



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. 20

LORD’S DAY 17 MAY 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 2pm

Call to Worship

Psalm 84:8-12

Psalm 19:7-11

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading

Psalm 60

Scriptural Text

James 1:13-18

Malachi 1:12-2:3

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

Trials and Temptations

Defiled, Despised, Deceived, Doomed

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.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 11

Q: What are God’s works of providence?

A: God’s works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures and all their actions.

Comments:

The power of God is quite as necessary to maintain the world as to make it. We cannot live of ourselves. It is *in God* that all things live, and move, and have their being. And so this answer informs us that God not only created everything, but that he cares for his own glory.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 6:26, Proverbs 16:9, Psalm 103:19

MEMORY VERSE

	This Week	Next Week
<p>Last Week <i>“But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”</i> Romans 8:25</p>	<p><i>“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.”</i> James 1:2-3</p>	<p><i>“For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts.”</i> Malachi 1:11</p>

COPING WITH CRITICISM

No one likes criticism. Christians with sensitive consciences in particular, may find criticism even more difficult to handle. Below are nine ways to help you cope with it well.

First, consider criticism inevitable. If you are living as a Christian in a hostile world that hates what you believe, you cannot escape criticism. Jesus said that the world will hate us even as it hated Him (John 15:18; 1 John 3:1). He added in Luke 6:26, *“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you.”*

Second, consider the source. Though you should take every criticism seriously, it is still wise to ask yourself: who is criticising me? Is my critic a friend or a foe, a mature believer or a hardened unbeliever, a highly critical individual, or perhaps a fringe member of the church? If your critic is someone known for wisdom, you should encourage his or her constructive evaluation.

Third, consider timing and prayer. The physical setting, timing, and situation out of which criticism comes may help you determine whether the criticism is helpful. As a general rule, do not respond to criticism for at least twenty-four hours to allow yourself time to pray, think, and get counsel.

Fourth, consider yourself. The Holy Spirit uses our critics to keep us from exalting ourselves. So let yourself be vulnerable. Do not be afraid to say, “I was wrong; will you forgive me?” Be grateful that you can learn valuable truths from your critics. Some of our best friends are those who disagree with us lovingly, openly, and intelligently. *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend”* (Prov. 27:6).

Fifth, consider the content. Ask yourself honestly: What are my critics saying that might help me improve myself? Is there a kernel of truth in this particular criticism that, if changes are made, will make me more godly? If critics say something constructive, absorb it, confess your fault, take the lead in self-criticism, ask for forgiveness wholeheartedly, make changes for the better, and move on. If the critics offer nothing constructive, be kind and polite, and move on. Either way, move on - do not harbour internal bitterness. Fight God’s battles, not your own, and you will discover that He will fight yours (Rom. 12:19).

Sixth, consider Scripture. Memorise and meditate upon texts such as Ephesians 6:10, *“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might,”* as well as Romans 12:10: *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love.”* When critics attack and you cannot understand God’s ways, trust Jesus’ words in John 13:7, *“What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.”*

Seventh, consider Christ. Above all, look to Jesus in the face of mounting criticism. Hebrews 12:3 advises, *“Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself.”* Peter is more detailed: *“Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did not sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously”* (1 Peter 2:21-23).

Eighth, consider love. Love your critics. Seek to understand him. Thank him for coming directly to you with his criticism. Be willing to forgive any injury done to you. Pray for your critic, and if possible, pray with your critic - with integrity and humility. Put away anything that inhibits love. As Peter writes, *“Laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings”* (1 Peter 2:1). When you do this, you will discover that your own wounds will heal more rapidly.

Ninth, consider eternity. Remember, all criticism for us as true believers is temporary. Our faithful Saviour will be waiting for us on the other side of Jordan. He will wipe away every tear from our eye and will drive to be the Friend who sticks closer than a brother. All wrongs will be made right. There our believing critics will embrace us, and we them. We will understand that all the criticism we received here below was used in the hands of our Potter to prepare us for Immanuel’s land. We will see fully that all criticisms were but a light affliction compared to the weight of glory that awaited us.

- PM (adapted)