



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. 28

LORD'S DAY 11 JULY 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Call to Worship Psalm 59:16-17

Opening Prayer Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Opening Hymn RHC 36 – *"High in the Heavens, Eternal God"*

Responsive Reading Psalm 119:17-32

Scriptural Text Acts 18:27

Pastoral Prayer Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message *The Believer's Helper*

Closing Hymn RHC 330 – *"How Firm a Foundation, ye Saints"*

Benediction Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Psalm 112:1-4

Jonathan Kim

Zechariah 14:6-7

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Light from God at Evening Time

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 71

Q: What is required in the Seventh Commandment?

A: *The Seventh Commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbour's chastity, in heart, speech, and behaviour.*

Scriptural Reference:

2 Timothy 2:22; Ephesians 5:11-12

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being."

Acts 17:28

This Week

"And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one."
Zechariah 14:9

Next Week

"... Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee..."
Acts 18:9-10

A BRIEF TREATISE OF THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

3. THE BEING OF GOD (Part 2)

Q3: What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Q4: What is God?

A: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Here is, [I] Something implied. That there is a God.

[II] Expressed. John 4:24 — “*God is a Spirit.*”

What do you mean when you say, God is a Spirit?

By a spirit it means, God is an immaterial substance, of a pure, subtle, unmixed essence, not compounded of body and soul, without all extension of parts. The more spiritual God’s essence, the more noble and excellent it is. The spirits are the more refined part of the wine.

Wherein does God differ from other spirits?

(a) The angels are spirits. We must distinguish spirits. The angels are created, God is a Spirit uncreated. The angels are finite, and capable of being annihilated; the same power which made them is able to reduce them to their first nothing; but God is an infinite Spirit. The angels are confined spirits, and are confined to a place; God is an immense Spirit, and in all places at once. The angels, though spirits, are but ministering spirits (Heb. 1:14). Though they are spirits, they are servants. God is a super-excellent Spirit, the Father of spirits (Heb.12:9).

(b) The soul is a spirit. Eccles. 12:7 — “*The spirit shall return to God that gave it.*”

How does God being a Spirit, differ from the soul?

When it is said the soul is a spirit, it means that God has made it intelligible, and stamped upon it his likeness, not his essence.

But is it not said that we are made partakers of the divine nature?

By divine nature there, is meant divine qualities (2 Pet.1:4). We are made partakers of the divine nature, not by identity or union with the divine essence, but by a transformation into the divine likeness. Thus, you see how God differs from other spirits, angels and souls of men. He is a Spirit of transcendent excellence, the “Father of spirit.”

Is it not in Scripture a human shape and figure is given to God; he is said to have eyes and hands?

It is contrary to the nature of a spirit to have a corporeal substance. Luke 24:39 — “*Handle me, and see me: for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.*” Bodily members are ascribed to God, not properly, but metaphorically, and in a borrowed sense. By the right hand of the Lord is meant his power; by the eyes of the Lord is meant his wisdom. Now that God is a

Spirit, and is not capable of bodily shape or substance, is clear, for a body is visible, but God is invisible; therefore he is a Spirit. 1 Tim. 6:16 — “*Whom no man hath seen, nor can see;*” not by an eye of sense. A body is terminated, can be but in one place at once; but everywhere is in the presence of God, in all places at once; therefore he is a Spirit (Psa. 139:7, 8). God’s centre is everywhere, and his circumference is nowhere. A body being compounded of integral parts may be dissolved; but the Godhead is not capable of dissolution, he can have no end from whom all things have their beginning. So that it clearly appears that God is a Spirit, which adds to the perfection of his nature.

Application 1

If God be a Spirit, then he is impassible; he is not capable of being hurt. Wicked men set up their banners, and bend their forces against God; they are said to fight against God (Acts 5:39). But what will this fighting avail? What hurt can they do to the Deity? God is a Spirit, and therefore cannot receive any hurtful impressions. Wicked men may imagine evil against the Lord. Nahum 1:9 — “*What do ye imagine against the Lord?*” But God being a Spirit is impenetrable. The wicked may eclipse his glory, but cannot touch his essence. God can hurt his enemies, but they cannot hurt him. God is a Spirit, invisible. How can the wicked with all their forces hurt him, when they cannot see him? Hence all the attempts of the wicked against God are foolish, and prove abortive. Psa. 2:2, 4 — “*The kings of the earth set themselves against the LORD and against and against his anointed. He that sits in the heavens shall laugh.*” God is a Spirit, he can wound them, but they cannot touch him.

Application 2

If God be a Spirit, it shows the folly of the idolaters, who worship him by pictures and images. As a Spirit, we cannot make any image to represent him. Deut. 4:12 — “*The LORD spake to you out of the midst of the fire, ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude.*”

God being a Spirit is imperceptible, cannot be discerned; how then can there be any resemblance made of him? Isa. 40:18 — “*To whom then will ye liken God, or what likeness will ye compare unto him?*” How can you paint the Deity? Can we make an image of that which we never saw? You saw no similitude. God is a Spirit. It were folly to endeavour to make a picture of the soul, because it is a spiritual being, or to paint the angels, because they are spirits.

- adapted and edited from Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pp 45-47

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: 27/06/21 - £335.00, Maintenance Fund - £150.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £7,180.50

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

RHC 36 – High in the Heavens, Eternal God

High in the heavens, eternal God,
Thy goodness in full glory shines;
Thy truth shall break through every cloud
That veils and darkens thy designs.

Forever firm thy justice stands,
As mountains their foundations keep;
Wise are the wonders of thy hands;
Thy judgments are a mighty deep.

My God, how excellent thy grace,
Whence all our hope and comfort spring!
The sons of Adam in distress
Fly to the shadow of thy wing.

Life, like a fountain, rich and free,
Springs from the presence of my Lord;
And in thy light our souls shall see
The glories promised in thy word.

Issac Watts

Tune: TRURO

RHC 330 How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word;
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

Fear not, He is with thee, O be not dismayed;
For He is thy God, and will still give thee aid;
He'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters He calls thee to go,
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow;
For He will be with thee in trouble to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; His only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
He will not, He cannot, desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
He never will leave, He will never forsake.

Richard Keen

Tune: MONTGOMERY