



NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: newlifeplondon@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.newlifebpc.org.uk

Supervisory Pastor: Rev Lim Chee Boon

Resident Minister: Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Email: pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk

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

Vol. 24 No. 34

LORD’S DAY 23 AUGUST 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 89:1,2, 5-7	John 15:11-17
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Jonathan Kim
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 74	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Habakkuk 2:5-20	1 John 3:11-24
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>God’s Sovereignty and Man’s Responsibility</i>	<i>Love and Death</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 4th September, 7pm. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 25

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

A: Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself A SACRIFICE, to satisfy Divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

Comments:

The duties of a priest were to offer sacrifices and pray for the people; and this is what Christ, as our priest, does for us. When he was here on earth, he offered himself as a sacrifice, and now that he is in heaven, he intercedes for us with his Father. We are here told, likewise, that the purposes for which Christ offered himself as a sacrifice were: 1. To satisfy the justice of God on account of our sin; and 2. To bring us back to God as dear children.

Scriptural Reference:

Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 9:28, Colossian 1:20, Hebrews 7:25

MEMORY VERSE

Last 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

This Week

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

Habakkuk 2:20

Next Week

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”

1 John 3:22

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

Introduction

Christians are called to be witnesses of Christ in a sinful world. This calling is established by Christ's own command (Acts 1:8) as well as by the example of the post-Pentecost church. All saved sinners desire to share the gospel with others. But more than just an activity (e.g., evangelism), our new identity as believers includes being witnesses of Christ. We are witnesses at all times, even when we are not engaged in evangelism or other missional activities.

What it is to be a witness?

The word *witness* is a legal term. It designates a person who has a personal knowledge of an important reality and who is willing to make public testimony to the truth of that reality. To witness about something means to consistently profess its truth and give evidence that verifies this profession. Thus Christians are witnesses of Christ. They have a personal, experiential knowledge of Christ. They publicly testify of Christ's Lordship and gospel before all people. Their words and lifestyle - when living by grace - are verifiable evidence of the truth.

How should Christians live as witnesses?

Christ sets the perfect pattern for us, and then sent His Spirit to fill and equip us for this task. We, like Timothy, are to follow Christ's example: *"I give thee charge in the sight of God...and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable"* (1 Tim. 6:13-14).

Truth was on trial during the time of Pontius Pilate. Truth incarnate stood before this Gentile judge. The evidence of Christ's life demanded a verdict, and the clear testimony was His innocence and His divinity. Truth was also on trial in the larger courtroom of the Jewish people and before all nations (cf. Isa. 43:8-12). Christ is *"the Faithful Witness"* (Rev. 1:5) who witnessed a *"good confession."* Likewise, every believer is called to faithful living in a way that is without reproach amid this sinful world (Matt. 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Peter 2:12). As our Lord has been the Faithful Witness, so we are called to be His faithful witnesses.

How should Christians be faithful witnesses of Christ?

A concise answer is impossible since most of the New Testament was written with the primary intent of instructing believers how to live as witnesses. But in short, living as a Christian witness means following Christ by displaying His character in this sinful world while declaring the truth of the gospel. Note the following practical considerations.

First, our witness is in the presences of the Father. Paul charges Timothy *"in the sight of God"* and, likewise, Christ promises to acknowledge faithful witnesses before the Father in heaven (Matt. 10:32). We are often tempted to evaluate our lives and activities by the judgement of others. It is easy to forget that our witness is, first all, in the sight of God.

Second, our witness is before a world opposed to Christ and His truth. Be prepared to be misjudged and even mistreated, as was Christ, *"who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously"* (1 Peter 2:23).

Third, we are to witness with loving conviction. Many people are headed heedlessly to an eternal hell. We must love them enough to be socially and politically incorrect, warning them of their spiritual danger and pointing them to Christ. We who have personally experienced the reality of gospel transformation cannot but share this peace and joy with others (1 John 1:3-4).

Fourth, we are to witness with dignity, humility, and confidence in Christ who is Truth. Think of Christ standing on trial before a wicked judge and devious religious leaders. Reflect on His regal dignity and the gentle majesty in which He displayed righteous living. Consider His gracious meekness and humility (Phil. 2:5-8). Here stands the King of the universe being mocked by wicked men; but He had willingly condescended in order to testify of God's amazing love to save sinners.

Conclusion

Be encouraged by His quiet confidence. Truth was not determined by the outcome of Pilate's judgement; Christ was and is and will always be the Truth, and soon every tongue will confess it. May the Lord by His Holy Spirit gives us boldness in witnessing for Him.

- 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