



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. 33

LORD’S DAY 15 AUGUST 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 89:1-2; 5	Job 19:23-25
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Jonathan Kim
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	RHC 50 – “Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All”	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 119: 97-112	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Acts 24:15	Acts 25:19
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Resurrection of the Just and Unjust</i>	<i>Jesus Affirmed to be Alive</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	RHC 212 – “Hail, thou once-despised Jesus”	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

* *Congregation Stands*

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 76

Q: Which is the Ninth Commandment?

A: The Ninth Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR.

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:16

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Acts 20:35

This Week

“And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.”

Haggai 2:22

Next Week

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Acts 26:18

A BRIEF TREATISE OF THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

II. GOD AND HIS CREATION

3. THE BEING OF GOD (Part 6)

Q4: What is God?

A: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

THE UNCHANGEABLENESS OF GOD

The next attribute of God is God is unchangeableness. "I am Jehovah, I change not" (Mal 3:6). **(I)** God is *unchangeable in his nature*. **(II)** *In his decree*.

(I) *Unchangeable in his nature* — [a] No eclipse of his brightness.

God's essence shines with a fixed lustre. "*With whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning*" (James 1:17). "*Thou art the same*" (Psa 102:27). All created things are full of vicissitudes.

The crown has many successors. Kingdoms have their eclipses and convulsions. Though kingdoms have a head of gold, they have feet of clay. The heavens change. "*As a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed*" (Psa 102:26). Though the heavens shall not be destroyed as to their substance, yet they shall be changed as to their qualities; they shall melt with fervent heat, and so be more refined and purified (2 Pet 3:12). Thus heaven shall be changed, but not he who dwells in heaven.

The best saints have their eclipses and changes. Look upon a Christian in his spiritual estate, and he is full of variation. Though the seed of grace does not die, yet its beauty and activity often wither. A Christian has his aguish fits in religion. Sometimes his faith is at a high tide, sometimes low ebb; sometimes his love flames, and at another time is like fire in the embers, and he has lost his first love. How strong was David's grace at one time! "*The God of my rock, in him will I trust*" (2 Sam 22:3). At another time he says, "I shall one day perish by the hand of Saul." What Christian can say he does not find a change in his graces; that the bow of his faith never unbends. Surely we shall never meet with such Christians till we meet them in heaven.

But God is without any shadow of turning. The angels were subject to change; they were created holy, but mutable. "*The angels which kept not their first estate*" (Jude 6). These morning stars of heaven were falling stars. But God's glory shines with a fixed brightness. In God there is nothing that looks like a change, for better or worse; not better, because then he were not perfect; not worse, for then he would cease to be perfect. He is immutably good; there is no shadow of change in him.

(I) *Unchangeable in his nature* — [b] No period put to his being.

"Who only hath immortality" (1 Tim 6:16). The Godhead cannot die. An infinite essence cannot be changed into finite; but God is infinite. He is eternal, he is not mortal. To be eternal and mortal is a contradiction.

Application 1

See the excellence of the divine nature in its immutability. This is the glory of the Godhead. Mutableness denotes weakness, and is not in God, who is "*the same, yesterday and today, and for*

ever” (Heb 13:8). Men are fickle and mutable, like Reuben, “unstable as water” (Gen 49:4). Men are changeable in their principles. They are changeable in their resolutions; as the wind that blows in the east, presently turns about to the west. They resolve to be virtuous, but quickly repent of their resolutions. An apostle compares them to waves of the sea, and wandering stars (Jude 13). They are not pillars in God’s temple, but reeds. Others are changeable in their friendship. They quickly love and quickly hate. They change as the chameleon, into several colours, but God is immutable.

Application 2

See the vanity of the creature. There are changes in everything but in God. *“Men of high degree are vanity, and men of low degree are a lie”* (Psa 62:9). We look for more from the creature than God has put in it. It has two evils in it; it promises more than we find, and it fails us when we most need it. Who would look for a fixed stability in the vain creature? It is as if one build houses on the sand, where the sea comes in and overflows. The creature is true to nothing but deceit, and is constant only in its disappointments. It is no more wonderful to see changes fall out here below, than to see the moon dressing itself in a new shape and figure. Expect to meet with changes in everything but God.

Application 3

Comfort to the godly. *In case of losses*. If an estate he almost boiled away to nothing, if you lose friends by death, there is a double eclipse; but the comfort is, God is unchangeable; I may lose these things, but cannot lose my God; he never dies. “I will joy in the God of my salvation” (Hab 3:18). Flowers in the garden die, but a man’s portion remains; so outward things die and change, but *“God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever”* (Psa 73:26).

Comfort to the godly. *In case of sadness of spirit*. God seems to cast off the soul in desertion; yet he is unchangeable. He is immutable in his love; he may change his countenance, but not his heart. “I have loved thee with an everlasting love” (Jer 31:3). If once God’s electing love rises upon the soul, it never sets. “The mountains shall be removed, but my loving kindness shall not depart from thee, neither the covenant of my peace be removed” (Isa 54:10). God’s love stands faster than the mountains. His love to Christ is unchangeable; and he will no more cease loving believers than he will cease loving Christ.

Application 4

Of exhortation. Get an interest in the unchangeable God, then thou art as a rock in the sea, immovable in the midst of all changes.

(II) *Unchangeable in his decree*. What God has decreed from eternity is unalterable. *“My counsel shall stand”* (Isa 46:10). His eternal counsel or decree is immutable. If he changed his decree, it must be from some defect of wisdom or foresight, for that is the reason why men change their purposes; they see something after, which they did not see before; but this cannot be the cause why God should alter his decree, because his knowledge is perfect, he sees all things in one entire prospect before him.

Application 1

If God’s decree be eternal and unchangeable, then God does not elect upon our faith foreseen. *“The children being not yet born..., that the purpose of God according to election might stand..., as it is written, Jacob have I loved, Esau have I hated”* (Rom 9:11 & 13). We are not elected for holiness, but to holiness (Eph 1:4). If we are not justified for our faith, much less are we elected for our faith; but we are not justified for it. We are said to be justified through faith as an instrument in Eph 2:8, but not for faith as a cause; and, if not justified for faith, then much less elected. God’s decree of election is eternal and unchangeable, and therefore depends not upon faith foreseen. “As

many as were ordained to eternal life, believed" (Acts 13:48). They were not elected because they believed, but they believed because they were elected.

Application 2

If God's decree be unchangeable, it gives comfort in two cases. (1) Concerning God's providence towards his church. We are ready to quarrel with Providence, if everything does not accord with our desire. Remember God's work goes on, and nothing falls out but what he has wisely decreed from eternity. (2) God has decree troubles for the church's good. The troubles of God's church is like the angel's troubling the water, which made way for healing his people (John 5:4). He has decreed troubles in the church. *"His fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem"* (Isa 31:9). *"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried"* (Dan 12:10). God lets the waters of affliction be poured on his people to make them white. Therefore murmur not at God's dealings; every thing shall promote God's design, and fulfil his decree.

Application 3

Comfort to the godly in regard of their salvation. 2 Tim 2:19 — *"The foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his."* God's counsel of election is unchangeable. Once elected for ever elected. *"I will not blot his name out of the book of life"* (Rev 3:5). The book of God's decree has no errata in it, no blottings out. Once justified, never unjustified. *"Repentance shall be hid from mine eyes"* (Hos 13:14). God never repents of his electing love. *"He loved them unto the end"* (John 13:1). Therefore, if you are a believer, comfort yourself with this, the immutability of God's decree.

Application 4

A word to the unbeliever, who marched furiously against God and his people, let them know that God's decree is unchangeable. God will not alter it, nor can they break it; and while they resist God's will they fulfil it. There is a two-fold will of God — the will of God's precept, and of his decree. While the wicked resist the will of God's precept, they fulfil the will of his permissive decree. Judas betrays Christ, Pilate condemns him, the soldiers crucify him; while they resist the will of God's precepts, they fulfil the will of his permissive decree (Acts 4:28). God commands one thing, they do the contrary; to keep the Sabbath, and they profane it. While they disobey his command, they fulfil his permissive decree; his decrees to permit their sin, and to punish them for their sin permitted.

- adapted and edited from Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pp 66-71

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: 01/08/21 - £1030.00, Maintenance Fund - £100.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £7,330.50

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:

- 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

RHC 50 – Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All

Jesus my Lord, my God, my All,
Hear me, blest Saviour, when I call;
Hear me, and from Thy dwelling-place
Pour down the riches of Thy grace:
Jesus, my Lord, I Thee adore;
O make me love Thee more and more.

Jesus, too late I Thee have sought,
How can I love Thee as I ought?
And how extol thy matchless fame,
The glorious beauty of Thy Name?
Jesus, my Lord, I Thee adore;
O make me love Thee more and more.

Jesus, what didst Thou find in me,
That Thou hast dealt so lovingly?
How great the joy that Thou hast brought!
Oh, far exceeding hope or thought!
Jesus, my Lord, I Thee adore;
O make me love Thee more and more.

Jesus, of Thee shall be my song;
To Thee my heart and soul belong:
All that I am or have is Thine,
And Thou, my Saviour, Thou art mine.
Jesus, my Lord, I Thee adore;
Oh, make me love Thee more and more

Henry Collins

Tune: ST. CHRYSOSTOM

RHC 212 – Hail, Thou once-despised Jesus!

Hail, Thou once-despised Jesus!
Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou agonizing Savior,
Bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merits we find favor,
Life is given thru Thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed,
Thou hast full atonement made.
All Thy people are forgiven
Thru the virtue of Thy blood;
Opened is the gate of heaven,
Peace is made 'twixt man and God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
There forever to abide;
All the heav'nly host adore Thee,
Seated at Thy Father's side:
There for sinners Thou art pleading;
There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding
Till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing
Thou art worthy to receive;
Loudest praises, without ceasing,
Meet it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
Bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
Help to sing our Savior's merits,
Help to chant Immanuel's praise!

John Bakewell

Tune: HYFRYDOL