



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. 28

LORD’S DAY 12 JULY 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 2pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 68:32-35	Psalm 16:7-9
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 68	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	James 5:1-6	1 John 1:5-2:6
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Cultivate an Eternal Perspective of Earthly Things</i>	<i>Walking with God in Gospel Forgiveness</i>
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that the Church premises **will still be closed** whilst the Task Force awaits further details on Government guidelines for reopening. Until the changes are in place to protect the congregation, we will continue to hold online services 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 Friday 24th July, 7pm. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 19

Q: What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

A: All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever.

Comments:

We are here taught the extent of the misery which has come upon us through Adam’s sin. We are told that we have, in consequence, no longer that intercourse with God which Adam enjoyed, but are living under his displeasure, and therefore exposed to all the sorrows of this life, the pangs of death, and the pains of hell for ever. This is the condition in which we all are by nature; and, unless God had taken pity on us, this is the condition in which we should all have remained.

Scriptural Reference:

Isaiah 59:2, Ezekiel 18:4, Genesis 3:17, Psalm 9:17

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p>“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”</p> <p>Malachi. 4:2</p>	<p>“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”</p> <p>James 4:6</p>	<p>“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”</p> <p>1 John 1:9</p>

SHOWING HOSPITALITY

Introduction

In Genesis 18, Abraham is sitting in his tent and sees three strangers approaching. He runs to meet them, asking them to stay for a meal. He then hurries to prepare food while they wait for him. In the end, Abraham discovers that his guests are the Lord Himself and two angels. Hebrews 13:2 says, *“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”* Abraham’s action here, informed by the rest of Scripture, provide a pattern for our own practice of hospitality.

The ministry of Christian Hospitality

First, Christian hospitality is welcoming strangers into our homes so that we can minister to them, whether unbelievers or believers. Having friends and family into our homes is not hospitality - that is fellowship, which of course should play a major role in our lives as well. But biblically, hospitality is kindness to strangers; that is what the word means, and that is what we see God’s people doing throughout the Bible (see Gen. 19:1-3; Josh. 2:4; Ruth 2:8-10; Judges 19:20; Acts 16:15, 34). Abraham did not know who these men were when they sat down. When is the last time you invited someone you had just met or someone you didn’t really know into your home? That was the last time you practiced hospitality.

Second, Christian hospitality is sacrificial. Abraham puts more than twenty litres of flour and a whole calf into the meal - valuable commodities in the ancient Near East! Though he was a rich man, this hospitality still cost him something. Hospitality will cost us as well, whether in time, money, effort, or in some other way. Are you willing to trust God’s provision for us to obey His command to practice hospitality?

Third, Christian hospitality is inconvenient. Though it will not likely mean that we have to kill, clean, and cook a cow, hospitality will involve work, which husband, wife, and children should engage in together. It usually involves arranging schedules, planning and making a meal, keeping up conversation, cleaning up, and dying to self as we love others. Hospitality is not convenient, but it is something that God calls us to do. If that is so, we should do it willingly like Abraham, for God loves the cheerful giver. Can we practice hospitality without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9)?

Fourth, Christians hospitality brings blessing. Scripture links obedience with spiritual blessing. This is as true for hospitality as it is for other biblical commands. It blesses those who are ministered to, and it blesses those who are ministering. Hebrews 13:2 encourages us to practice hospitality by reminding us of Abraham’s experience; he entertained angels unawares! Calvin comments, “If someone will object that entertaining angels is an unusual occurrence, I have a ready answer, in the fact that we receive not only angels, but Christ himself, when we receive the poor in his name. If we do it to the least of these brethren, we have done it unto him.” Do you believe that God will bless your hospitality for eternal good?

Conclusion

Hospitality is not a gift that God gives to just some of His people. It is true that it is a quality highlighted in the character necessary for an elder (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8). However, it is also a command for every Christian - regardless of giftedness, social status, economic privilege, or attitude. Romans 12:13 says that believers must be “*distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*” When done in love to God and love to our neighbour, it is a delight to God and blessed by Him - and will bless the stranger. Practicing hospitality is the best way to develop ability and cultivate a thankful obedience to the Bible’s hospitality commands.

If you are a Christian, God has graciously brought you into reconciled fellowship with Himself after welcoming you through the gospel of His only begotten Son. The day is coming when He will welcome you into His heavenly homes, although you were a stranger and enemy. How can you show the love of Christ to strangers in your life today?

- PM (adapted)

CHURCH NOTICE

1st July 2020

Dear fellow worshippers and friends,

The Government announced on 23rd June that church buildings will be able to reopen for public worship from 4th July, providing social distancing remains in place. At the moment, we are awaiting the publication of the Government guidelines.

We do not expect to be returning to normality and will be required to introduce changes as it is vital for the necessary hygiene and social distancing precautions to be maintained in order to protect congregation.

Until the changes are in place and communicated, we will continue to hold online services.

To join our online services or to obtain further updates, please visit the church website (www.newlifebpc.org.uk) or call the church manse (0207-3280869).

With the Lord’s blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim
Task Force Members