



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. 24 No. 14

LORD’S DAY 05 APRIL 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 2pm

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Responsive Reading

Psalm 54

Scriptural Text

Romans 14:13-23

Romans 15:1-7

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

The Law of Christian Love

Be Imitators of Christ

Benediction

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that due to instructions from the government with regards to the ongoing Corona Virus epidemic, we will be suspending our Activities and Sunday Worship Services in the Church premises with immediate effect.

Instead we will be streaming the sermons via a video conferencing facility each Sunday.

Please email admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk for more information.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 5

Q: Are there more Gods than one?

A: There is but one only, the living and true God.

Comments:

We are here taught that there is only one God; and this one God is the source of all life, and the only true object of worship.

Scriptural Reference:

Isaiah 45:5

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;”

Psalm 33:18

This Week

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

Next Week

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

LOVE TO GOD

Introduction

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 says, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD God is one LORD: and thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” Our Lord and great Prophet told us that this is the first and greatest commandment (Mark 12:29). Deuteronomy 6 calls us to turn from all other gods and give sole allegiance to the Lord, because He is the “one” God, and “there is none else” (Deut. 4:39). Love moves us to cling to Him for He is our life (Deut. 30:20). Augustine said, “Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our heart is restless until it rests in Thee.”

The Nature of love

Love God with all that you are. Some people view love only as a good feeling someone gives you. Others think that love is a mere choice of the will, gutting it of affection. However, Scripture makes it clear that love cannot be limited to a particular part of man, but must rule of of man’s inner being and outer activity: “with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” The “heart” and “soul” refer to thoughts, emotions, motives, and will. The term “might” us normally the adverb, “very,” but as a noun means force or energy. To love God is to keep His commandments (Deut. 5:10; 7:9).

Love starts in the heart and mind but leads to action; it makes us like Josiah, eager and actively serving God (2 Kings 23:25). Wilhelmus a’ Brakel writes, “Love is the sweet motion of the heart toward God - infused into the hearts of believers by the Holy Spirit - whereby they, by virtue of union with Him will, fully surrender themselves to His service.”

The key word of the commandment is “all.” God requires nothing less than the complete devotion to Him of every motion of your body and soul. It is not enough to put God on your list, or even to make Him the top priority on your list. God must own the list, and be written on every line. Augustine wrote, “He loves Thee too little, who loves anything together with Thee, which he loves not for Thy sake.”

How humbling is this law! Calvin said, “The perfection which is here required shows with sufficient clearness how far we are from the thorough obedience to the law.” We love ourselves, but the best of Christians loves God imperfectly, and the wicked hate Him.

How can we love God with all our hearts?

First, grasp hold of the gospel of “the Lord thy God” (Deut. 6:5). Do not try to love an absolute God, considered merely as a Creator and Lawgiver. Love Him as the God of the covenant, the God of salvation. His love shines supremely in the death of Christ for our sins (Rom. 5:8), and our love is but a Spirit-worked response to His glorious to His glorious grace (1 John 4:9-10, 13, 19). The law commands love, but only the gospel of Jesus Christ produces love. Brakel says, “Believers on earth love Him, their hearts go out after Him, and He is the focal point of the passions of their love...All their asking, crying, and weeping is for Jesus.”

Second, meditate much on Scripture so that “these words” will be “in thine heart” (Deut. 6:6). Each day repeat to yourself truth you read in the Bible or heard from preacher of the Word - and preach it to yourself until it stirs your heart to love. Treasure up God’s words in your heart as the divine medicine to the lies and seduction of the gods of this world (Deut. 11:16-18).

Third, “teach” the Word to “your children” in family worship (Deut.6:7). The term “teach” here has the root meaning of sharpen: we must not let the Word touch the surface of our family’s life but penetrate through pointed application. Read the Bible with your family each day, discuss its meaning and application, and then talk about it all day long.

Conclusion

The best way to love God with all your might is to bring the Word of Christ into all your life through the means of grace being blessed to you by the Holy Spirit.

- PM (Adapted)

My Song Is Love Unknown
Samuel Crossman (1624-1683)

My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O, who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But O! my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then 'Crucify!
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay;
Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes,
That He His foes
From thence might free.

In life, no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb,
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heaven was His home;
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend,
In Whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.