



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. 25 No. 40

LORD’S DAY 03 OCTOBER 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 105:1-4

Psalm 72:17-19

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Jonathan Kim

Opening Hymn *

RHC 83 – “*This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made*”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 122

Second Hymn

Psalm 122

(to the tune of Belmont, RHC 7)

Scriptural Text

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

John 2:1-11

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

Finding Real Freedom in Life

Christ’s Mission on Earth

Closing Hymn *

RHC 359 – “*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*”

Benediction/3-Fold

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Amen *

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* Congregation Stands

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 83

Q: Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

A: Some sins, in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are MORE HEINOUS in the sight of God than others.

Comments:

This answer tells us that some sins are worse than others. It says that some sins are worse by reason of their own nature, as it is worse to sin against God than against man; and some are worse by reason of certain circumstances, as it is worse to sin deliberately than when hurried by passion.

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 12:47-48

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 1:9

This Week

“*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*”

John 3:18

Next Week

“*I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.*”

Ecclesiastes 3:14

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF OLD AGE (Part 2)

Understanding How We May Grow Old Graciously

Mike Riley has the following to contribute in the understanding of the manner of growing old for the aged in the Lord which is helpful for us to know and apply (edited and expanded).

Douglas MacArthur once said, “Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest in life and living wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair — these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.” As we grow older, we need to consider that “how” we grow old is far more important than how “old” we grow. The following are biblical perspectives of how to grow old graciously:

1. God wants us to grow old wisely. Job said in Job 12:12, *‘With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.’* The lessons of hardship, success and failure we learn in life should be meaningfully passed on to the younger generation (Psa. 71:17-18) and hopefully the younger generation will benefit from this wisdom (Prov. 2:1-2).
2. God wants us to grow old righteously. The Preacher tells us in Proverbs 16:31, *‘The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.’* The Lord will bless the older man or woman who, with the passage of time, grows more closely into the likeness of Christ (2 Cor. 5:15; Gal 2:20). They are a good pattern for us to follow.
3. God wants us to grow old in serving Him. Luke tells us of the prophetess Anna who, at the age of 84 in Luke 2:37, *‘And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.’* Someone in her evening years in our church once asked me, “What can I do at this age?” Pray for the church and for others, was the reply given. Never underestimate the power of prayer in our lives (Eph. 6:18)! 2 Corinthians 1:11 says, *‘Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.’*
4. God wants us to grow old trusting Him. Faithful men are an inspiration for us who are younger. God promised to be faithful to His people in Isaiah 46:4 which says, *‘And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.’* Let us take heart when we grow old but not cold in the zeal of the Lord but be bold for Him and we will be treated as gold by God and by those around us.
5. God wants us to grow old learning His word. When the author was pursuing his doctoral studies in Pensacola Theological Seminary in 2001, one of his colleagues was Rev. Guy Wallace, a pastor from Georgia and he was in his 70s and he was full of zeal and that put him to shame though he was much younger than him. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, *‘Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.’* It is never too late to learn and practice God’s holy word.

Retirement and Old Age

Someone has asked me when and what should a Christian do during his retirement? Do Christian ministers retire from Christian service when they are older in their late 60s or 70s?

1. There is the example of the Levites and their work in the tabernacle that we can learn from. The Levite males are numbered for service in the tabernacle from ages 25-50 years old, and after age 50, they are to retire from regular service in the temple. However, that is not the end of them as they could continue to help or guide their brethren without taking charge or holding an official capacity but yet serving in the background humbly. This is a wonderful testimony for all to move on graciously when our time is up and yet not stop serving God. Numbers 8:24-26 says, *'This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more: But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service. Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge.'*
2. While we may retire from our secular jobs one day, it is not the end of the world or the loss of our dignity. One should never retire from worshipping and serving the Lord, although the manner or the opportunity available to us when we serve Him may change as the Lord leads. There is the example of two very old people in (Simeon and Anna in Luke 2:28-39) who continued to serve the Lord faithfully. Anna was an elderly widow who ministered in the temple daily with fasting and prayer, waiting patiently upon the first coming of the Lord and the other is Simeon, full of the spirit, also waiting upon the first coming of our Lord.

The author is reminded of faithful senior men and women like the late Mrs. Mack, serving God in her late 80s of The People's Church in Esperance in W. Australia when he preached there in 1996 and 1998. She would pray fervently with us before the service. The founder of a bible college and interpreter for Dr John Sung, the late Mrs. Leona was leading and teaching in the Chin Lien Bible Seminary in her old age and the late Rev Dr Timothy Tow and Dr SH Tow are good testimonies too of faithful stewardship till their late 80s and the late Dr Carl McIntire, the founder of the BP movement defended the truth and preached till his late eighties.

Fervent prayers for others is one of the most fruitful ministries for those who are older or who have retired besides others. Consider what Paul says of a servant of the Lord in Colossians 4:12 which reads, *'Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.'*

Conclusion

While we battle the current pandemic, the Christian community in Singapore and beyond need to be concerned for the growing aged too who are vulnerable and it involves a right perspective and the caring for the elderly individual as a person created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and as a person for whom Christ cares (Matthew 25:31-46).

In the Bible, old age is not to be disparaged but it is considered a good fulfilment of a life devoted to God. Both the blessings and responsibilities of ageing are to be accepted with gratitude and prudence, and in a sense of faithful stewardship as well to one another and to the glory of God.

Moses in Psalm 90:12 says, *'So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.'* Ever since the fall of man, we will all grow old and die one day while we continue living upon this earth if the Lord tarries (Eccl 12:1-6). However, let us have the same positive

and constructive attitude toward honouring and serving the Lord in our later years as Caleb, never quitting (or retiring unofficially), but seeking the Lord to continue giving us more challenges to conquer and overcome them with the Lord's help (Josh 14:12).

While the Christian may grow older and weaker in our faculties with each passing year, we may not retire totally from Christ's service (although He allows the successor of the next generation to take over our role officially). We are to persevere and serve the Lord in other areas if the Lord tarries and one day He will take us home to a blessed eternity in the Lord's sovereign good time and receive the commendation from him one day.

We will end with Psalm 71:18, which says, '*Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.*'

— adapted and edited from Pastor Jack Sin, *Church Bulletin*, Sovereign Hope BP 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: 19/09/21 - £280.00, Maintenance Fund: £50.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £7,530.50

RHC 83 - This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made

This is the day the Lord hath made;
He calls the hours his own.
Let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad
And praise surround the throne.

Today he rose and left the dead,
And Satan's empire fell;
Today the saints his triumphs spread,
And all his wonders tell.

Hosanna to th'anointed King,
To David's holy Son!
Help us, O Lord; descend and bring
Salvation from the throne.

Blest be the Lord, who comes to men
With messages of grace;
Who comes in God his Father's Naem
To save our fallen race.

Hosanna in the highest strains
The Church on earth can raise!
The highest heav'ns in which he reigns
Shall give him nobler praise.

Isaac Watts

Tune: ARLINGTON

Psalm 122

- 1 I joyed when to the house of God,
Go up, they said to me.
- 2 Jerusalem, within thy gates
our feet shall standing be.
- 3 Jerus'lem, as a city, is
compactly built together:
- 4 Unto that place the tribes go up,
the tribes of God go thither:

To Isr'el's testimony, there
to God's name thanks to pay.
- 5 For thrones of judgment, ev'n the
thrones
of David's house, there stay.
- 6 Pray that Jerusalem may have
peace and felicity:
Let them that love thee and thy peace
have still prosperity.
- 7 Therefore I wish that peace may still
within thy walls remain,
And ever may thy palaces
prosperity retain.
- 8 Now, for my friends' and brethren's
sakes,
Peace be in thee, I'll say.
- 9 And for the house of God our Lord,
I'll seek thy good away.

The Scottish Metrical Psalter

Tune: BELMONT

RHC 359 - My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll;
Blest Saviour, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Ray Palmer

Tune: OLIVET (Mason)

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:

- Singing will be allowed during the Morning Worship Service
- No 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 food and drinks will be made available (Fellowship Lunch has been temporarily suspended).
- After Morning Worship Service, you may gather for fellowship inside or outside of the Church premises, but please adhere to social distancing.
- 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