



# NEW LIFE

## BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)*

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**LORD’S DAY 11 OCTOBER 2020**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 103:19-22	Isaiah 25:1
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	RHC 37 – “Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven”	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 81	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Jeremiah 1	3 John 9-14
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>God’s Call in Perilous Time</i>	<i>Condemnation and Recommendation</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	RHC 361 – “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

### SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 32

**Q: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?**

*A: They that are effectually called do in this life partake of JUSTIFICATION, ADOPTION, and SANCTIFICATION, and the several benefits which, in this life, do either accompany or flow from them.*

Comments:

Faith in Christ insures certain blessings, some of which are enjoyed in this life, others in the world to come. Of these enjoyed in this life, justification, adoption, and sanctification are the chief, and are of such a nature as to hold within them, or bring along with them, every other blessing.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 1:30, Romans 8:30

### MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>“And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.”</i></p> <p><b>2 John 6</b></p>	<p><i>“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”</i></p> <p><b>2 John 9</b></p>	<p><i>“Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doth good is of God: but he that doth evil hath not seen God.”</i></p> <p><b>3 John 11</b></p>

# WORSHIPPING GOD IN GOD'S WAY

## Introduction

Worship is the particular reverence and honour that man, created in the image of God, owe to Him (Psalm 50:23; 89:7). Worship belongs to God. After all, God is the one being worshipped. Scripture makes it clear that God is the only One who can determine how He is to be worshipped. Man must acknowledge that God is the best person to tell us what worship is pleasing to Him. Sadly, however, the worship of God is often shaped by personal taste, fashions and what makes people feel most comfortable and “good”. Yet this was the principle that motivated the people of Israel to make for themselves a golden calf to use in the worship of God (Exodus 32:1-8). They felt that this accorded more with their preferences and expectation. The Bible warns that no one must add to or take away from what God requires in His Word concerning worship (Deuteronomy 4:2; Matthew 15:8-9). As Samuel Rutherford puts it in relation to worship, for God “not to command is to forbid”.

Believers are commanded to worship God in truth (John 4:24). This means that worship is to be rendered to Him only according to the objective standard of what God has required in His Word. That is the only acceptable yardstick of true worship. Our individual opinions and preferences regarding worship are of no ultimate consequence compared to what the unchangeable God Himself requires. Our duty is to “observe all things” that Christ commanded in Matthew 28:19-20. Things that are indifferent, not commanded or prohibited, must not be part of the worship offered to God. We cannot engage in worship without some circumstantial things such as lighting and an agreed time and place, but the elements and act of worship must only be in accordance with God’s command.

The following is extracted and updated from James Durham’s full exposition of the Second Commandment (Exodus 20:4-6). Frequently, through the prophet Jeremiah, the Lord’s displeasure does not depend on the nature of the idolatry practised but simply that He never commanded it. (Jeremiah 7:31; 19:5; 29:23; 32:35). Let us take the same solemn warnings in our generation.

### **1. How does the Second Commandment relate to worship?**

In the first commandment we are commanded to worship the only true God and forbidden from worshipping any idols. The second prescribes the true worship of God and forbids everything contrary to that. The first commandment shows who is to be worshipped, the second how He is to be worshipped. He must not be worshipped in the way that the heathen worshipped their idols nor in any other way that men shall devise to themselves, but in the way He Himself prescribes.

God will not have men follow their own preferences, but rather to walk by the rule He gives them. Whatever other worship men perform to Him is vain (Matthew 15:9). Thus, the second commandment forbids making false means of worship “unto” ourselves, i.e. to please ourselves without God’s command. Worship according to God’s command is made to Him. This extends to all His ordinances, to the worship itself and the way God is worshipped. It must all be done according to God’s command only.

### **2. Is it not just about images in worship?**

The Second Commandment is about the outward aspects of worship. It also forbids all will-worship and superstition in the worship of God: honouring Him by commands taught by men not by Himself (Colossians 2:22-23; Isaiah 29:13 and Matthew 15:8-9).

The fact the ten commandments relates to the way in which outward worship must be ordered is clear. Firstly, the things forbidden in it (making images and bowing to them) are outward actions. Secondly, these things are mentioned in relation to God’s worship. They are in the first table of the moral law (which relates to our duty to God). The reason that only images are mentioned is that this

is what the heathen used in their worship (Leviticus 26:1). The Lord will not allow His people to do so to Him (Deuteronomy 12:3-5). Thirdly, making and worshipping images are only one aspect of men abusing the external worship of God. They are mentioned in order to include all abuses and false worship (just as adultery includes all sexual immorality in the seventh commandment). It serves to show how God accounts every addition to or altering of His Word, a heinous sin (Deuteronomy 4:23-25).

People seem naturally inclined to idolatry, as Romans 1:24-25 and the practice of almost all nations shows. The Israelites also had their golden calves (Exodus 32:1-7; 1 Kings 12:28). The Lord will not be served in this way, and commands that man must not do so to Him (Deuteronomy 12:4) but only worship Him as He requires (Deuteronomy 12:5).

### **3. Why is this essential?**

The commandment is urged by a reason, threat and promise. These indicate that men easily fail in this command, and that God takes special notice of the duties it requires and the sins it forbids. People might be ready to say: "Why should we be so strict about worship as long as it is offered 'sincerely' to the true God, even though it has aspects He has not commanded? God tells us why.

#### The Reason the Commandment gives

"I am a jealous God" (He says). I must have my Church and Spouse not only faithful but without appearance of unfaithfulness. The Lord seeks His people to behave towards Him as carefully as a wife would towards a jealous husband to avoid any cause for suspicion. God will not allow that which is suspicious in His worship. If His people depart from Him in deviating in the least from the rule given, He will be provoked to be avenged on them for it.

#### The Threat the Commandment Makes

He will punish the children for the faults of their fathers. God may seem to forget sins against this commandment for the time being and not take notice of corruptions introduced in His worship. Yet, He says He will visit (revenge) that iniquity, not only on the present generation but also the one following, even to the third and fourth generation. It mentions those "that hate me", even the least sin amounts to hatred of God. It is done in despite of Him, preferring some corruption to Him. Though every sin has hatred to God in it, yet He puts this name of hating Him, especially on the sin of corrupting His worship, to show that there is a special enmity against God in that sin. It also shows that it is especially hateful to Him.

#### The Promise the Commandment Offers

On the other hand, God takes zeal for the purity of His worship as unique evidence of love to Him. In this promise He says that the godly are: (a) those that love Him (love is the inward fountain and summarises all duties); (b) those that keep my commandments. This is the outward expression and proof of love. There is no halfway house between loving God by keeping His commandments and hating Him by slighting or breaking His commandments. Thus, there is no halfway house between God's gracious promise to parents and children, and His curse on both.

- adapted from <https://www.reformationscotland.org/resources/tracts>

## 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.

**Weekly Prayer Meeting** will be held online every Friday, 7pm. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

**Worship Service Collections: 27/09/20 - £895.00**

## **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.
- Alternatively, please download the NHS COVID-19 Mobile App and scan one of the QR codes in the Church entrance to check-in.

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

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim  
Task Force Members