



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. 25 No. 18

LORD’S DAY 02 MAY 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 104:33-35	Psalm 89:15-18
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Jonathan Kim
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	RHC 17 – <i>“Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme”</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 110	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Acts 9:18	Zechariah 4:1-3, 12-14
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Scales Upon the Eyes</i>	<i>The Light of God's Grace</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	<i>“Heal us, Emmanuel!”</i>	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 61

Q: What is forbidden in the Fourth Commandment?

A: The Fourth Commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Comments:

This commandment forbids: 1. The omission of Sabbath duties; 2. The careless discharge of them; 3. Being idle; 4. Committing sin; 5. Being engaged, without proper reason, in worldly matters.

Scriptural Reference:

Isaiah 58:13, 14; Malachi 1:13

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.”

Zechariah 2:5

This Week

“But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.”

Acts 7:55

Next Week

“... This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Zechariah 4:6

ESSENTIALS FOR THE BODY LIFE OF A LOCAL CHURCH (PART 2)

FELLOWSHIP

The English word, 'fellowship' comes from the original Greek word, 'koinonia' (κοινωνία), which means a partnership, a sharing of communality, a togetherness in one spirit. It is a word to depict the relational aspect of body life in the church. It is a command of the Lord in Heb. 10:24, 25, "*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*" Therefore, Christian fellowship is more than a social gathering. It is a purposeful interactive time where believers edify, exhort and encourage one another in the faith through the careful study of the Word, prayer and worship. It is a fruitful and meaningful occasion for bonding relationships among the people of God. It develops into an effective and functional group for prayer and discipleship and a potent force for gospel sharing. In Mal. 3:16, the prophet said, "*For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*" When the Lord's people meet, they should always try to lead one another's thought towards God. We may do this by cultivating the habit of bringing the Scriptures into our conversation. It is still the excellent practice of Christians in parts of the Highlands of Scotland to gather regularly in homes in order to spend time discussing points of Christian doctrine and experience. In this way, over time, believers become familiar with the whole spectrum of truth and they develop the habit and joy of searching Scripture together. In Christian fellowship, the redeemed of God should attempt to cultivate a theological habit of mind, speech and deeds. The early church continued steadfastly in spiritual matters and built up the faith of believers through frequent edifying conversation and occasions for exhortation. This is laudable and should be emulated by every congregation of saints who aspire to grow in greater godliness, faith and knowledge of the Lord and in closer fellowship with one another.

EVANGELISM

The church exists primarily for two reasons - as a living and active witness to the heathen of the precious life-giving gospel of Christ and secondly, for the edification and enrichment of the redeemed through the ministry of the Word, prayer, sacraments and Christian fellowship. The church has one important mandate from the resurrected Christ before His ascension to heaven, which is given in at least three of the gospels and the book of Acts. It is commonly called the Great Commission.

Matt. 28:18-20 "*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*"

Mark 16:15 "*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*"

Luke 24:47, 48 "*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.*"

Acts 1:8 "*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*"

The stirring words of this poem challenges us:

Give us a watchword for the hour,
A thrilling word, a word of power,
A battle cry, a flaming breath,
A call to conquest or to death;

A word to rouse the church from rest,
To heed the Master's high behest,
The call is given, ye hosts arise,
The watchword is EVANGELISE!

To fallen men, a dying race,
Make known the gift of gospel grace.
The world that now in darkness lies,
O Church of Christ, EVANGELISE!

The church has a duty and a privilege as stewards of this precious gospel to proclaim, broadcast and publish it far and wide to the unsaved that peradventure through the will of God and His good pleasure, He may be pleased to save some. To fulfil this august responsibility, we need to recognise that we are empowered for this mission of gospel sharing. There is authority entrusted to us to go and preach the gospel. It is an authoritative command supported by sanction from the One who rules heaven and earth. We must not be timid and fearful in presenting this soul-saving truth but be bold, and yet humble and gentle in bringing across this glorious message of the gospel of Christ. How do we see evangelism today? There are several important points here.

Firstly, personal witness must be appreciated as a duty. It is first a duty because it is a commission, not a suggestion. It is a clarion call to Christian action (Matt. 8:18-20), not an optional proposal. We are under instruction from the Lord of Hosts to bring the message of hope and redemption to those who have not heard it, peradventure they may be saved according to the sovereign will of God. Be good and faithful soldiers to obey the order of our Commander.

Secondly, it is also to be seen as a grand prerogative. It is a privilege because of the great importance of the message that we are bringing. We are ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20) sent on a heavenly mandate to proclaim a glorious message of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Mk. 5:19). But there is one complication. Most of these earthly ambassadors are not doing their job very well. We fail to comprehend the immensity and gravity of the task committed to us. One day we have to give an account for our actions at the Judgement Seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom 14:12). Let us be responsible and carry out our tasks honourably.

Thirdly, gospel witness is a matter of readiness and heart preparation. The Apostle Peter puts it this way in 1 Pet. 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.”* We are always to be ready to give an answer (apologia - ἀπολογία) a defence of the hope that is in us. That requires preparation and alertness. That behoves us to be watchful for opportunities of gospel witness in our office, school and home and even in public places when asked upon. We are to be on twenty four hours alert. We never know when opportunity knocks. So be ready at all times to answer the call of duty.

Fourthly, sharing the gospel is a matter of perseverance and prayer. Sometimes, we are discouraged when people are not interested and we stop the work of the gospel as though conversion has to be instantaneous and is dependent on our efforts. Know that God is sovereign and we need to pray, to persevere and to wait upon the Lord. Family visitation and hospital calls are part of local missions too. Many waited for years to see the conversion of their friends and parents. It took more than ten years before my mother accepted Christ as her personal Lord and

Saviour. Heed Psa. 27:14, *“Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.”*

Fifthly, sharing the gospel is also a matter of boldness and courage. Often we are afraid to share for fear of embarrassment, rejection and repercussions. We are afraid of what people will think of us. I must confess I experienced that too in my life before, especially sharing with certain group of people. But we look at the example of the Apostles Peter and John in Acts. 4:20, *“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”* We need a dauntless spirit, not a spirit of fear or timidity (2 Tim. 1:7), but a valiant spirit to stand up and speak the truth in love and meekness. Have that holy boldness for the sake of the gospel.

Not just the sharing of the gospel alone but making disciples is our responsibility too. There is a need for proper follow-up and commitment. The apostles had John Mark for help with this important work as mentioned in Acts 13:4, 5, *“So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.”* Commentators have said that John Mark was responsible for the personal follow-up of new converts in the mission field. This is necessary to build up, edify and exhort and strengthen the saints in their faith as given in Acts 14:21, 22, *“And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”*

CONCLUSION

The body life of the church is characterised by reverent worship, the preaching and teaching of God’s Word, prayer, Christian fellowship and responsible evangelism. Every member of the body has a role to play in the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:12-6). To discover and develop our spiritual gifts and to be committed to the work of the local church is our calling and challenge. Often the church is languishing as many are not willing to give of their best to the Master. We are to be disciples of Christ, sacrificial and accountable to Him and to one another (Rom. 12:1, 2). Let us arise and be zealous of good works (Tit. 3:10) and edify, exhort and encourage one another towards Christian maturity, godliness and the knowledge of the Lord. Amen

— article adapted and edited from Rev. Jack Sin, *Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church, Singapore*

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.

For the time being, the 3:00pm Afternoon Worship Service will still be conducted online.

If you require the link to our online zoom services, or have any questions or require further clarity, please call the church manse, or email us at admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk.

Tithes & Offerings – There will be an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.

Worship Service Collections: 02/04/21 - £255, 11/04/21 - £995, 18/04/21 - £670

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £6,760.50

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

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. Please bring your own Bible and remember to take it away with you after worship service.
- 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 socialising with anyone outside of your household or support bubble within the Church premises.
- No socialising outside the Church premises.
- 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.
- Alternatively, please download the NHS COVID-19 Mobile App and scan one of the QR codes in the Church entrance to check-in.

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

RHC17 - Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme

Begin, my tongue, some heav'nly theme
And speak some boundless thing -
The mighty works or mightier name
Of our eternal King.

Tell of His wondrous faithfulness
And sound His pow'r abroad;
Sing the sweet promise of His grace,
The love and truth of God.

His very word of grace is strong
As that which built the skies;
The voice that rolls the stars along
Speaks all the promises.

O might I hear Thy heav'nly tongue
But whisper, "Thou art Mine!"
Those gentle words shall raise my song
To notes almost divine.

Isaac Watts

Heal us, Emmanuel!

Heal us, Emmanuel! we are here,
Waiting to feel Thy touch;
Deep-wounded souls to Thee repair,
And, Saviour, we are such.

Our faith is feeble, we confess,
We faintly trust Thy Word;
But wilt Thou pity us the less?
Be that far from Thee, Lord!

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief:
'Lord, I believe,' with tears he cried,
'O help my unbelief!'

She, too, who touched Thee in the press,
And healing virtue stole,
Was answered, 'Daughter, go in peace;
Thy faith hath made thee whole.'

Like her, with hopes and fears we come,
To touch Thee, if we may;
O send us not despairing home,
Send none unhealed away.

William Cowper

Tune: ST. AGNES