



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. 23 No. 05

LORD’S DAY 03 FEBRUARY 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 8

Psalm 118:26-29

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 36 – “High in the Heavens,
Eternal God”

RHC 31 – “Blessed Be the
Name”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 143

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 143:6-12 1st version
(to the tune of All Saints New, RHC 562)

*Announcements & Memory
Verse*

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings &
Doxology **

RHC 332 – “Moment By
Moment”

Scriptural Text

Jonah 1

Jonah 2

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

Running from God

Returning to God

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 402 – “His Way with Thee”

RHC 406 – “Who Is on the
Lord’s Side?”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

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.

TO SEEK, TO DO AND TO TEACH

Adapted from New Life BPC Singapore Weekly, Sunday 20th January 2019

Ezra has to be one of the most neglected books in the Bible. In the last ten years, do you remember even hearing a sermon from Ezra? There are lots of books written on Nehemiah and I have led Bible studies on the book of Nehemiah with the Session. But there does not seem to be nearly as much written about Ezra.

It is really a shame, since Ezra is a pivotal figure in the history of God's people. As one of the early leaders of the Jews who returned to the Promised Land from Babylonian exile, he instituted religious reforms that had far-reaching consequences.

But Ezra, a faithful teacher himself, also serves as a great example of what it means to be a sound Bible teacher today. Below is a summary of the sermon I preached last Sunday, specifically for our church's SS teachers, but it is applicable for all believers.

Notice that verse 1 describes the events of the chapter as taking place during *"the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia."* Verses 8 and 9 identify the time period more precisely: *"in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes,"* or 458 B.C. After the temporal setting is noted, verses 1–5 introduce Ezra by giving his family tree. This long list of ancestors not only emphasizes his importance, but also identifies Ezra as a priest, a direct descendant of *"Aaron the chief priest"* (v. 5).

We learn more about Ezra in verse 6 where he is portrayed as *"a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses."* The Hebrew states literally that he was a *"quick"* scribe, or a fast copier; however, the term implies not only speed, but proficiency in the Law of God as well. The word *"scribe"* denotes one who is learned, a Torah scholar. As a whole, the chapter emphasizes Ezra's religious role.

Verse 6 also notes that *"the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him."* It does not tell exactly what Ezra requested or how this occurred (contrast Neh. 2), but it is likely that he asked to return to Jerusalem and to function along the lines of his commission in 7:12–26. Without supplying all of the historical details, chapter 7 emphasizes God's hand of blessing upon Ezra. This is mentioned three times and without doubt explains his success (7:6, 9, 28).

Then verse 10 continues to explain: *"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel."* The word *"for"* is translated from the Hebrew term *"ki"* which sounds like the English word *"key."* This Hebrew conjunction may also be translated as *"because."* Here it explains why God's hand rested upon Ezra. God blessed Ezra's ministry because Ezra prepared his heart. The phrase translated *"prepared his heart"* connotes a whole-hearted commitment of oneself to something. Specifically, Ezra committed himself to three actions.

First, he prepared his heart *"to seek the Law of the LORD."* The verb *"to seek"* is a literal translation of a Hebrew verb that also means *"to study."* (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15). It implies an energetic effort to find God's truth as revealed in the Law, the Mosaic Torah. It echoes 2 Tim.2:15. All this takes time and discipline.

Second, Ezra committed himself “to do” the Law. Obedience followed the preparation of careful study. He was not satisfied with mere knowledge of God’s Word.

Third, he planned to “teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.” The word “statutes” here may refer to the general principles of the Law, while “ordinances” refers to specific principles. Taken together, this phrase means that Ezra planned to teach the whole Law.

Following the Example of Ezra

Whether we are pastors or elders, Christian school teachers, Bible study leaders, or parents leading family devotions, this verse has much to tell us about teaching God’s Word to others.

Do you want God to bless you? Do you want God to bless your ministry? If so, then your next step is to follow the example of Ezra.

First, you must commit to studying the Word of God. This does not necessarily mean formal seminary training, but it does entail spending time in the Scriptures and thinking carefully about what they say and how they might apply to us.

Second, you must set his heart “to do” the law of God - obey His commands. Sometimes we think it is enough to study God’s Word before we teach it to others, but Ezra wanted to make sure he also was doing it before he was teaching it.

Third, only when Ezra had studied and done God’s law was he ready to “teach his statutes and rules in Israel.” May we all endeavor to study and put what we learn into practice as we prepare to teach. This will make us more effective teachers - teaching by example. So, seeking to conform our lives to Christ’s is particularly important.

Conclusion

When we get to chapter 9 we shall see that Ezra brought about a reformation in Israel because the people had backslidden. He could never have done this without applying the Word of God and exercising its authority. In fact, **the main theme of the book of Ezra is physical and spiritual restoration for a remnant.** This is what we desire for New Life BP Church.

Challenge

Brothers & Sisters, do you see why I emphasize that we read through the Bible to know its content, and also the importance to study God’s Word (specific book)? This is how each of us can **“grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ,”** and **“be always ready to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”**

Will you encourage one another to begin this Bible Reading & Study journey? I hope the parents will set an example and reinforce this practice in the homes, and NBCs & Fellowship Groups will urge their members to do so too. It might be helpful to set up “accountability partners” (twos or threes) to check on one your progress.

May the Holy Spirit renew and transform us as we commit ourselves to doing what we learn as we teach others. God bless.

- Rev Gabriel Gan

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 09 Feb	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
<i>Preacher</i>	Mr Graham Chewter Mr Graham Chewter	TODAY: 03/02/2019
<i>Message</i>	TBC TBC	<i>Chairman:</i> John
<i>Text</i>	TBC TBC	<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS		<i>Pianist:</i> Matthew
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Sunday School today. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister. • Pray for the forthcoming preachers: Feb – Mr Charles Scott-Pearson, Mr Graham Chewter. Mar – Mr Charles Scott-Pearson, Rev Lim Chee Boon, Mr Marco Reale. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch today. • Chinese New Year Carry-in Lunch, Sunday 10th Feb: Please see Sis Maureen if you wish to contribute a dish. 		<i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Tom
		<i>Lunch:</i> Maureen
		<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
		<i>PA Crew:</i> Venise / Jason
		<u>NEXT WEEK: 10/02/2019</u>
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1061.76, Lunch: £44.60 Attendance - Morning: 35 (A) 6 (C), Afternoon: 18 (A) 6 (C)		Church Maintenance Fund Total: £4,630.50
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 50		
Q: What is required in the Second Commandment? <i>A: The Second Commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his Word.</i>		
<u>Comments:</u> This commandment bids us: 1. Adopt the way of worshipping God appointed by himself; 2. Adhere to it; 3. Not add to it; 4. Nor take from it. There must be no will-worship.		
<u>Scriptural Reference:</u> Matthew 28:20, Deuteronomy 12:2		
MEMORY VERSE		
Last Week <i>"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."</i> John 6:47	This Week <i>"Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go."</i> Isaiah 48:17	Next Week <i>"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:"</i> Matthew 7:7