



# NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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**LORD’S DAY 07 FEBRUARY 2021**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 99:1-5	Psalm 84:9-12
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Jonathan Kim
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	<i>The Lord Is King</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 98	---
<i>Second Hymn</i>	<i>Psalm 98 verse 1-4 (to the tune of St Magnus)</i>	
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Hebrews 13:1	Esther 1:1-2
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Duty and Blessings of Christian Fellowship</i>	<i>The Providence of God in History</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	<i>I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!</i>	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 49

**Q: Which is the Second Commandment?**

*A: The Second Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth, THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM, NOR SERVE THEM: for I the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

Comments:

The First Commandment tells us whom we are to worship. The Second tells us how we are to worship him. It tells us we must not think to represent God to our minds by any image visible or even conceivable, or that he will accept such worship at our hands. We must worship God, who is a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. We are here likewise told that God visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children; but this does not mean that the children have to bear the *guilt* of the fathers. It means only that bad fathers are punished by seeing the evils of their misconduct entailed upon their children, while good fathers are cheered and rewarded by the opposite.

## MEMORY VERSE

### This Week

*“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

**Hebrews 12:2**

### Last Week

*“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”*

**Jeremiah 32:27**

### Next Week

*“Let brotherly love continue.”*

**Hebrews 13:1**

# GOD'S ASSESSMENT OF A NATION

We are, if we love our nation, burdened for it and for other nations too. What is a nation? Families living under the same government and sharing a common language and a similar outlook. Those who love God are burdened when they see their beloved nation falling away from the laws given to us all by God. When we take the Bible as our guide in life, we know that God looks upon nations and holds them responsible for the way they live, worship and behave.

The Bible makes it very clear that God's eye is always on the way a nation is living and behaving. A nation is blessed when it is obedient to God's Word in the Bible. But the reverse is also true, as these texts tell us:

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"* (Ps. 33:12)

*"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people"* (Prov. 14:34)

*"The eyes of the Lord are upon the sinful kingdom to destroy it from off the face of the earth"* (Amos 9:8)

These solemn words should have a deep effect upon us all. We are, by such texts of God's Word, reminded that our duty, as members of our nation, is to live in the way that God has commanded and to be careful to keep a good conscience. There are texts of the Bible to reinforce this call to duty. One such text is:

*"It had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them"* (2 Peter 2:21).

Our Lord Jesus Christ puts it in these very serious words: *"It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city"* (Matt. 10:15).

The point which Christ makes is clearly this. If a nation has in the past been blessed with true religion it will, if now it backslides into sinful and irreligious behaviour, be worthy of greater judgment than ungodly nations which never had good religious teaching.

That is surely a relevant warning for nations such as ours, which have had good teaching and sound preaching from the Bible. The lesson clearly is this. If we, as a nation, have been highly blessed by God in the past, God expects and requires that we now, as a nation, obey His laws and respect His religious ordinances.

God's Moral Law is given to us in the Ten Commandments, which require pure religion and strict obedience to His revealed will: no idolatry, no neglect of the Sabbath Day, no murder, no adultery, no disrespect for parents, no stealing, etc. Above all, God requires us to love Him and to love and obey His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ says: *"If ye love me, keep my commandments"* (John 14:15). *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law"* (Matt. 5:17).

Sinners are saved by faith in Christ. But the evidence of a person's faith is seen in how they keep God's Ten Commandments. This is why James tells us: *"Faith, if it hath not works, is dead"* (James 2:17). Faith in Christ is all we need to be justified and saved. But the way in which true faith is recognised is by the way we live. True believers respect God's Moral Law because their faith is genuine.

When society ignores God's Moral Law and lives without respect for the Moral Law, it has taken a very foolish and dangerous step. A text relevant at such a point is: *"Be sure your sin will find you out"* (Num. 32:23).

A doctrine which any nation needs to be reminded of when it ignores God's Moral Law is the doctrine which we have in Romans chapter 1: reprobation. The argument is extremely important and highly relevant in our modern world. It is, briefly, this. When any nation ignores God and seeks to live in guilty defiance of His Moral Law God will, if men do not repent, give them over to their vile corruption and, in due time, pour out His wrath upon them. When God reprobates a nation, He gives them over to do what they wish, irrespective of God's Word, and He will allow them to become worse and worse. Their Moral state now goes down to that of Sodom and Gomorrah.

A society which is punished by God's reprobation ends up in a most shameful condition: "*Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity...*" (Rom. 1:29). There are over twenty words here used by the Apostle Paul to tell us how evil reprobated nations may become.

The desire we should have for our modern nations is that, by the mercy of God, we may be kept from backsliding in this terrible way. To protect us as a nation we need to go back to the Bible and to repent of sin and plead with God to give us the new birth (John 3) which will keep us from ending up like a swamp of dirty water.

Are there any theories or influences on God's people which we should shun and refuse to accept? I believe there are two such influences: **(1)** The Theory of Evolution; **(2)** The Higher Critical teaching

The Bible makes it very clear everywhere, from beginning to end, that this universe is created by God. The theory of Evolution is a way to remove God from His position as sovereign and supreme Lord over our world. It is a theory which makes it very easy for man to remove God from his mind. But God has forbidden this sinful way of thinking. We are commanded to love God with our MIND as well as in all other ways. Our mind therefore must be trained to regard God alone as our Creator, whom we should love and serve all the days of our life.

The Higher Critical theory teaches that the Bible is not God's infallible and inspired book. But this new theory is a serious contradiction of what God tells us about the Bible. The Bible is "*given by inspiration of God*" (2 Tim. 3:16). "*Scripture cannot be broken*" (John 10:35). "*Holy men of God spake as they were moved*" (2 Peter 1:21).

A very important text which people today need to take to heart is this: "*If any man shall add unto these things [the Bible], God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book*" (Rev. 22:18). Again God says: "*If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy [the Bible], God shall take away his part out of the book of life*" (Rev. 22:19). Let us pray that God will bring our needy nations back to genuine faith in God's Word, the Bible.

*Rev Maurice Roberts*  
*Free Church of Scotland Continuing*

### NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear fellow worshippers and friends,

The government has announced that London has entered the Tier 4 category for Covid-19 restrictions. Whilst places of worship are able to stay open, the Church Committee has decided to close the Church to safeguard the wellbeing of the congregation.

**Both Morning and Afternoon Worship Service will 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.