



# 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. 35

LORD’S DAY 30 AUGUST 2020

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Lamentation 3:1; 18-26	Proverbs 4:23-27
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 75	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Habakkuk 3:1-15	1 John 4:1-6
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>The Prayer of Praise</i>	<i>Distinguishing Truth from Error</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 4<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

### SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 26

**Q: How doth Christ execute the office of a king?**

*A: Christ executeth the office of a king, IN SUBDUING US TO HIMSELF, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.*

Comments:

A king is the ruler of a kingdom. Now there is a great kingdom set up on earth, consisting of all God’s people, and its ruler is Christ. As such, his duties are here said to be threefold: 1. He makes us willing to obey him; 2. He gives us laws for our guidance and safety; 3. He limits and finally puts down all who oppose us and him.

Scriptural Reference:

2 Corinthians 10:5, Matthew 11:29, 2 Timothy 4:18

### MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p>“But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.”</p> <p><b>Habakkuk 2:20</b></p>	<p>“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”</p> <p><b>1 John 3:22</b></p>	<p>“O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.”</p> <p><b>Habakkuk 3:2</b></p>

# **DEFENDING OUR FAITH**

## **Introduction**

“Defending the faith” is one definition of apologetics. However, defending the faith is not an academic exercise so much as the responsibility of every Christian. It is to be lived, not just studied. We read in 1 Peter 3:15, *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”*

## **Defending the faith by living it**

*First*, we defend our faith when we honour the Lord in our hearts. We must fear and honour the Lord more than we fear and honour people or ideas. The Word of the Lord matters more than the words of men and women. The Bible says, *“the Word of the Lord endureth for ever”* (1 Peter 1:25). When the gospel of our Lord changes our lives and then our relationships and communities, we are defending our faith. As William Edgar has pointed out, apologetics is relevant every day not because of our insights into our culture, but because of the good news of the gospel, which is always fresh and powerful. Living in obedience to Scripture is then living in defence of our faith.

*Second*, we can live defending our faith by living with hope. Peter, while writing to a persecuted and dispersed people, assumed Christians would be living with such hope that people would ask them how and why. Today this hope is contrary to the self-help and despair that most of the world lives with, because this hope is not in human change. This hope is certain faith in the revelation and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which brings with it the promise of a great inheritance. Christians can exult, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”* (1 Peter 1:3). This hope is central to what it means to live as a Christian.

*Third*, we live defending our faith when we are ready to give an answer. It may be answering those whom we engage in conversation, or more particularly, those who ask us why we have hope. We often think this will require much study and understanding of philosophy, culture, and other religions, and this knowledge is possible and helpful. But you do not need that before you begin defending your faith; Peter says be ready to give an answer for your hope, not your knowledge (1 Peter 1:13)! But are we living in conversation with others? Are you ready to answer the questions: What do you believe? Why do you believe that?

*Fourth*, we defend our faith when we live with meekness and fear, or with gentleness and respect. As we defend ourselves, it is easy to begin to attack others. There may be a place for going on the offensive against ideas (2 Cor. 10:5), but we must remember we are not defending ourselves; we are defending the hope that we have in Christ. This must be done with winsomeness, a respectful attitude, and a good conscience. We must put away all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander (1 Peter 2:1), even in the context of persecution and hatred. However, it is how we must live as we defend our faith (1 Peter 2:13-19). *“For it is better...that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing”* (1 Peter 3:17).

## Conclusion

For all four of these aspects, we need the gift of the Holy Spirit in us so we can honour the Lord and live with hope (Rom. 15:13), as well as having Him work through us so that we can properly live and defend our faith (John 15:26). So, as you consider how you should defend the faith, think about your own life rather than others: Is your life honouring the Lord? Is your life shining with hope? Is your life ready to engage others? Is your life lived with gentleness and respect?

- PM (adapted)

## WHAT CAN WE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS? (Part A)

As a covenant Church and family, let us pray and intercede for one another. Below are some prayer concerns for all.

### **1. For the Knowledge and Fear of God**

To “Be still and know the Lord” (Psa. 46:10). In our busyness, may the members be still and reflect upon God and fear Him always in their lives.

### **2. For Salvation**

That the Gospel which “*is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jews first, and also to the Greek*” (Rom. 1:16) is believed in their hearts and to learn to trust God in their lives and remain faithfully committed to His ways throughout their lives.

### **3. For Patience as Parents**

Although family life is often hectic and busy, that God gives wisdom to listen with patience and love to the worries, troubles and problems their children may have and give the right counsel.

### **4. For Spiritual Stability**

That in times of moral corruption and temptation of our times, to enable our members to exhibit spiritual stability and cling on to the Lord their God.

### **5. For Spiritual, Moral, Intellectual and Emotional Growth**

That our members be like the Lord Jesus who “grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and men” (Luke 2:25).

### **6. To be Salt and Light**

That our members will learn how to be effective witnesses for Christ, in their circles of influence, to be “the salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” (Matt. 5:13-14).

### **7. For Protection from Harm and Evil**

That our members who will go out everyday for school or work be lovingly protected by God from every danger, disease and trauma and from the evil one.

### **8. For Faith in Times of Difficulty**

That our members when face with trial, trouble or fear, will turn to God for guidance and strength as “The eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deut. 33:27).

### **9. For Growth in Grace**

That our members may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18) through their daily quiet time, prayer, Christian worship and fellowship.

### **10. For Contentment**

That our members will cultivate the same spiritual contentment as did the Apostle Paul, who have learned to be content whatever the circumstances (Phil. 4:11-12) and not be covetous.

## **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 (please follow directions).
- 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](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim  
Task Force Members