



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. 23

LORD'S DAY 07 JUNE 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 2pm

Call to Worship

Lamentations 3:22-23

Psalm 119:1-2

Opening Prayer

John Poh

John Poh

Responsive Reading

Psalm 63

Scriptural Text

James 2:14-16

Malachi 2:17-3:7

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

Barren Faith

Inaccurate Views of God

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.

Tithes & Offerings – these can be by cheque made payable to: New Life Bible-Presbyterian Church. For direct bank transfer to the church account, please contact the treasurer, Mr Tom Tan.

Bi-Weekly Bible Study will next be held online on Wednesday 10th June, 3:30pm. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 14

Q: What is sin?

A: Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the Law of God.

Comments:

We are here taught that there are two kinds of sins. The first consists in not doing what God commands; the second consists in doing what God forbids. Our first parents committed the latter.

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 10:31, Luke 22:61

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

James 1:12

This Week

"My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name."

Malachi 2:5

Next Week

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

James 2:5

FLEEING WORLDLINESS

Introduction

What is worldliness? It is when I absorb and embrace a way of thinking and living that is not submissive to God but is instead contrary to God. Worldliness is what the apostle John calls *“the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life”* (1 John 2:16). In our experiences in life, we are always meeting worldly thinking and worldly influence pressure. This worldliness aims to access our own souls and, sadly, too often gets in.

The Bible teaches us to flee worldliness

To flee means to run away as far as possible and as fast as possible. John writes to Christians, *“Love not the world”* (1 John 2:15). Paul urges in Romans 12:2, *“Be not conformed to this world.”* What both mean is that we are to live in such a way that we reject all sinful ways of thinking and living influenced by the devil. That is to flee worldliness.

How to flee worldliness

In the *first* place, let us seek to be renewed in our minds. Paul writes in Romans 12:2, *“And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* If we are not going to be conformed to this world but truly transformed, then we have to experience mind renewal through exposure to and absorption of God’s Word, all blessed to us by the Holy Spirit. If we would flee worldliness, how diligent we should be in careful and prayerful reading and hearing of Scripture.

Already this point can be a test for us. If we are not getting new minds, very likely we are very worldly. Let us start with this basic, most fundamental point: *“by the renewing of your mind.”* So open the Bible. Read it with attention and prayer. Listen to it preached. Think over it constantly and discuss it with others. That’s the start.

In the *second* place, to flee worldliness, let us commit to doing God’s will. John writes about this in 1 John 2. He makes the key point in verse 17 that *“the world passeth away, and the lust thereof.”* And then John says, *“he that doth the will of God abideth for ever.”* John is contrasting those who love the world with those who do not love it. Those who do not love it are those who do God’s will. It is both a mark of the godly and the way to godliness. When we engage in joyful, thankful obedience to the Lord, then we find the world has no power over us. This too is a test. Do you aim to do God’s commandments? Won’t this help you to flee worldliness?

There is a *third* point to consider. John talks about the love of the Father. He writes in 1 John 2:15, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.”* If you love the world, you don’t the Father. And that means that you don’t know His love and you don’t show Him love. But if you know the Father’s love shed abroad in your heart through the Holy Spirit, and also show Him love, how can you love the world? To use the form of the text but changing the words, *“If any man love the Father, the love of the world is not in him.”* It just can’t be!

Conclusion

So this too is a test. Maybe it’s the ultimate test. You cannot flee worldliness unless you love the Father. But then, how can Christians not love the Father? Is He not *“the Father of mercies and God all comfort”* (2 Cor. 1:3), especially through His own beloved Son, Jesus Christ? And is He not all this even to undeserving sinners like us? Therefore, let us not love the world. What can it do for us? And besides, it is passing away (1 John 2:17). Let us not love the world, but let us love the all-beautiful Father, together with His all-glorious Son, and the ever-blessed Holy Spirit. Let us love the triune God - really love Him, by the Spirit’s grace. That is the way to flee worldliness. — PM (adapted)