



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. 34

LORD’S DAY 22 AUGUST 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 95:1-3, 6	Psalm 139:23-24
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	RHC 60 – “Ye Servants of God, your Master Proclaim”	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 119:113-128	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Acts 26:16-20	Acts 26:28
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>God’s Life-Giving and Life- Transforming Grace</i>	<i>Almost Christians</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	RHC 294 – “Grace! Tis a Charming Sound”	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

* *Congregation Stands*

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 77

Q: What is required in the Ninth Commandment?

A: The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour’s good name, especially in witness-bearing.

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:16, Zechariah 8:16, Proverbs 14:5, Proverbs 14:25

MEMORY VERSE

Last 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

This 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

Next Week

“Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.”

Acts 28:27

BIBLICAL HELP FOR JOB SATISFACTION

A recent survey focused on questions of work and identity found quite a high level of dissatisfaction with employment. Only 16% said “I feel that in work I’m doing things that are really meaningful”, and just 10% “I believe my current work is part of my calling and vocation”. 30% said “I feel insecure about how long I will be able to hold on to my current job.” (January 2021 YouGov Poll for Theos). It is easy to make too much or too little of gainful employment. Job satisfaction is a modern concept in many ways but that is not to say it is not to some extent a biblical principle. Work is positive but it is still under the curse of the Fall and provides much weariness and vexation of spirit. Our problem is that we often tie our identity and status to our work, and this adds to our troubles. We need to find our satisfaction and contentment in working to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Ecclesiastes shows the trouble that work, along with other things can bring. When we seek our ultimate purpose in these things in themselves, we are quickly disappointed and frustrated. It presents these truths to wean our hearts from finding our highest good and purpose in the things of this world. But the book also presents a positive message of resting satisfied in living our lives before God to His glory. One of these passages is in Ecclesiastes chapter 3. Amid the changing events of God’s providence, we can steer a steady course by seeking contentment in submitting to His will and doing all to His glory. Even the best circumstances should encourage us to follow our duty to our Maker and live for eternity in the midst of time. In Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 we are to respond to God’s goodness towards us by rejoicing in His gifts with a spiritual joy. We should enjoy God’s blessings (including work) as the good of all our efforts in our labours and we should do good (that which is well pleasing to God). Even this ability to enjoy them is the free gift of God.

In Ecclesiastes 9:10 we are counselled to pursue the duties of our calling vigorously in the appropriate time and way. This comes in the context of pursuing life to the glory of God, including a lawful vocation (Ecclesiastes 9:7-9). We are to exert the utmost of the ability which God gives, using the strength and comfort received by the use of His benefits to carry out our personal duties and responsibilities. Since time is short and we cannot pursue these things to the glory of God once body and soul are separated in death, we should make use of all strength and comforts to follow our calling now. Since our opportunities for work are limited we cannot make it our ultimate purpose for living. Rather we must make it serve our ultimate purpose, which is to glorify God and to enjoy him.

Whatever our hand finds to do, we must do it with all our might (Eccl. 9:10). It is not about whether we find work that enhances our self-worth but about how we can best glorify God in all we do. We can do that now and do not need to wait for an opportunity to come up that we feel would better help us to maximise our gifts. That is true job satisfaction. Alexander Nisbet applies these principles further to gain the right Godward perspective on our calling in the following updated extract.

1. JOB SATISFACTION IS THE GIFT OF GOD

We should make best use of the Lord’s generosity in the variety of the outward comforts of this life. This is by being serious and diligent in the duties of our calling, watching every opportunity and exerting all the strength and cheerfulness of spirit acquired by the good things of God in doing Him service. If we do not do this, our table will become a snare to us and our comforts

will be turned into curses. This is inferred from urging us to make cheerful use of the generous provision from God mentioned in Ecclesiastes 9:7-9.

2. JOB SATISFACTION IS IN EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Men often have both the opportunity and power to do good but through neglect and carelessness are ready to let it slip. This is a very bad return to God for his generosity. The Spirit of God therefore finds it necessary to stir us up to take hold of every opportunity of duty, as a proof of our thankfulness to God for His bounty.

3. JOB SATISFACTION IS IN EXERTING OUR UTMOST

The utmost of our ability is to be shown in the discharge of every commanded duty, considering the danger of doing the work of the Lord negligently (Jeremiah 42:10). The more fervent, serious and vigorous we are in walking in the ways of the Lord, the more our strength will increase (Proverbs 10:29).

4. JOB SATISFACTION IS IN GLORIFYING GOD NOW

The opportunity for these duties in which we can honour God and advance our own and other's salvation is confined within the bounds of this life. Considering this should sharpen our minds to devise ways of honouring God and doing good to our own souls and others with the utmost of our abilities. This is a reason for diligence in our duty, while we have opportunity. There is "no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave" (Eccl. 9:10).

5. JOB SATISFACTION HAS AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

Everyone is in a continual journey towards their long home. Whether we are active or resting we are hasting towards that. We should see ourselves from this perspective and be moved to employ our time and strength to the utmost, in honouring God and working out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12). This verse speaks of everyone as being in a constant motion towards their grave. There is *"no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave"* (Eccl. 9:10) to which they are going or hasting (as it may be translated).

— adapted and edited from Reformation Scotland — *Alexander Nisbet* (1623-69) was a Covenanting minister and Bible expositor in and around Irvine in Ayrshire. He was ordained in 1646 and was removed from his church in 1662 for refusing to comply with the re-establishment of Episcopacy.

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: 08/08/21 - £605.00

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 60 – Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful Name;
The Name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save.
And still He is nigh - His presence we
have;
The great congregation His triumph shall
sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne,"
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the
Lamb.

Then let us adore and give Him His right -
All glory and pow'r, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite
love.

Charles Wesley
Tune: LYONS

RHC 294 – Grace! 'Tis a Charming Sound

Grace! 'tis a charming sound,
Harmonious to the ear;
Heav'n with the echo shall resound,
And all the earth shall hear.

Chorus:
Saved by grace alone!
This is all my plea:
Jesus died for all mankind,
And Jesus died for me.

'Twas grace that wrote my name
In life's eternal book;
'Twas grace that gave me to the Lamb,
Who all my sorrows took.
[Chorus]

Grace taught my wand'ring feet
To tread the heav'nly road;
And new supplies each hour I meet,
While pressing on to God.
[Chorus]

Grace taught my soul to pray,
And made mine eyes o'erflow:
'Twas grace which kept me to this day,
And will not let me go.
[Chorus]

O let Thy grace inspire
My soul with strength divine;
May all my pow'rs to Thee aspire,
And all my days be Thine.
[Chorus]

Philip Doddridge / Augustus M. Toplady
Tune: Grace! 'tis a charming sound