



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. 21 No. 50

LORD'S DAY 10 DECEMBER 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 117

Psalm 66:1-4

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 24 – *"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"*

RHC 113 – *"It Is Glory Just to Walk with Him"*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 93

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 93

(to the tune of Azmon, RHC 61)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 165 – *"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"*

Scriptural Text

Ephesians 3:1-21

Hebrews 7:1-28

Pastoral Prayer

Dr David Allen

Dr David Allen

Sermon Message

Christ is Able to Answer Prayer

Christ is Able to Save to the Uttermost

The Lord's Supper

Dr David Allen

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 187 – *"It Is A Thing Most Wonderful"*

RHC 307 – *"Amazing Grace"*

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Dr David Allen

Dr David Allen

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.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." - Proverbs 4:23

THE RAPTURE

Adapted from Life BP Church Singapore Weekly, Sunday 1st October 2017

The Rapture is a miraculous event where millions of Christians will suddenly disappear from the earth. It will begin when Jesus appears in the clouds above the earth. All believers who have already died will resurrect from their graves and be brought up to Him. After that, all believers who are still alive at that time will be transported right off this earth, and taken up to meet Him in the sky. Then there will be a huge reunion of Christians from all nations and from every age in history with the Lord, who will then lead them home to Heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).

The Rapture is a different event from the Second Coming of Christ although they are often put together. In the Rapture, Jesus comes in the air *for* His Church, but His feet will not touch earth. In the Second Coming, Jesus comes back to earth *with* His church and His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives (Jude 14; Zechariah 4:14; Revelation 19:14). In the Rapture, Christ comes to fetch His church up to heaven so that it can join in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:6-9). At the Second coming, Christ will come to make war on earth with the armies of the world. (The only great supper in this event will be for the vultures - Revelation 19:17,18!) In the Rapture, Christ will come in the clouds (Mark 13:26,27). At the Second Coming, He will descend from heaven on a white horse (Revelation 19:11).

The Purpose of the Rapture

Why should the Rapture be a separate event from Christ's final descent to earth? Why can't we just remain here on earth until Christ comes down? One purpose for the Rapture is to keep believers safe from suffering all the plagues and judgments that God will bring upon the world because of its sins.

When God's wrath is poured out on the world (Revelation 16) everyone on earth will be smitten with painful sores. The seas, rivers and streams of the world will all turn into blood. The heat of the sun will increase tremendously, scorching people with fire. It is hard to imagine the awful pain, sorrow, chaos and terror that all this will cause. No natural disaster can ever compare with these end-time judgments which are meant for unbelievers.

But the Lord will not punish the righteous with the wicked (Genesis 18:25). Since His children are dear to Him, He will take them out before sending His judgments into the world. 2 Peter 2:9 assures us, "*The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.*"

The Rapture therefore demonstrates not only the power of God, but also the goodness of God to His people. It speaks of His great mercy and love toward us. However, this does not mean that there will be no suffering for believers who live in the End times. Although we are spared from God's wrath, we may still have to face some persecution from the world. This persecution will get much worse when the Antichrist is revealed.

Jesus said, "*Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake.*" (Matthew 24:9) But we can take comfort that the worst persecution of the world is nothing compared to the wrath of God.

Why Do We Look Forward to the Rapture?

1. It Is the Fulfillment of the Promise of Christ to Us.

The Rapture was promised by Jesus just before His crucifixion. He said to His disciples, *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”* (John 14:2,3)

Christ supported this promise by giving them a preview of it when He ascended up to heaven. The important feature of the ascension was that He ascended bodily. The resurrection body of Christ was a real body that could be touched and held by the disciples, and it could eat the food that was given to Him. And yet this resurrection body was glorious – it could disappear and defy all the laws of science.

If we are alive when Jesus returns, we will be transformed to have that same glorious body He has. And then we too will defy gravity and travel upward to meet with Him in the sky. The power that enabled Christ to ascend upwards is the same power that will enable us to ascend up to heaven bodily. Jesus has established the pathway to heaven that we will take when at the Rapture. At that day our identification with Christ will be full and complete.

2. It is the Completion of the Likeness of Christ in Us.

At present we are identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:4,5). One day we will also be identified with Christ in His ascension. How wonderful it will be, to be like Him in all aspects of His life!

In living, our aim is to be conformed to the moral likeness of Christ. In thinking, our aim is to be conformed to the mental likeness of Christ. Attaining both of these aspects of Christlikeness requires some effort on our part. But attaining the physical likeness of Christ requires no effort from us. It will be ours at the Rapture – *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”* (1 John 3:2) The Rapture is therefore the grand climax of our Redemption – a redemption that is full and complete because it encompasses the soul, the mind and the body.

3. It is the Exaltation of the Power of Christ to Change Us

There are two features that bring out the magnitude of this change. *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”* (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) The first feature is that it is a mystery. The word “mystery” implies that it has never been known before and is hard to understand. There are many questions about the change our bodies will undergo in the Rapture, like: How will we feel in this new body? Will we look old or young? Will children who are raptured remain as children forever? Will those who are very old still look old? We will not know the answers until the Rapture takes place. But one thing is sure – it will be a glorious change that is worth waiting for!

The second feature is that it will take place *“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...”* This means that the change is instantaneous. The huge gap between mortality and immortality will be crossed in only a moment, in just the blink of an eye! This will be the most awesome experience that anyone can ever go through! It makes us realise what great power Christ has to bring about such a change on all living saints at the same time. This is the power that we can all look forward to experience. It will be a miracle that we will actually feel as it takes place within us.

How Should the Rapture Affect Us Now?

1. It Should Make Us Hopeful

When a loved one dies there will be sorrow. But for Christians, the sorrow of losing loved ones who have believed in Christ is compensated by the hope of seeing them alive again (1 Thessalonians 4:13). At the Rapture, we will be reunited with one another and with Christ, never to be parted from each other again. Since Christ has given us such a blessed hope, let us live by it. Let our friends see that we have an excellent hope that comforts us in moments of pain and loss.

2. It Should Make Us Watchful

We need to be watchful because we do not know the exact time when the Lord will come – *“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3).

These verses show that the Lord will come when the world least expects Him to come. Two illustrations bring out the unexpected nature of His coming. The first is that of a thief in the night. This was used by Christ Himself in Matthew 24:43-44. The second illustration is the onset of labour pains. If you were to ask any expectant mother in her ninth month when her baby will come by normal delivery she can only say, *“Some time this week or next week.”* She will only know that the baby is coming when she begins to feel the contractions.

Many professing Christians are no longer watching because they have grown tired of being alert to the signs of the End times. They have taken off their spiritual armour. As a result they fall into temptation and sin easily and are not prepared at all for the coming of Christ. Like the five foolish virgins, they will be caught unprepared when the bridegroom arrives at midnight (Matthew 25:1-13).

Let us therefore watch and be sober (1 Thessalonians 5:6). Put away every sin and every unprofitable pursuit from your life. We must live as children of the day, labouring and serving God fervently. Jesus said, *“I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: The night cometh when no man can work”* (John 9:4). Live your life fully for Christ, knowing how wonderfully He has saved you from sin when He died on the cross, and how gloriously He will raise you when He comes again!

- Rev Charles Seet

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am** and **4.00 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 13th December	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 16th December	No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Mr Fred Raynsford	Mr Fred Raynsford	TODAY: 10/12/2017
Message	TBC	TBC	Chairman: John
Text	TBC	TBC	Organist: Michael

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: There will be a video by RC Sproul on "Pleasing God". • Sunday School: This afternoon at 2:45pm the church will be holding Sunday School for young children and toddlers, led by Elizabeth, Nina and Barbara. Please invite friends and family to attend. • Christmas Eve Offering: The collection this year will be used for Missions. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister. • Changes to Church Activities from January 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evening worship will be brought forward to 3pm. ➤ No Pre-lunch Bible Study. 			Pianist: Matthew Ushers: Tom / Yetta Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / Venise
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 17/12/2017</u>
			Chairman: John Organist: Matthew Pianist: Matthew Ushers: Tom / Daniel Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott / Venise

Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £867.36, Lunch £29.20 Attendance - Morning: 21 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 11 (A) 4 (C)	Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,960.50
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SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 96

Q: What is the Lord's Supper?

A: The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his DEATH is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are – not after a corporal and carnal manner – but by faith made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

Comments:

The Lord's Supper is so called because it is a feast instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is likewise called the Communion. The outward act in it is eating bread and drinking wine, according to Christ's appointment; and the inward meaning of it is the sacrifice of Christ – the broken bread telling of his broken body, and the poured-out wine telling of his shed blood. In itself it is of no value whatsoever, but when received in faith it quickens our love to God, deepens our faith in Christ, and promotes the welfare of our souls. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that the bread in the Communion is changed into the actual flesh of our Lord; but this is an error. We can only receive Christ by faith.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 11:23, 1 Corinthians 10:16

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
"And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27	"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." Romans 12:9	"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 12:10