



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. 26 No. 46

LORD’S DAY 13 NOVEMBER 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 84:4-5 & 11-12

Psalm 89:1-2 & 5

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Opening Hymn *

RHC 60 – “Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

RHC 61 – “O for a Thousand Tongues”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 30

Second Hymn *

Psalm 30 verses 1-4
(to the tune of Kilmarnock, RHC 561)

Scriptural Text

Exodus 33:18

1 Corinthians 15:10

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

The Pursuit of God

The Grace of God

Closing Hymn *

RHC 4 – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

RHC 65 – “And Can it be That I Should Gain”

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* **Congregation Stands**

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 34

Q: What is adoption?

A: Adoption is an act of God’s free grace, whereby we are received into the number – and have a right to all the privileges – of the **SONS OF GOD**.

Comments:

Adoption denotes the taking of a child who is a stranger into a family, and treating him as a member of it. Such is the adoption meant here. It too, like justification, is an act of pure favour on God’s part, and confers blessings to which we had lost all claim. It confers upon us both the *rank* and *rights* of children, and makes us feel that we have both a *place* and a *portion as sons* in God’s family.

Scriptural Reference:

1 John 3:1, Romans 8:17

THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST IN THE CHURCH

Introduction

What is the Church? "The church is a building for public worship, religious service, a particular sect or denomination of Christians, church government, or its power, as opposed to civil government, the profession of the clergy and a group of worshippers." This definition of the word "church", taken from a Dictionary shows the confusion that exists in our day regarding that institution. The Greek word translated in that way (ekklesia) is used over a 100 times in the NT, referring to "a group of worshippers, or the elect of God" or people who are called out' which is the last definition mentioned in a similar dictionary! The church according to Scripture, is not a building, a denomination or an activity - it is a group of people, the elect of God. This is true of both the universal (or invisible) church, which is the group of people throughout the world who truly believe in Jesus Christ (Matt 16:18; Eph 5:25-27), and also the local (or visible) church, which is the group of people who profess to know Christ and meet together in a particular location for worship (Matt 18:17; 1 Cor 1:2). The word ekklesia (called out ones) is used in both ways in the NT, but the latter meaning is much more prevalent. So throughout this article we will be referring to "the church" in that sense — **the local body of believers who meet together to worship God and serve Him to glorify His name.**

Technically speaking, those people do not worship "at or in a church" or participate "in church" — they are the church! If you are a member of the body of Christ, you are a part of the church who comes together for worship with the rest of the facilities or body. This is important because *the quality of a church* is therefore not measured by the physical condition of its buildings or the appeal of its services, but by *the state of the people themselves*. The redeemed people of God are the church, so the church is only as good as they are in the people attending.

Metaphors of the Church

The church which comprised the redeemed of God is described in the Bible as:

- A holy and royal priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices to God;
- A chosen race belonging to God;
- A separate nation whose King is the eternal God;
- A temple in-dwelt by the Spirit of God;
- A set of branches connected to Jesus Christ as the Vine;
- A flock led by the Good Shepherd;
- A household or family sharing the common life of the eternal Father; and
- A body of which the Lord Jesus is Head.

Using the first part of the alphabet as an acrostic, the church should be characterised by the following elements.

Apostolic. Following the example and precepts of the apostles (and hence Christ) in church government, doctrine, discipline and other emphasis in the ministry in the early church (and not apostate).

Biblical. The inspired bible is the only infallible guide and authority that is to rule the whole church in all matters of faith and practice. The bible is the absolute standard of our life, not emotions nor experience nor man's teachings nor writing no matter how good it is.

Confessional / Calvinistic / Christ centred. Every church should have a statement of faith or a historic confession to which it adheres to whether it is in the constitution or written elsewhere. For us in the BPCs, it is defined by the reformed creed in the Westminster Confession of Faith with a pre-millennial emphasis.

Doctrinal. A church should be given to the study of sound doctrine or the doctrine of grace (i.e. of salvation, Christ, Holy Spirit, etc.) and a biblical and devotional content as well (i.e. this is in direct opposition to an emotionally charged up experiential charismatic and pentecostal churches).

Evangelistic. The chief business of the church besides edifying the saints is to proclaim the glad tidings of great news of the glorious redemption that comes only through the atoning work of our Jesus Christ on the cross on our behalf. A church that does not have a concentration on Christ centred missions and gospel outreach is sadly lacking in its overall focus and direction.

Fundamental. By this we mean that it should stand firmly and unashamedly for the reformed doctrines of the bible and be prepared to defend it as well. It is opposed to liberal charismatic or cultic churches which compromise and accommodate doctrinal error and falsehood (i.e. do not teach others of the potential spiritual danger associated with compromise). Biblical separation is the result of this vital principle, which should be the stand of every bible-believing and bible-defending church (2 Cor 6:14-18).

All the metaphors in the scripture describing the church features, the common characteristics of unity and shared life and fellowship made possible through the finished work of Christ. Believers compose one priesthood and one body. We have been made one spiritually and we belong together in communion, living out that oneness in local churches. We are commanded not to forsake "our own assembling together", so that we can "stimulate one another to love and good deeds" (Heb 10:24-25). The Lord Himself is the Head of the church (Eph 5:26). He is the Saviour of the Elect and He governs the church by His invisible hand. Yet He uses man to serve Him faithfully in the local church and we are to study, understand and apply the biblical teachings of Christ concerning the life and ministry of our local Christian church. There are at least 3 areas in the church, which we must recognise the kingship and direction of our Lord over His church.

1. **Biblical Doctrine**

The Kingship of Christ in the church requires the teaching of sound biblical doctrines and commandments of the King. Obedient and faithful subjects should know the decrees of their Monarch. The early church continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, prayer, fellowship and the sacraments (Acts 2:42). They were given to the study and practice of proper doctrinal foundations as pivotal to the growth and vitality of the local churches. The Word of God was the basis of all preaching and teaching, as in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "*All scripture is given by inspiration*

of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

There are many false teachings and heretical practices (yoga, labyrinth, mystical worship etc.) taught by cults, modernists and New Agers that are being passed around today. A Christ-honouring and bible-based church will warn others and keep itself from such perverted and corrupted teachings that will undermine the biblical doctrines of grace. 2 Timothy 2:15-16 says, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”* Be like Colossians 2:6-8 says, ‘As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.’

2. Reverential Worship of God

The practice of the headship of Christ in the church will result in God-honouring reverential worship on the Sabbath day, which is sadly neglected today. The worship of the thrice-Holy God is our glorious privilege and eternal pre-occupation in heaven one day. Let us recognise the grace and sober manner in which we are to approach the thrice-holy God.

An individual's or church attitude in worship is determined by his or their theology and concept of God. If he realises the attributes of God — His Being, His character and works, that He is an Almighty and Sovereign Creator, Holy, Just and Righteous (Rev 5:4; Deut 32:4; Rev 4:8) - he will approach God with reverence and fear in holy worship. If, however his knowledge of God is warped and unsound, then it will be reflected in the manner in which he worships his God (and subsequently in his choice of music) — self-centred, flippant, frivolous, superficial, even worldly and fleshly.

A worship service should be characterised by such attitudes as reverence, sincerity, holiness and dignity (John 4:24, 1 Chron 16:29, 1 Cor 14:40). Congregational singing should always be the chief expression of our worship, adoration and praise. There should be a restful meditative atmosphere where people can hear the Word of God, and sing to the praise of His name without distractions or loud jarring music made by some instruments. While the New Testament does not give any definite or specific instruction as to a proper form of worship, there are, however, certain general principles that can be gleaned from different portions of the Scriptures.

Firstly, it is the Pauline exhortation to the church at Corinth, that *all things should be done decently and in order* (1 Cor 14:40), which provides a good guide for the choice of music and hymns for Sabbath worship. Not loud jarring music but meaningful, reverential and theologically sound words put to musical arrangement in hymns in an orderly manner.

Secondly, Jesus told the Samaritan woman to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24); and hence, praise and worship must be a sincere, personal and intelligent spiritual activity, in which the mind, heart and will join together and submit to God in expressing praise, love, gratitude and obedience. Whatever assistance we may derive from music or instruments, these things cannot by themselves make a spiritual, intelligent act of worship and must never be allowed to develop to such significance that it eclipses or interferes with true worship.

Thirdly, we were told to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" 1(Chr 16:29). Holiness, because the person we worship is the thrice-holy God; it requires a proper propriety and right decorum in public worship. Thus, loud, lilting, jarring, syncopated music is inconsistent with the principle of holiness in worship and the requirement for decency and order in reverential worship self-style entertainment worship system is hardly acceptable to God by biblical standards.

The kingship of Christ requires us to keep the Sabbath holy and to come prepared for reverential worship every Sabbath to praise, adore and extol the name of the Lord and to receive His word with fear and trembling coupled with holy expectation in our hearts (Isa 58:13-14).

3. Faithful Stewardship

Every believer is both a son and steward in the light of God. Stewards are custodians and trustees. 1 Peter 4:10-11 *"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen"* and as stewards we are to be faithful and fruitful to abound in the work of the Lord.

God has entrusted us with the use of time, talents and treasure and we are to employ them wisely, use it in a prudent and discreet manner that will bring eternal dividends. The parable of the pounds and of worshipping reverently, witnessing fervently, watching vigilantly, and working industriously for Christ as an assembly of redeemed and justified people. The church is to be governed and led by Christ as the Head of the church. His inspired and infallible Word is the only authoritative rule of practice and faith. Every member of the family of God is to participate actively and be part of the growth and spiritual vitality in extending God's Kingdom and in edifying and building up all the saints in the know- edge of the Word (Eph 4:16).

May the Lord continue to use and prosper His Church as a Christ-honouring, gospel-focused, bible-centred and bible-defending reformed church; that is given to the fervent propagation of the pure and unadulterated gospel and the vigilant defence of the truth of God's Word in a **decadent age of spiritual lethargy, religious stupor and compromise in the ecclesiastical world.**

Article written by Pastor Jack Sin, Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church, Singapore

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins with the **Church Prayer Meeting** at **10:15 am** followed by the **Worship Services** at **11.00 am and 3.00 pm**. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, we extend a warm welcome to you this Lord's Day. We hope that you have a blessed time of worship with us today.

For those unable to attend Church in person, we are streaming our worship services online. To join our online services or for more information, please call the church manse, or email us at [admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk](mailto:admin@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.

Children's Sunday School – held after Morning Service at 1:45pm

After-Service Fellowship – Join us for lunch fellowship after the morning worship service. Please bring your own lunch as only drinks will be provided.

Worship Service Collections: Last Sunday - £360.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £9,640.50

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.”

Exodus 34:6

This Week

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

Next Week

“The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.”

Exodus 35:29

Pre-cautions for Worship Services held at the church premises:

With the lifting of the legal Covid restrictions on 24th Feb 2022, we will continue observing the following precautions:

- No offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- Temperature measurements will still be taken for every worshipper and visitor for the time being. We continue to urge those who feel unwell (especially with Covid symptoms) not to come to the church services but join us at our online services.
- During worship services, please continue to sit with your own households.
- As per the current government advise, we suggest you use a face covering when attending the services. Please bring your own face covering.

To join our online services or for more information, 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