



# 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. 01

LORD'S DAY 05 JANUARY 2020

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Morning Service – 11am                      Afternoon Service – 3pm**

**Prelude**

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

**Call to Worship**

Isaiah 40:28-31

Psalm 91:1-2

**Opening Hymn \***

RHC 554 – “Another Year Is Dawning”

RHC 21 – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

**Opening Prayer \***

John Poh

John Poh

**Gloria Patri \***

*Glory Be to the Father*

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**Responsive Reading**

Psalm 41

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**Second Hymn \***

*Psalm 41 verses 1-3*  
(to the tune of Belmont, RHC 7)

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**Announcements & Memory Verse**

John Poh

John Poh

**Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \***

RHC 333 – “Yesterday, Today, Forever”

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**Scriptural Text**

Colossians 1:3-8

Romans 11:1-10

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

**Sermon Message**

*The Supremacy of Christ in the Gospel*

*Great is God's Faithfulness*

**Closing Hymn \***

RHC 61 – “O for a Thousand Tongues”

RHC 65 – “And Can It Be That I Should Gain?”

**Benediction/3-Fold Amen \***

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

**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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 Covenant Family

We live in an age of individualism. More than ever in the history of mankind are the rights of individuals exalted above their responsibilities to their families and to society. This has directly resulted in the ever increasing number of family break-ups and delinquent children whose parents have given-up all attempts to control. Sadly, the problem has affected not only non-Christian families, but also a great number of church-going families—with the poignant result that many children in such families have grown up in unbelief. This problem may indeed be consistent with Paul's warning of perilous times when self-centred-ness will reign supreme even among professing believers (2Tim 3:1-5), but is there not a reason why the Christian family could be so infected though in days past they have been much more resilient? May I suggest that one of the major cause of the problem is that many families claiming to be Christians today are not really Christian in the manner they function. But how should the Christian family rightly function? May I suggest that it should function as a covenant family.

God always deals with man according to a covenantal family relationship with a covenant head. When Adam was created, God entered into a Covenant of Works with him. Adam was our covenant family head, and when Adam fell, he involved his entire posterity in sin and guilt. And because man is now incapable of life by that covenant, God instituted the Covenant of Grace wherein life is made available by grace through faith in Christ. Christ is therefore the covenant family head of the elect: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor 15:22; cf. Rom 5:12-21).

We see immediately, that God does not relate to man individually but covenantally. We are either covenantally under Adam, or under Christ. All under Adam perishes, all under Christ lives. Not only so, but under the umbrella of the Covenant of Grace, God also relates to us as covenant families. Thus when God established His covenant with Abraham, He says "I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant" (Gen 17:7a). This does not mean that all who descended from Abraham would be saved as is the case with all who are in Christ's family. But it means that God is concerned with Abraham's posterity. This concern for the families of His people is eventually reflected in the annex of the second commandment (Ex 20:5-6) and in Moses' instructions to the Israelites concerning the importance of godly education in the home (Deut 6:3-9). This same covenant family concept is carried into the New Testament. Christ crowned it by His ministry. He raised Jairus' daughter, the epileptic boy as well as the son of the official of Capernaum, all on account of their fathers' faith; and when He came to stay with Zacchaeus, He pronounced that salvation is come to his house on account of his faith. Later, Peter in his inaugural sermon reminds us that the Covenant of Grace is made not only with us individually but with our children too: "for the promise is unto you, and to your children" (Acts 2:38-39; cf. Gal 3:13-14; 3:29). Similarly, Paul would tell the Philippian Jailer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

So then, God does deal with us as covenant families. Though He does not promise that every child born in a Christian family will be saved, we may be certain that "children of the promise" (Rom 9:8; Gal 4:28) will be found in every generation of a believer—beginning from Adam. In other words, there will be believers in every generation of a believer's seed. So, though Ishmael was not a child of promise, Isaac was; though Esau was not, Jacob was; and though Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah were not, Solomon was. It is on account of the parent's standing with God, and the children of the promise that God requires every Christian family to function as covenant families under the administration of the Covenant of Grace.

But how should a covenant family function? Manifestly, in such a family the father or husband is head of the house just as Christ is the head of the Church. This being so, every member of the family must willingly and respectfully submit to him as the leader of the family (Eph 5:22-23, 6:1). Moreover, as covenant head, the father is responsible to instruct the family in all spiritual matters.

Moses was addressing the fathers in Deut 6:3-9 (as seen in the masculine pronoun in the Hebrew). Similarly, Paul puts it in no uncertain terms that it is primarily the father's responsibility to bring up the children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4). The father, as such, is supremely concerned about the spiritual welfare of his children (Job 1:5). He realises that his covenant children are not necessarily regenerate and he exhorts them to repentance and belief. He does not delegate the instruction of his children to the Sunday School or to anyone else. He guards his God-given obligation jealously and diligently. He takes time to catechise his family (Deut 6:7) and to lead them in family worship each day.

Such, I submit to you is the covenant family. Such ought to be every Christian family. Without the emphasis on religion in the home the professedly Christian family is functioning as a pagan family at best. And how great a guilt lies upon the breast of the negligent covenant head of house! Listen to the lament of Thomas Manton in his Epistle to the Reader of the Westminster Confession & Catechisms:

Families are societies that must be sanctified to God as well as churches; and the governors of them have as truly a charge of the souls that are therein, as pastors have of the churches. But alas, how little is this considered or regarded! But while negligent ministers are (deservedly) cast out of their places, the negligent masters of families take themselves to be almost blameless. They offer their children to God in baptism, and there they promise to teach them the doctrine of the Gospel, and bring them up in the nurture of the Lord; but they easily promise, and easily break it; and educate their children for the world and the flesh although they have renounced these, and dedicated them to God. This covenant-breaking with God, and betraying the souls of their children to the devil, must lie heavy on them here or hereafter.

Let us seek the Lord's help, therefore, to rebuild or maintain our families according to our covenant obligations. Only then, can we expect to resist the tide of individualism and unbelief that is sweeping across not only our nation but our church.

*Writer unknown*

### A Christian Home

O give us homes built firm upon the Saviour,  
Where Christ is Head, and Counsellor and Guide;  
    Where ev'ry child is taught His love and favor  
        And gives his heart to Christ, the crucified:  
How sweet to know that tho' his footsteps waver  
    His faithful Lord is walking by his side!

O give us homes with godly fathers, mothers,  
Who always place their hope and trust in Him;  
Whose tender patience turmoil never bothers,  
Whose calm and courage trouble cannot dim;  
A home where each finds joy in serving others,  
And love still shines, tho' days be dark and grim.

O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master,  
The Bible read, the precious hymns still sung;  
Where prayer comes first in peace or in disaster,  
    And praise is natural speech to ev'ry tongue;  
Where mountains move before a faith that's vaster,  
    And Christ sufficient is for old and young.

O Lord, our God, our homes are Thine forever!  
We trust to Thee their problems, toil, and care;  
    Their bonds of love no enemy can sever  
        If Thou art always Lord and Master there:  
Be Thou the center of our least endeavor:  
Be Thou our Guest, our hearts and homes to share.

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins with the **Pre-Worship Prayer Meeting at 10:00 am** followed by the **Worship Services at 11.00 am and 3.00 pm**. Please stay back for fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the afternoon service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK		WELCOME
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	No Mid-Week Bible Study (next study on 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan)	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.
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 10am	Pre-worship Prayer Meeting	
<b>Next Lord's Day</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Afternoon Service</b>
<b>Preacher</b>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<b>Message</b>	TBC	TBC
<b>Text</b>	TBC	TBC
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sunday School:</b> Sunday School for young children and toddlers will be held at 1:45pm. Please invite friends and family to attend.</li> <li><b>Catechism Class:</b> For those seeking baptism or church membership, the catechism classes will commence January 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Please inform Pr Mok if you would like to join the classes.</li> <li><b>Chinese New Year Carry-in Lunch: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January.</b> Please see Daniel, Jonathan or John if you wish to bring in a dish for Sunday lunch.</li> </ul>		
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £482.00, Lunch: £38.00, Maintenance Fund: £100.00, Missions: £40.00 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 21 (A) 6 (C), Afternoon: 13 (A) 6 (C)		
<b>SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 99</b>		
<b>Q: What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?</b> <i>A: The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called THE LORD'S PRAYER.</i>		
<u>Comments:</u> We are here taught that in praying to God we have the whole Bible as a guide. But specially we have a pattern or example set us in the prayer which Christ taught his disciples. This is usually called the Lord's Prayer – that is, the prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ.		
<u>Scriptural Reference:</u> 1 John 5:14. Matthew 6:9		

MEMORY VERSE		
<b>Last Week</b> <i>"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."</i> <b>1 John 3:18</b>	<b>This Week</b> <i>"The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall."</i> <b>Proverbs 10:8</b>	<b>Next Week</b> <i>"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."</i> <b>Psalm 143:10</b>