



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. 36

LORD’S DAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 93	Deuteronomy 7:6-9
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Jonathan Kim
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 76	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Habakkuk 3:16-19	1 John 4:7-16
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Contentment in the Lord</i>	<i>The Source of Christian Love</i>
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, as the Church Premises reopens for Morning Worship Service please note that there will be strict social distancing measures put in place. Face coverings must be worn in the church at all times out of consideration for all worshippers.

Tithes & Offerings – There will be an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.

Bi-Weekly Bible Study will next be held online on Friday 18th September, 7pm. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 27

Q: Wherein did Christ’s humiliation consist?

A: Christ’s humiliation consisted in his being born and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the CROSS; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Comments:

Humiliation means coming down from a high rank to a low. Christ did so for us. He descended from his throne in heaven, and became a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. In this answer we are told the various particulars in which his humiliation consisted. It consisted: 1. In being born; 2. In being born poor; 3. In being subject to the law; 4. In suffering the sorrows of life; 5. In suffering the hiding of God’s countenance; 6. In being crucified; 7. In being buried; 8. In remaining in the grave for three days. All these things were borne by Christ, and on our behalf.

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 2:7, Matthew 27:46, Philippians 2:6-8, Matthew 12:40

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”

1 John 3:22

This Week

“O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.”

Habakkuk 3:2

Next Week

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

1 John 4:10

FACING SICKNESS AND DEATH

Introduction

Man is not naturally inclined to face sickness and death well. The unbeliever lives for the here and now, and this life is everything to him. He dreams of a life free of illness and adversity, even free of death. His life consists of the pursuit of happiness, and he would want to live here forever if that were attainable. The ungodly therefore respond in anger and bitterness when illness and/or death interrupts their pursuit of a vain happiness that so often eludes them.

If only it were true that Christians were free of such sinful emotions and such a sinful response to illness and death. When serious illness and the possibility of death suddenly intrude our lives, such a struggle arises in our hearts. The flesh can rear its ugly head when the prospect of chronic or terminal illness dramatically alters the course of our lives.

The inescapable reality of sickness and death in a sin-cursed world

Such an unbecoming reaction to divinely sent affliction will, however, be a matter of grief to the believer, as it is the desire of his renewed inner man to surrender fully to the providential leadings of his heavenly Father. How intense the prayerful struggle to surrender wholeheartedly to a God who in His sovereign wisdom is slaying me in order to accomplish His purpose in my life!

And yet such wholehearted surrender alone will enable us to face the reality of illness or the inescapable prospect of death. Such surrender enabled Job to say that he would still trust the God who was slaying him and had thrust him into the furnace of affliction. *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him”* (Job 13:5). The grace of God prevailed mightily in a man who, on another occasion, cursed the day he was born.

The necessity of absolute surrender, submission and trust in God and His Will

Clearly, only the sustaining grace of God can enable us to face sickness and death as a Christian - that is, as someone who trusts his heavenly Father and the unailing promises of His Word. We must learn to make use of these promises when serious trials become our portion. Only by appropriating God's precious covenantal promises will we be able to rise above our circumstances and trust our heavenly Father when nothing appears to make any sense. We must learn to judge God by His Word rather than our feelings and circumstances.

Such unwavering trust enabled Paul and Silas to sing God's praises when they found themselves in abysmal circumstances (Acts 16:22–24). Such trust enabled countless believers throughout the ages to remain steadfast during seasons of great trial. Christ wanted to teach His disciples this great lesson when He came to them in a raging storm. He first calmed their hearts by speaking to them before silencing the storm. His objective was to teach them (and us!) that in the midst of grievous trials, they should first consider His Word rather than circumstances.

What are some of the promises we can prayerfully appropriate when facing sickness or death?

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee” (Isa. 49:15). Even when God leads us in ways that are far beyond our understanding, God cannot forget His own. His eye will always be upon those who fear Him.

“We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). Even through sickness and death, God is working things together for the spiritual good of those who love Him, conforming them to the image of His Son (v. 29).

Conclusion

This is only a small sample of the many promises our heavenly Father wants us to appropriate by faith. What a blessing when God's grace enables us to say with the psalmist, *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust”* (Ps. 56:3–4)! Only by faith (a gracious gift of God) can we face sickness and death and echo the words of Psalm 112:7: “[I] shall not be afraid of evil tidings: [my] heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.”

- PM (adapted)

WHAT CAN WE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS? (Part B)

As a covenant Church and family, let us pray and intercede for one another. Below are some prayer concerns for all.

11. **To be Giving and Unselfish**
That our members will be more loving, practice self-denial, more willing to give to the Lord and sacrifice for God and others and understand that it is more blessed to give than to receive.
12. **For Spiritual Wisdom/Life**
That members in their thoughts will be filled with spiritual wisdom and prudence and not folly of this depraved world.
13. **To Confess their Sins and Seek Forgiveness**
That our members when they err and do wrong, will confess their sins and seek God's forgiveness, that they may know, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
14. **For Gratitude in the Lord**
That our members be grateful, give praise and thanksgiving from their lips. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thess. 5:18).
15. **For the Building of Strong Biblical Convictions**
That our members "be strong and courageous" (Josh. 1:6) and stand up for the Lord in witnessing for Christ to the unsaved friends.
16. **To be Filled with Christian Hope**
That whatever befall us, may we be filled with hope that it prevents despair from taking hold of us. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 15:13).
17. **For Perseverance**
That our members be patient and develop within them endurance and perseverance so that when faced with major challenges and crises, they do not easily give up. Let our members be "rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer" (Rom. 12:12).
18. **For a Genuine Love for God and His Word**
That they will cultivate a passion to love, read God's Word and serve God. That our members will have the same kind of passionate love to praise, worship and honour the Lord with all their heart, mind and soul.
19. **To be Forgiving**
That our members may have the spirit of forgiveness. Whenever they are hurt that they may learn to forgive and thereby free themselves from the burden of resentments, as the Lord forgave us (Col. 3:13).
20. **To have a Teachable Spirit**
That our members be willing to learn long-suffering, greater love, more fervency for God, His Church; to attend regularly the means of grace and the various ministries of the Church.
21. **For the Wise Use of their Talents**
That our members' numerous God-given gifts, talents and abilities, may be nurtured and exercised in wisdom to serve God and help others in the Church and beyond.
22. **To be Honest**
That our members exhibit honesty of conduct and speech daily in school, office or home. That there be nothing deceitful in what they say and do but honesty, truth and integrity will fill their hearts.
23. **To be Faithful in Prayer and Worship**
That our members be filled with a desire for importunate prayer, in that they will be filled with the Spirit and "pray in the Spirit, persevering" (Eph. 6:18) and desire to worship the Lord on the Sabbath, and fellowship with the Saints.

CHURCH NOTICE

Dear fellow worshippers and friends,

We are pleased to inform the worshippers and visitors of New Life Bible Presbyterian Church that the church will resume holding worship services in the Church premise on Sunday mornings.

The church activities will take place as follows:

- Sunday Morning Worship Service, 11am – Church Premises & Online
- Sunday Afternoon Worship Service, 3pm – Online only
- Friday Fortnightly Bible Study, 7pm – Online only

Provided that there is no worsening of the pandemic in London, we hope to start holding the Afternoon Worship Service and Fortnightly Bible Study within the church premises in the coming months.

Changes introduced to the Worship Services held at the church premises

In compliance with the current Government guidelines, the following changes have been introduced:

- Worship services will be limited to 60 minutes duration.
- No singing and offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- All Bibles and hymn books will be kept and unavailable for use.
- Adopt a 2-metre social distancing seating arrangement (household members may sit with each other).
- Face coverings to be worn in the church **at all times** out of consideration for all worshippers. For young children under the age of 11, the use of face covering is optional. **Please ensure you bring your own face covering.**
- No food and drinks will be made available (Fellowship Lunch has been temporarily suspended).
- No access to non-essential areas of the church – this includes the Fellowship Hall and kitchen.
- New movement arrangements to be adopted (please follow directions).
- Temperature measurements will be taken for every worshipper and visitor.
- Worshippers and visitors are required to complete the contact details slip for the NHS Test & Trace service. These details will be kept securely in church for 21 days and then destroyed. They will only be submitted to Test & Trace if a Covid-19 case occurs.

To join our online services or to obtain further updates, please visit the church website (www.newlifebpc.org.uk) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim
Task Force Members