total: £4,230.50</b>
<b>SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 20</b>			
<b>Q: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?</b>			
<i>A: God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a REDEEMER.</i>			
<u>Comments:</u>			
Man did not obey God's law, and so he was condemned to death, both of body and of soul. But it was not the will of God that the world should perish, and so there was another covenant made, but this time with Christ, called the Covenant of Grace, by which God undertook to deliver those who should believe in his Son, and give them everlasting life. This is the Gospel, or Good News of God to men; and it is called the Covenant of Grace, because it proceeded from God's free mercy, and not from our deservings.			
<u>Scriptural Reference:</u>			
Genesis 3:15, 2 Timothy 1:9			
<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>			
<b>Last Week</b> <i>"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."</i> <b>1 John 1:9</b>	<b>This Week</b> <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> <b>John 15:10</b>	<b>Next Week</b> <i>"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."</i> <b>Luke 6:27-28</b>	