



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. 26

LORD’S DAY 27 JUNE 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 57:7-11	Psalm 18:46-50
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	RHC 34 – “Crown Him with Many Crowns”	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 118	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Acts 17:27-28	Zechariah 13:1-2
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>God Is Not Far From Us</i>	<i>The Double Cleansing</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	“Ye Humble Souls, Approach Your God”	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 69

Q: What is forbidden in the Sixth Commandment?

A: The Sixth Commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbour unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.

Comments:

This commandment respects *life*. It acknowledges that God is its Giver, and that therefore no one has a right to take it away without just reason. It commands us to take all proper care of our health, as well as of the health of others. And it forbids us to take away our own life – which is *suicide*; or the life of another – which is *murder*.

Scriptural Reference:

Ephesians 5:29, Matthew 10:23, Mark 6:31, Psalm 82:3-4, Job 29:13, 1 Kings 18:4

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.”

Zechariah 10:12

This Week

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

Next Week

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

Acts 17:28

A BRIEF TREATISE OF THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

2. *The Scriptures (Part 2)*

Q2: What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A: The Word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

[2] Are all the books in the Bible of the same divine authority?

Those which we call canonical.

[3] Why are the Scriptures called canonical?

Because the Word is a rule of faith, a canon to direct our lives. The Word is the judge of controversies, the rock of infallibility. That only is to be received for truth which agrees with Scripture, as the transcript with the original. All maxims in divinity are to be brought to the touchstone of Scripture, as all measures are brought to the standard.

[4] Are the Scriptures a complete rule?

The Scripture is a full and perfect canon, containing in it all things necessary to salvation. 2 Tim 3:15 — *“From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation.”* It shows what we are to believe; and what we are to practise. It gives us an exact model of the Christian faith, and perfectly instructs us in the deep things of God.

[5] What is the main scope and end of Scripture?

To reveal a way of salvation. It makes a clear discovery of Christ. John 20:31 — *“These things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that believing ye might have life through his name.”* The design of the Word is to be a test whereby our grace is to be tried; a sea-mark to show us what rocks are to be avoided. The Word is to sublimate and quicken our affections; it is to be our directory and consolatory; it is to waft us over to the land of promise.

[6] Who should have the power of interpreting Scripture?

The Scripture is to be its own interpreter, or rather the Spirit speaking in it. Nothing can cut the diamond but the diamond; nothing can interpret Scripture but Scripture. But the question is concerning hard places of Scripture, where the weak Christian is ready to wade beyond his depth; who shall interpret here? The answer is: - The church of God has appointed some to expound and interpret Scripture; therefore he has given gifts to men. The several pastors of churches, like bright constellations, give light to dark Scriptures. Mal. 2:7 — *“The priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth.”*

But this is to pin our faith upon men.

We are to receive nothing for truth but what is agreeable to the Word. As God has given to his ministers gifts for interpreting obscure places, so he has given to his people so much of the spirit of discerning, that they can tell (at least in things necessary to salvation) what is consonant to Scripture, and what is not. 1 Cor 12:10 — *“To one is given a spirit of prophecy, to another discerning of spirits.”* God has endued his people with such a measure of wisdom and discretion, that they can discern between truth and error, and judge what is sound and what is spurious. Acts 17:11 — *“The Bereans searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”* They weighed the doctrine they heard, whether it was agreeable to Scripture, though Paul and Silas were their teachers (2 Tim. 3:16).

Application One:

See the wonderful goodness of God, who, besides the light of nature, has committed to us sacred Scriptures. The heathen are enveloped in ignorance. Psa. 147:20 — *“As for his judgments, they have not known them.”* We have this blessed Book of God to resolve all our doubts, to point out a way of life to us. John 15:22 — *“Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?”* God having given us his written Word to be our directory takes away all excuses from men. God has given you his Word as a lamp to your feet; therefore if you go wrong, you do it wilfully. For God has given you a rule to go by, he has written his law with his own finger; therefore, if you obey not, you have no apology left. John 15:22 — *“Now you have no cloak for your sins.”*

Application Two:

Since all Scripture is of divine inspiration, then: —

It condemns the Antinomians, who lay aside the Old Testament as useless, and out of date. God has stamped a divine majesty upon both Testaments. The two Testaments are the two wells of salvation. The comforts of the gospel in the New Testament have their rise from the Old. The great promise of the Messiah is in the Old Testament, *“A virgin shall conceive and bear a son”* (Isa. 7:14). In addition, the moral law, in some parts of it, speaks gospel — *“I am the Lord thy God”* (Exo. 20:2). The saints’ great charter, where God promises to “sprinkle clean water upon them, and put his Spirit within them,” is to be found primarily in the Old Testament, Ezek. 36:25, 26.

It condemns the Enthusiasts, who, pretending to have the Spirit, lay aside the whole Bible, and say the Scripture is dead letter, and they live above Scripture. Let not men so talk of a revelation from the Spirit, but suspect it to be an imposture. The Spirit of God acts regularly, it works in and by the Word; and he that pretends to a new light, which is either above the Word, or contrary to it, abuses both himself and the Spirit. *It condemns the “sighters” of Scripture*; such as those who can go whole weeks and months and never read the Word. They lay it aside as rusty armour; they prefer a play or romance before Scripture. Oh, how many can be looking at their faces in a glass all the morning, but their eyes begin to be sore when they look upon a Bible! Heathen die for lack of Scripture, and “sighters” in contempt of it.

It condemns the abusers of Scripture. Those who mud and poison this pure crystal fountain with their corrupt glosses, and who wrest Scripture (2 Pet. 3:16). The Greek word is, they set it upon the rack; they give wrong interpretations of it, not comparing Scripture with Scripture.

Application Three:

If the Scripture be of divine inspiration, then be exhorted:

(1) To study the Scripture. It is a copy of God's will. Be Scripture-men and women, Bible-Christians. "Search the Scriptures." This blessed Book will fill your head with knowledge, and your heart with grace. Col. 3:16 — *"Let the word of God dwell in you richly."* It excites to holiness; it gives a prospect of eternity! Oh, then, search the Scripture! make the Word familiar to you.

Read the Bible with reverence. The ark wherein the law was put was overlaid with pure gold, and was carried on bars, that the Levites might not touch it (Exo. 25:14). Why was this, but to give reverence to the law? Read with seriousness. It is a matter of life and death; by this Word you must be tried; conscience and Scripture are the jury God will proceed by, in judging you. Read the Word with affection. Get your hearts quickened with the Word; go to it to fetch fire. Luke 24:32 - *"Did not our hearts burn within us? Labour that the Word may not be only the lamp to direct, but a fire to warm. Read the Scripture, not only as a history, but as a love letter sent you from God, which may affect your hearts. Pray that the same Spirit that wrote the Word may assist you in reading it; that God's Spirit would show you the wonderful things of his law (Psa. 119:18).*

(2) Be exhorted to prize the written Word (Job 23:12). David valued the Word more than gold. What are the promises but the water of life to renew fainting spirits? Is it sin that troubles? Here is a Scripture cordial, Psa. 65:3 — *"Iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions thou shalt purge them away;"* or, as it is in the Hebrews, "thou shalt cover them."

(3) Believe the Word written. Give credence to the Word! It is breathed from God's own mouth. Did you believe the glorious rewards the Scripture speaks of, would you not give diligence to make your election sure? Did you believe the infernal torments the Scripture speaks of, would it not put you into a cold sweat, and cause a trembling at heart for sin? 1 John 2:14 — It conduces much to our sanctification; therefore sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth, are put together (2 These. 2:13). If the Word written be not believed, it is like writing on water, which makes no impression.

(4) Love the Word written. Psa. 119:97 — *"Oh, how I love thy law!"* David counted the Word *"sweeter than honey and the honeycomb"* (Psa. 19:10). There is that in Scripture which may breed delight. It shows us the way to spiritual riches: Deut 28:5, Prov. 3:10; to long life, Psa. 34:12; to a kingdom, Heb. 12:28. Jer. 15:16 — *"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and they were the joy and rejoicing of my heart."*

(5) Conform to Scripture. Let us lead Scripture lives. That the Bible might be seen printed in our lives. Do what the Word commands. Obedience is an excellent way of commenting upon the Bible. Psa. 86:11 — *"I will walk in thy truth."* Let the Word be the sun-dial by which you set your life.

(6) Contend for Scripture. Though we should not be of contentious spirits, yet we ought to contend for the Word of God. The Scripture is beset with enemies; heretics fight against it, we must therefore *“contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints”* (Jude 3). The saints of old were both advocates and martyrs for truth; they would hold fast Scripture, though it were with the loss of their lives.

(7) Be thankful to God for the Scriptures. What mercy is it that God has not only acquainted us what his will is, but that he has made it known by writing! The Word written is a surer way of knowing God’s mind. 2 Pet.1:18 & 19 — *“This voice which came from heaven we heard...we have also a more sure word of prophecy.”* We are not left in doubtful suspense that we should not know what to believe, but we have an infallible rule to go by.

(8) Adore God’s distinguishing grace, if you have felt the power and authority of the Word upon your conscience (Psa. 119:50); Then, bless God that he has not only given you his Word to be a rule of holiness, but his grace to be a principle of holiness, and has sealed it upon your heart, and made it effectual. Can you say it is of divine inspiration, because you have felt it to be of lively operation? Oh, free grace! that God should send out his Word, and heal you, and not others! That the same Scripture which to them is a dead letter, should be to you a savour of life!

- adapted and edited from Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pp 30-38

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: 06/06/21 - £920.00, 13/06/21 - £820.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £7,030.50

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 34 – Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him Who died for thee;
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Thru all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love:
Behold His hands and side -
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life:
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife
For those He came to save;
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n:
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit, thru Him giv'n
From yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise,
For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, thru endless days
Adored and magnified.

Matthew Bridges / Godfrey Thring

Tune - DIADEMATA

Ye Humble Souls, Approach Your God

Ye humble souls, approach your God
With songs of sacred praise,
For he is good, immensely good,
And kind are all his ways.

All nature owns his guardian care,
In him we live and move;
But nobler benefits declare
The wonders of his love.

He gave his Son, his only Son,
To ransom rebel worms;
'Tis here he makes his goodness known
In it diviner forms.

To this dear refuge, Lord we come,
'Tis here our hope relies;
A safe defense, a peaceful home,
When storms of trouble rise.

Thine eye beholds, with kind regard,
The souls who trust in thee;
Their humble hope thou wilt regard,
With bliss divinely free.

Great God, to thy Almighty love,
What honors shall we raise?
Not all the raptured songs above,
Can render equal praise.

Anne Steele

Tune - ARLINGTON