



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. 05

LORD’S DAY 31 JANUARY 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 150:1-6	Psalm 51:1-2
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	<i>How Shall I Sing That Majesty</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 97	---
<i>Second Hymn</i>	<i>Psalm 9 verse 9-12</i> <i>(to the tune of Irish)</i>	
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Jeremiah 50:1	Hebrews 12:12
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Comforts From the Fall of Babylon</i>	<i>Remedy for Spiritual Decline</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	<i>Beneath the Cross of Jesus</i>	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 48

Q: What are we specially taught by these words, ‘before me’, in the First Commandment?

A: These words – ‘BEFORE ME’ – in the First Commandment, teach us, That God who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of HAVING ANY OTHER GOD.

Comments:

The special reason here given why we should observe this commandment is, that God, who seeth all things, keeps an eye especially on the breaking of this commandment, and punishes the offence with his sorest displeasure.

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 44:20, 21; Romans 1:20, 21

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”

Hebrews 11:6

This Week

“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”

Jeremiah 32:27

Next Week

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2

HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

Since the gospel was first preached in the world, men have objected that God is unjust to require in His law what they cannot perform, because, as sinners, they are wholly incapable of doing any good and are inclined to all wickedness. In a similar vein, men have argued that if God is sovereign in salvation, they cannot be blamed for their lack of faith or grace: “Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?” (Rom. 9:19). In other words, lack of ability is held to imply lack of responsibility.

Both lines of argument are exposed as false when man’s present fallen state is contrasted with his original state of knowledge, holiness, freedom, and communion with God as his Creator. As a creature made in God’s image, Adam knew and loved God and had the power, will, and freedom to do God’s will.

Adam threw away these gifts when he yielded to lies and fell into sin. His knowledge of the truth was suppressed in unrighteousness; his fallen heart was turned away from God; the purposes and desires of his heart became only evil continually; and his will was enslaved to sin (Gen. 6:5).

Adam inflicted these terrible losses on himself and his offspring. However, such losses could not free him from the terms of the covenant of works, by which he was bound to obey the law of God written in his heart: “This do, and thou shalt live” (Luke 10:28). Though blurred and defaced by sin, that law is still written in the human heart today, and all men are bound to obey it, whether they will or not, whether they can or not. Theologians sometimes speak of conscience, or “the light of nature,” when referring to this law written in the heart (Rom. 2:13–15).

God called Cain to account for his sin in murdering his brother, Abel (Gen. 4:9–12). According to His severe judgment, God punished the unbelieving and unrepentant world with the flood, while in His great mercy He saved and protected believing Noah and his family (Gen. 7). Later, because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah was great and their sin very grievous, God destroyed these prosperous and proud cities, raining brimstone and fire from heaven upon them (Gen. 18:20; 19:24–25).

All of these punishments were inflicted by God upon human beings long before the giving of the law to Israel at Sinai. But, as Paul observes, “Where no law is, there is no transgression” (Rom. 4:15). The very fact that God punished human transgression before Sinai, even from the dawn of human history, implies that there always has been a divine law known to mankind; therefore, all men are bound to obey it or face the consequences if they do not.

The gospel itself, as preached by Christ, comes to us as a command: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15; cf. Acts 17:30). This gospel imperative is rooted in the fact that the gospel is indeed good news that men ought to believe. If the minds of men were not darkened, their desires not corrupted, and their wills not enslaved, they would believe it. The fault is not with Christ or with His gospel but with men who love darkness and will not come to the light (John 3:19).

Moreover, Christ has not left anyone who hears the gospel without access to the means of grace. The gospel must be preached to all nations, and therefore no one can say that this good news is not addressed to him: “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13). Those who truly know their need of grace will seek it from God, who alone can bestow it, by using the means He has appointed to obtain it: “He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:7). The way to Christ and salvation is open to all (John 6:37).

— adapted from *The Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible*

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear fellow worshippers and friends,

The government has announced that London has entered the Tier 4 category for Covid-19 restrictions. Whilst places of worship are able to stay open, the Church Committee has decided to close the Church to safeguard the wellbeing of the congregation.

Both Morning and Afternoon Worship Service will 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.

The Church Prayer Meeting will revert to every Sunday at 10:00am before the Morning Worship Service, beginning in January 2021 if the government guidelines concerning Covid-19 permits.