



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. 39

LORD’S DAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Prelude

2 Peter 3:18

Call to Worship

Ps Timothy Poh

Opening Prayer

RHC 36 – “High in the Heavens, Eternal God”

Opening Hymn *

Psalm 121

Responsive Reading

1 Corinthians :1-9

Scriptural Text

Ps Timothy Poh

Pastoral Prayer

Grow in Grace and in the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Sermon Message

RHC 429 – “We Have Not Known Thee as We Ought”

Closing Hymn *

Ps Timothy Poh

Benediction

The Lord Bless You

Postlude

* Congregation Stands

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 82

Q: Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A: No mere man since the Fall is able, in this life, PERFECTLY to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.

Comments:

The Law of God being thus laid before us briefly in the Ten Commandments, the question arises – Is any person able to keep this Law. This answer declares to us that there is none. It says that every person breaks the Law daily in thought, word, and act. The only exceptions to this general rule are – Jesus Christ, Adam before the Fall, and the saints now in heaven.

Scriptural Reference:

Ecclesiastes 7:20, Psalm 14:3

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

John 1:29

This 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

Next 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

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF OLD AGE (Part 1)

Introduction

The world is facing a serious problem and it is not just covid 19. There is a matter of grave concern in the changing demographic profile of people for many governments and leaders and it has to do with the issue of ageing.

The Word of God has much to teach us about the process and the purpose of ageing, and how to tolerate it. Solomon in Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 gives us an allegorical understanding of the process of ageing and the gradual breakdown of the bodily functions in a figurative manner. There are precious duties and examples of the seniors for us today, and **the glorious testimonies of older people, can be an inspiration and a blessing to us** as we examine it from a biblical perspective.

Old Age is a Blessing from God

The Eastern world has a reverential view of the seniors in our midst. In the Chinese tradition, we are told to honour and respect our elders from young. Proper attitudes toward ageing are needful for Christians. The Bible teaches that old age is not a curse but a blessing of God. Deuteronomy 5:33 says, *“Ye shall in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may **prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.**”*

The inspired Word of God speaks well of believers who died at a ripe old age as good testimonies having fulfilled God’s purpose for them in living a meaningful life. Genesis 25:8 says, *“Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and **died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years;** and was gathered to his people.”* This can be said of Joshua and Moses too.

In fact, in the New Testament, Paul presents long life and hence old age as a reward from God for obedient children to their parents as Exodus 20:12 says, *“Honour thy father and thy mother: that **thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**”* (Eph. 6:1, 1 Kings 3:14). God blesses the aged godly person as Proverbs 16:31 says, *“The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.”*

Characteristics of Old Age

In the Bible, it is noted that the aged people are often regarded as prudent and resourceful, with valuable experiences and abilities that can benefit others especially to the younger generation. Consider Proverbs 9:10-11, which says, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased;”* Joel 1:2-3 says, *“Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? **Tell ye your children of it,** and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation”* and Deuteronomy 32:7 says, *“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and **he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.**”*

The bible presents senior women too in a good light. Older women are also presented and noted **as effective and godly trainers and useful teachers** that can be used of God to minister to the younger ladies in the church as Titus 2:3-5 says, *“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”*

Who can be a better mentor and instructor than an experienced senior brother or sister in Christ? The aged men also have their spiritual duties and are to set a good example to other men too as Titus 2:2-3 teaches, *“That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.”*

Care of the Aged

God has prescribed guidelines for all of us as believers to **have a spiritual and moral responsibility to care for the needs of the seniors**. For example, we are told clearly not to be insolent to our seniors as they deserve our respect and honour. 1 Timothy 5:1-2 says, *“Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.”* and Leviticus 19:32 says, *“Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.”* Fathers and mothers are to be highly regarded and honoured above all in Proverbs 23:22, which says, **“Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.”**

We have a special **obligation to take care and provide for the needs of our aged especially the widows and the needy in the church** as 1 Timothy 5:16 says, *“If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.”* The aged is a respected person created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27) and we ought to respect and honour them with dignity. Old age is considered the blessing to a positive and fulfilling life devoted to God with a sense of responsible stewardship.

We are to help the seniors in maintaining or even improving their memory skills so as to fight cognitive decline. We can keep our minds sharp by playing some intellectual games or regular exercises as well. We need to challenge our brain with meaningful mental exercises to activate cognitive processes that help maintain individual brain cells and stimulate our minds and be mentally active with the pursuing of a hobby, or even learning a new skill or playing a game or reading a book or take care of a pet or doing just word puzzles. Sufficient rest and a balanced diet and good exercises (ie walking or swimming) will go a long way to keeping us fit and useful for the Lord till our day is up. Make an effort to be active physically, mentally, and socially and eat wisely for it affect the way you feel and your overall health as well and seek the Lord often in prayer and the meditation of his word.

The elderly is vulnerable to sickness, loneliness and even depression and we are to be sensitive to their needs. For example they will experience loss of freedom in their mobility, loss of health or even experience sadness and bereavement when a loved one passed away. We can make a difference by offering our spiritual and emotional support with much prayers unto the Lord. Bring them to church or prayer meeting or to an outing in the garden or the park and learn to listen to them with patience and love and offer a ray of hope and

comfort. Help them to connect well with others for that will help them to interact and have a better perspective of life. Assist them personally by being a friend or family member and if necessary to see a doctor or specialist (ie geriatrician) and get a diagnosis and medical treatment. Accompany him or her to medical appointments or outings or meals, and offer your availability as a form of moral support.

The Biblical Example of an Aged Leader and His Contributions

We are soberly reminded of the good testimony of Caleb, who at the ripe old age of 85 came to ask Joshua for permission and he took possession of that inheritance of Hebron after a hard fight against a formidable foe (Jos. 14:6-15). The elderly have made their mark in life that is laudable. Joshua 14:10-11 says, *“And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.”*

Will you press on in your 70s and 80s in the Lord even though we may be weaker in our physical constitution? Over the years, these seniors have spent their time in their secular work and in the home in raising children, and in upbringing and training the next generation. They have a wealth of wisdom to share, experiences to relate, wise counsel from a productive life to impart to the next generation. They are precious and are to be greatly honoured before they leave us beyond this life. They are to be treasured and cherished and treated with love and respect by all.

Even the natural world seems to teach us to honour the old with respect. For example, the older Douglas Fir or the Pine trees are, the more majestic and worthy they are. The older cheeses are, the costlier they are for its exquisite taste. By corollary, the older a man is, the more he is to be appreciated by others. Young people are missing one of the greatest opportunities available when they do not get to know the elderly and fellowship with them and learn from them. All these godly saints are towering pillars of faith and wisdom that can be passed into our midst and their loss one day will be our loss. There are precious lessons that we can learn from them in our understanding of the views of the world.

Old age does not mean that the person is without purpose or any usefulness for the Lord. The young often fail to recognise and appreciate the talents of the elderly. There are some of the elderly people who have accepted challenges of work in the church, missions and teaching and have done a wonderful work serving in the various ministries of the church. Get to know and appreciate the elderly in your church or family. Some of our elders, deacons, members and pastors are in their mid 60s or in their 70s and they are still serving faithfully in the Lord. As you interact with them, you might be surprised by their wisdom, candour, and their ability to lead and guide you with the word of God and spiritual prudence.

Remember, from a Christian point of view, **growing old is neither a sin nor a dreadful disease to be avoided or a disastrous woe to society** but it is our privilege and joy. It is a prerogative given by God to His redeemed to grow old in a gracious manner. It is an opportunity to be useful and productive a little longer in the service of our family and of our God and old age has its own wonder and beauty for all to behold. *(To be continued).*

— adapted and edited from Pastor Jack Sin, *Church Bulletin*, Sovereign Hope BP Church, Singapore

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

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.

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.

Please note that there is no Afternoon Service today.

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: 12/09/21 - £757.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £7,480.50

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.

Isaac Watts
Tune: TRURO

RHC 429 - We Have Not Known Thee as We Ought

We have not known thee as we ought,
Nor learned thy wisdom, grace, and pow'r;
The things of earth have filled our thought,
And trifles of the passing hour.
Lord, give us light thy truth to see,
And make us wise in knowing thee.

We have not feared thee as we ought,
Nor bowed beneath thine awful eye,
Nor guarded deed, and word, and thought,
Remembering that God was nigh.
Lord, give us faith to know thee near,
And grant the grace of holy fear.

We have not loved thee as we ought,
Nor cared that we are loved by thee;
Thy presence we have coldly sought,
And feebly longed thy face to see.
Lord, give a pure and loving heart
To feel and own the love thou art.

We have not served thee as we ought;
Alas! the duties left undone,
The work with little fervor wrought,
The battles lost, or scarcely won!
Lord, give the zeal, and give the might,
For thee to toil, for thee to fight.

When shall we know thee as we ought,
And fear, and love, and serve aright!
When shall we, out of trial brought,
Be perfect in the land of light!
Lord, may we day by day prepare
To see thy face, and serve thee there.

Thomas Benson Pollock
Tune: ST. CHRYSOSTOM