



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. 46

LORD’S DAY 18 NOVEMBER 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 25:4-8

Psalm 96:1-3

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 22 – “When All Thy Mercies, O My God”

RHC 312 – “We Bless the Name of Christ, the Lord”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 132

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 132
(to the tune of Green Hill, RHC 192)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 104 – “All That Thrills My Soul”

Scriptural Text

Joshua 2:1-24

Romans 7:7-12

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Mok Chee Cheong

Mr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

The Character of Biblical Saving

The Usefulness and Effects of God’s Law

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 441 – “Faith is the Victory”

RHC 264 – “I Am Coming to the Cross”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Mok Chee Cheong

Mr Mok Chee Cheong

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.

HOW SHOULD WE WORSHIP GOD?

Adapted from Life BPC Weekly, Sunday 11^h November 2018

Church growth experts claim that the main reason why churches are not growing is that there is nothing in their worship that attracts people. They say that churches must use special effects to create a thrilling and emotionally uplifting atmosphere that will make people want to come back for more and bring all their friends along.

However, worship is meant to bring the greatest pleasure and glory to God rather than to the worshippers. Our worship must first and foremost be acceptable to God. Hebrews 12:28 says – *“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”* The word ‘serve’ here means worship. Since it is qualified by the word ‘acceptably,’ this implies that not all worship is acceptable to God.

If you are assigned to host a dinner for a very important dignitary flying in from overseas would you choose the cuisine that you enjoy eating most? No. You would probably find out what food he enjoys most and what he cannot eat or is allergic to. The same thing applies to worship: Our manner of worship should be acceptable to God. We should offer only what is most pleasing to Him, and not offer what is most pleasing to ourselves. What kind of worship then is acceptable and pleasing to God?

The latter part of the verse leaves no doubt about the kind of worship that is acceptable to God – it has to be filled with the attitude of reverence and godly fear. If we lack this attitude in our worship, God will not accept it.

The Worship that God Accepts

Our attitude in worship ought to be like that of Isaiah and of the angels that he saw in the vision that he described in the sixth chapter of his book. This shows us more precisely what reverence and godly fear are all about.

A Response to His Sovereignty

The first thing that Isaiah mentions is that God is *“sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up.”* This teaches us that He is the absolute sovereign over all things. His throne speaks to us of His supreme authority to rule over us. There He rightfully sits, as *“the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords”* (1 Timothy 6:15). The God we worship exercises complete authority over the entire world. What response should this bring from us?

If you are a student, imagine what it is like to be called to the Principal’s office. If you are a soldier, think of how you would conduct yourself before the Commanding Officer of your unit. If you were to receive an invitation from the President to have dinner with him, would you dress casually and arrive late? The point is that if we take care of the manner in which we appear before human authority, how much more should we be careful of the way we come before God.

A Response to His Holiness

In the next verse Isaiah describes the seraphim that hovered around the throne of God. The word *seraphim* literally means “burning ones” and it implies that they were very bright creatures. Each of them had six wings which served two different functions – to fly with, as well as to keep their own faces and feet covered. Why did they need to cover themselves? Even though they were bright creatures they still needed to shield themselves from the greater brightness of the One who sits on the throne.

Since God’s angels display such godly fear in their worship, how much more should we be fearful to stand before God, being much lesser creatures than they! The brightness of God in this vision speaks to us of His perfect holiness (cf. 1 John 1:5-6). This is reinforced by the words which the seraphim cried out to one another in v.3 – *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts...”*

The God we worship is the thrice-holy God whose light shines infinitely brighter than all the angels heaven can boast! We come before Him every Sunday after spending a week in an unclean world of sin. For six days we have been soaking in the moral and spiritual filth from a sinful and worldly environment, and we are thereby defiled with much unholiness in our thinking and in our being (just as Isaiah confessed in v.5 – *“I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips”*). And now we presume to come into the presence of a Holy God who is absolute purity. What attitude should this produce in us, but godly fear and reverence?

A Response to His Glory

In the last part of v.3 the seraphim said, *“...the whole earth is full of His glory.”* This glory was so overpowering that at the mere mention of it, the huge doorposts of the temple shook and the temple itself was instantly filled with smoke!

God never shares His glory with anything or anyone else (Isaiah 42:8). To claim any glory for oneself is to rob God of His glory. Thus it is impossible to worship God acceptably when one is filled with pride. True worship leaves no room at all for pride or self-glory in our hearts. It must produce humility in us.

From v.5 onward, we observe how Isaiah responded to God in this vision. He was no mere spectator but a participant. What he saw and learned evoked a deep-seated response from within him. It is only when we have a similar response to God that we can say that we have truly worshipped Him.

This awesome vision of God made Isaiah realise how sinful he really was: *“Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.”* Isaiah was probably more righteous than any of us. But even when the saintliest person in this world stands before God, he will give the same response: *“Woe is me, for I am undone!”* No one can sincerely worship God without realizing how unworthy he really is and how hopeless his plight would be if it were not for God’s mercy and grace.

A Response to His Goodness

An attitude of godly fear and reverence in worship will be met with God’s revelation of His own goodness. This is what Isaiah experienced in vv.6,7. God immediately sent one of the seraphim to cleanse him with a burning coal from the altar.

How grateful Isaiah must have been to be cleansed so mercifully from all his sins and iniquity! This led him to yield himself to God most willingly.

A Response of Giving to God

Worship is not about what we can get from God. It is all about what we ought to give to God. Isaiah carried out an act of acceptable worship when he said: “*Here am I, send me.*” (v.8) His reverential fear of God made him give himself completely to God.

If you come for worship because you are looking forward to get something you want from God then your purpose is wrong. Worship is all about giving – giving to God what is rightfully His by virtue of His awesome glory, majesty and holiness. It is about giving to Him of our time, our attention, our thoughts, our meditations, our wills, and our whole-hearted praise.

The reason why we seek to maintain a solemn atmosphere of reverence and godly fear in our worship services is that it is most conducive for giving unto the Lord. The more our souls are able to grasp the awesome sovereignty of God, the holiness of God and the glory of God, the more we are drawn to give of ourselves most willingly to Him. And we would then put our heart into all that we do in the worship service.

Worship from Our Hearts

You need to come early to spend time to prepare yourself for worship, to ‘*tune out*’ all worldly and selfish thoughts from your mind and to ‘*tune in*’ to God’s channel. Doing this will enable you to have the attentive and expectant attitude that you need for sincere worship. You ought to dress appropriately, not in shorts and T-shirt, but in attire that matches the sanctity of worship and that will not draw anyone’s attention to yourself.

And when the service begins, remember that you are there as a participant and not as a spectator. Do not let your thoughts wander away but engage your mind fully in everything that goes on and give a spontaneous personal response to it from your heart. Since this requires full alertness, please ensure that you have a good night’s rest before Sunday.

To maintain full attention, no one should be talking, eating or texting during worship. That is why coming late for worship is not a good habit: It distracts worshippers to see people walking in, trying to find an empty seat. Let us always be punctual.

Little children are most welcome to join the worship service as Jesus said, “*Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not.*” (Mark 10:14) But parents should help their kids to sit quietly and not distract anyone from the worship.

Maintaining the sanctity of worship is every worshipper’s responsibility. It helps all of us to focus our thoughts fully and entirely upon God. It enables us to worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness (Psalm 29:2) and to give ourselves fully unto Him. Nothing must be allowed to shift our focus away from Him.

Our ultimate aim is to glorify God by responding to Him acceptably, reverently and with godly fear, and with all our hearts, soul, mind and strength, because God is worthy of nothing less than 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
Sat 24th Nov, 3pm	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. Mok Chee Cheong Mr. Mok Chee Cheong	<u>TODAY: 18/11/2018</u>
<i>Message</i>	TBC TBC	<i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan
<i>Text</i>	TBC TBC	<i>Organist:</i> Mathew
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS		<i>Pianist:</i> Matthew
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Sunday School for young children and toddlers will be held at 1:45pm. Please invite friends and family to attend. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister. • Pray for the forthcoming preachers: Nov-Jan – Mr Mok Chee Cheong. • Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony centenary meeting: Saturday 24th November 2018, 2:30pm at Westminster Baptist Church. Speaker: Dr John Douglas. • Ladies Fellowship: This will be held after lunch next Lord's Day. • Reclamation of Gift Aid for 2015/67 - £8,027.94 		<i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Yetta
		<u>NEXT WEEK: 25/11/2018</u>
		<i>Chairman:</i> John
		<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
		<i>Pianist:</i> Anthony
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £375; Lunch: £42.20		<i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Margaret
Attendance - Morning: 29 (A) 5 (C), Afternoon: 12 (A) 5 (C)		<i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers
		<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
		<i>PA Crew:</i> John / Venise
		Church Maintenance Fund
		Total: £4,430.50

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 38

Q: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A: At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full ENJOYING OF GOD to all eternity.

Comments:

We are here taught that there will be a resurrection, and after the resurrection a judgment. At that judgment those who have believed in Jesus will be blessed in the following ways: 1. They will be raised up with glorified bodies; 2. They will be acknowledge by Christ, the Judge, as his own people, and declared free from all guilt before an assembled world; 3. They will be taken to heaven, where they shall be happy with God for ever.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 15:43, Matthew 25:34, Revelations 21:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:17

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”</i></p> <p>1 John 5:4</p>	<p><i>“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”</i></p> <p>Romans 10:9</p>	<p><i>“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”</i></p> <p>Romans 10:10</p>