



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. 33

LORD’S DAY 16 AUGUST 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 34:3-9	Psalm 25:4-5
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 73	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Habakkuk 2:1-4	1 John 3:4-10
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Walking by Faith</i>	<i>Steps to Holy Living</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 21st August, 7pm. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 24

Q: How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A: Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Comments:

A prophet is a man who declares the will of God; and we are here told that this is what Christ, as our prophet, does for us. He does so by his Word, for the whole Bible is his; but inasmuch as the mere reading of the Bible is not sufficient of itself to make a man wise unto salvation, he likewise bestows his Holy Spirit, that so the Word may profit those who hear it.

Scriptural Reference:

Hebrews 1:1-2, John 16:13

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”

Habakkuk 1:13

This Week

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

1 John 3:2

Next Week

“But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.”

Habakkuk 2:20

USING LEISURE TIME WELL

Introduction

Most people never have enough leisure time. They view work as a necessary evil to earn enough money to do what they want to do in their free time. They live for their evenings, weekends, and vacations. The recreation and entertainment industries love these people. Then there are others who feel guilty when they are not working. After all, God's Word says we are to "labour" six days and redeem every moment (Ex.20:9; Eph 5:16). Where are you in the spectrum between these poles? Neither of these extremes is biblical. Work is not a necessary evil but a God-given calling (Gen. 2:15); leisure time is not from the evil one, but a God-given gift (Eccl. 3:13; 5:18-19; 9:9).

The purposes of the God-given time of leisure

One purpose for leisure time is to be refreshed physically, mentally, and spiritually. That is why God gave us a weekly day of rest, to begin to know Him through worship and His Word. While on earth, the Lord Jesus knew He and His disciples needed additional times of rest. After becoming wearied by ministry and receiving the disturbing news of John the Baptist's death, He said to His disciples, "*come ye yourselves apart...and rest a while*" (Mark 6:31). Times of rest better equip us to work. As the Puritans said, the one who doesn't take time to rest is like the harvester who doesn't pause to sharpen his scythe and ends up being less productive.

Another purpose for leisure time is to strengthen bonds with others. God pronounced His blessing on the God-fearing people who took time to speak "often one to another" (Mal. 3:16). Bonds of family, friends, and church can be strengthened, and others blessed in our free time.

Another purpose is the enjoyment of God's gifts (1 Tim. 6:17b). God shows His glory in the wonderful variety and exquisite beauty of His creation. He gives food, marriage, and other things for us to enjoy in thankfulness to Him (1 Tim. 4:4-5). These purposes ought to govern our activities. Guard against things that conflict with them.

The misuse of the God-given time of leisure

Selfishness is one danger. Free time is often considered "my time" in which I am free to do whatever I want (Luke 12:16-21), as if God's call to love Him above all and my neighbour as myself doesn't apply during those hours. So use your free time to benefit others.

Another danger is letting time-wasters consume time without profit. Recreation and sports give exercise and teach teamwork, but when they become an obsession, they rob time as our idols. Social media, internet surfing, computer games, and online entertainment easily devour spare minutes and even hours. Take spare moments to seek the things that are of eternal value in the midst of a busy day, maybe with the help of an app on your device or book beside your chair.

What we do when we do not "have to do" anything often betrays the priorities and preferences of our hearts. Have you not found that your greatest problem in your use of time is your heart? What reason we have to confess to God our sin! How we need the cleansing blood of Christ and the righteous covering of the Saviour, who always redeemed the time He received to work and rest. Let us seek His enlivening grace to lead us to set our affections on the things eternal and to give us true love to others.

Conclusion

God's grace enables us to enjoy His gifts with thankfulness to Him, redeem leisure time, and delight in the greatest recreation of all. The Puritan Isaac Ambrose wrote, "Contemplation is soul-recreation." He then proceeded to write a large volume (recommended reading!) entitled '*Looking Unto Jesus.*' As important as other uses of leisure time are, the most blessed activity involves seeking and delighting in the Lord. That is why God gave a weekly day of rest. Though we may not consider the Sabbath "leisure time," it is "time when one is not working." Guard that day, devote it to spiritual exercises, treasure the means of grace God gives on it, and seek rest in Christ. His grace makes this weekly day of rest the highlight of "leisure time" and will affect how you spend your spare moments and free days.

- *PM (adapted)*

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 (details to follow).
- 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