



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. 35

LORD’S DAY 29 AUGUST 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 96:1-4, 9	Psalm 98:1-4
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 119:129-144	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Acts 27:18-25	Acts 28:2
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Believer in a Storm</i>	<i>Kindling a Spiritual Fire</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	RHC 317 – “The Solid Rock”	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
* <i>Congregation Stands</i>		

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 78

Q: What is forbidden in the Ninth Commandment?

A: The Ninth Commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour’s good name.

Comment:

This commandment refers to our *words*. It commands us to be careful to speak *the truth* at all times, to stand up for it when it is assailed, and to seek to advance it by all means in our power. And it forbids us to do anything which might make others believe what is not true – which is *lying*; and especially where anyone’s character is concerned – which is *slander*. In ordinary intercourse the rule is, Speak the truth in love. In witness-bearing the rule is, Speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Scriptural Reference:

Ephesians 4:31, Psalm 15:3

MEMORY VERSE

Last 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

This 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

Next Week

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 1:1

A BRIEF TREATISE OF THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

II. GOD AND HIS CREATION

3. THE BEING OF GOD (Part 7)

Q4: What is God?

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

THE WISDOM OF GOD

The wisdom of God is his essential property, whereby, by one simple and eternal act, he knows both himself and all possible things perfectly, and according to which he makes, directs, and orders all future things for his own glory.

“He is wise in heart” (Job 9:4), that is, he is most wise. God only is wise; he solely and wholly possesses all wisdom; therefore he is called *“the only wise God”* (1 Tim 1:17). All the treasures of wisdom are locked up in him, and no creature can have any wisdom but as God is pleased to give it out of his treasury. God is perfectly wise; there is no defect in his wisdom, and he is the exemplar and pattern of wisdom, and the pattern must be perfect (Matt 5:48). God’s wisdom appears in two things. I. *His infinite intelligence*. II. *His exact curious working*.

I. His infinite intelligence. He knows the most profound secrets (Dan 2:28). He knows the thoughts, which are the most intricate subtle things. Amos 4:13 — *“He declareth to man what is his thought.”* Let sin be contrived ever so politically, God will pull off all masks and disguises, and make a heart-anatomy. He knows all future contingencies, and all things before him one clear prospect.

II. His exact curious working. He is wise in heart; his wisdom lies in his works. These works of God are bound up in three great volumes, where we may read his wisdom.

[1] The work of creation

The creation is both a monument of God’s power, and a looking-glass in which we may see his wisdom. None but a wise God could so curiously contrive the world. God’s wisdom does appear in the beautiful variety of creatures which he has made above and below. *“O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom has thou made them all”* (Psa 104:24). There is nothing to be seen but miracles of wisdom.

[2] The work of redemption

God’s wisdom does appear in his admirable contrivance of the way of redemption through his Son, Jesus Christ, whereby his justice is fully satisfied, and his people are graciously saved. Mercy had a mind to save sinners, and was loath that the justice of God should be wronged. What then should be done to save man? The wisdom of God stepped in; that Christ should be made sin, yet know no sin; that God should condemn

the sin, yet save the sinner! The means by which salvation is applied sets forth God's wisdom; that salvation should be by faith, not by works. The way of working faith declares God's wisdom. It is wrought by the word preached. *"Faith comes by hearing"* (Rom 10:17). When works by weal tools, make use of men who are of like passions with ourselves, and by them converts, then the power is plainly seen to be of God. *"We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us"* (2 Cor 4:7). Here in us God's wisdom seen, that no flesh may glory in his presence.

[3] The work of government

The wisdom of God does display in his excellency of all his creatures. (1.) In his government of unreasonable creatures — directing them unto their ends, though they have no reason to guide them. (2.) In his government of reasonable creatures that are wicked — overruling all their actions for his own glory, though they be intended by them for his dishonour. *"Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee"* (Psa 76:10). (3.) In his government of his church and people. The disposal of his special favours to the most unworthy, that he might reap all the glory — his qualifying and making use of instruments in great works beyond their own thoughts and designs — his reasonable provisions for his people — his strange preservation of them from malice of subtle and powerful enemies — his promoting his own interests in the world, by the means which men use to subvert it, and the like, do evidently declare the infinite wisdom of God.

Application 1

Adore the wisdom of God. It is an infinite deep; the angels cannot search it. *"His ways are past finding out"* (Rom 10:33). As we should adore, so we should rest in the wisdom of God. God sees what condition is best for us. Did we believe the wisdom of God, it would keep us from murmuring.

Rest in God's wisdom. (1.) In lack of spiritual comfort. God is wise; he sees it good sometimes that we should be without comfort. Perhaps we should be lifted up with spiritual enlargements, as Paul, with his revelations (2 Cor 12:7). God sees humility to be better for us than joy. It is better to lack comfort, and be humble, than to have it, and be proud. (2.) In lack of bodily strength, rest in God's wisdom. He sees what is best. Perhaps the less health the more grace; weaker in body, the stronger in faith. *"Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day"* (2 Cor 4:16). Sickness is God's lance, to let out the imposthume of sin (Isa 27:9). (3.) In case of God's providences to his church, let us rest in God's wisdom. He knows best what he has to do. *"His footsteps are not known"* (Psa 77:19). Trust him where you cannot trace him. God is most in his way, when we think he is most out of the way. (4.) In case we are low in the world, or have but little oil in our cruse, let us rest in God's wisdom. He sees it best; it is to cure pride and wantonness. God saw riches would be a snare unto you (1 Tim 6:9). Are you troubled that God has prevented a snare? God will make you rich in faith. What you lack in temporals shall be made up in spirituals. God will give you more of his love. You are weak in estate, but God will make you strong in assurance. (5.) In the case of bereavement, let us rest satisfied in God's wisdom. God takes away these, because he would have more of our love; he breaks these crutches, that we may live more upon him by faith.

Application 2

If God be infinitely wise, let us go to him for wisdom, as Solomon did. *“Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart; and the speech pleased the Lord”* (1 Kgs 3:9). Here is encouragement for us; *“If any one lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth liberally, and upbraideth not”* (Jam 1:5). Wisdom is in God, as in the fountain; his wisdom is imparted, not impaired; his stock is not spent by giving. Go then to God. Pray — “Lord, do thou light my lamp; in thy light shall I see light; give me wisdom, to know the fallacy of my heart, the subtleties of the Evil One; to walk jealously towards myself, faithfully towards thee, prudently towards others; guide me by they counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory.

— adapted and edited from Thomas Vincent, *The Shorter Catechism explained from Scripture*, pp 29-30; Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pp 71-77

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: 15/08/21 - £512.00

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

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to His voice,
New life the dead receive,
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honours of Thy name.

Charles Wesley

Tune: LYDIA

RHC 317 – The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:
On Christ the solid Rock I stand -
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.
[Refrain]

His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.
[Refrain]

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
[Refrain]

Edward Mote

Tune: SOLID ROCK