



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. 16

LORD’S DAY 19 APRIL 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 2pm

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Responsive Reading

Psalm 56

Scriptural Text

Romans 16:1-16

Romans 16:17-27

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

Faithful Helpers in Christ

The Glorious Gospel of Christ

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.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 7

Q: What are the decrees of God?

A: The decrees of God and his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Comments:

The decrees of God are *his purposes*, or *what he has from eternity determined to do*. And this answer tells us that God has so appointed everything that comes to pass. Nothing happens by chance. Everything is arranged upon a plan, and that plan is the plan of God. He makes all things work together for good to them that love him, and for evil to them that hate him.

Scriptural Reference:

Isaiah 40:13, 14, Romans 8:28, Matthew 10:29

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

This Week

“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

2 Corinthians 12:10

Next Week

“For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.”

Isaiah 54:10

GODLY CONTENTMENT

Introduction

Paul writes in Philippians 4:11b, “*I have learned, in what so ever state I am, there were to be content.*” Is this not the Christian’s distinct calling and wonderful privilege, that is, to have and to demonstrate true contentment in life? See for example, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:6, Philippians 4:6-7, and Psalms 37:4. Do you know and grow with Christian contentment in life?

The Character of Christian Contentment

Christian contentment is not only “an embracing of the providence of God,” as one put it, but even more fundamentally, an embracing of the God of Providence. Wilhelmus a’ Brakel states in his helpful chapter on this subject that contentment “is not a mental determination to keep ourselves satisfied, but the disposition of the soul...The stronger faith is, the greater the contentment with the will of God will also be.” Contentment is not to be found in having favourable circumstances and many possessions, but it is found in the triune God alone, by leaving in union and communion with Christ and in obedience and service before the Lord (Ps.23).

The lie of Satan is told in Genesis 3 and replayed in history ever since is that contentment can be far apart from God. Have you seen through this deception of the devil for yourself? This ungodly world is experiencing the miseries of countless forms of discontentment and fading dreams, living in rebellion and unbelief before God (Isa. 57:20-21). Confessing Christians should shine forth the gracious fruit of peaceful contentment in our restless world of rampant murmurings (Phil. 2:14-15). Do you let your light shine with the grace of contentment even in dark and difficult circumstances?

The practice of Christian Contentment

Christian contentment is learned as we genuinely and constantly look to Christ, the Saviour of sinners, in Spirit-work repentance and faith, and so discover what is a graciously complete and completely gracious Saviour Jesus is (Col.2:9-10). As Brakel put it, “If you have the all-sufficient Ones as your salvation, are you then still in need of anything else? Is He not better to you than a thousand worlds?...Therefore, speak and practice what the godly did. ‘The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him’ (Lam. 3:24).”

Jeremiah Burroughs wrote similarly in his classic, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*: “A Christian finds satisfaction in every circumstance by getting strength from another, by going out of himself to Jesus Christ, by his faith acting upon Christ and bringing the strength of Jesus Christ into his own soul, he is thereby enabled to bear whatever God lays on him, by the strength that he finds from Jesus Christ.”

Do you a firm and demonstrate that while looking for Christ and abiding in Him and His Word under the ministry of the Holy Spirit there is no reason for any discontentment whatsoever, but only for true and growing contentment? The Good Shepherd calls His people to confess *“my cup runneth over”* in praise and honour to our triune God and in anticipation of heaven to come. Are you demonstrating his holy, happy contentment at home, school, church, and work? What areas in your life can you grow in by having and showing Christian contentment?

To move us from discontentment to contentment, the Saviour calls to us, *“Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it...He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee”* (Ps. 81:10b, 16).

Conclusion

Praise God who will lead his people in endless and everlasting contentment! All honour to him, our saviour God, from whom all blessings flow - including real contentment! Consider what Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:6 *“But godliness with contentment is great gain.”* Are you enrolled in the school of Christ for the gift and prize of Christian contentment? The *“God of all comfort”* (2 Cor. 1:3) still welcomes more students, in and through Jesus Christ. *“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich”* (2 Cor.8:9).

- PM (Adapted)

Mark 8:36 & 37

³⁶ *For what shall it profit a man,
if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?*

³⁷ *Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*