



NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: newlifebplondon@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.newlifebpc.org.uk

Supervisory Pastor: Rev Lim Chee Boon

Resident Minister: Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Email: pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk

"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 26 No. 52

LORD'S DAY 25 DECEMBER 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 110:30-31

Psalm 111:1-3

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 152 – *"Joy to the World"*

RHC 164 – *"O Come, all ye Faithful"*

Responsive Reading

Luke 2:1-20

*Second Hymn **

RHC 165 – *"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"*

Scriptural Text

2 Corinthians 9:25

Psalm 90

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

The Gift of Gifts

God, our Dwelling Place

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 145 – *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

RHC 21 – *"O God, our Help in Ages Past"*

*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 40

Q: What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A: The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was THE MORAL LAW.

Scriptural Reference:

"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, not having the law, are a law unto themselves." Romans 2:14

WHO IS CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS?

Introduction

We live in a troubled world today with many disasters and calamities around us. In business, especially in retail, Christmas is a time when they either make or break with all the sales. Christmas to many is also a nice holiday to be with family, buy some gifts for one another and have a meal together even in the midst of a global health crisis. As a Christian, is there something more to Christmas than all these revelries, fun and food? Many times, when we come to an event, we ask ourselves what is the origin of this event that we celebrate. Sad to say, after a long period of time, we lose the meaning and significance why things happen in the first place.

We go back 740 years before the birth of Christ to know why we remember Christmas. Isaiah the prophet predicted the birth of someone very special in his book, which comprises 66 chapters (like a complete bible), and tells the birth, life, death, resurrection and second coming of Christ. In chapter 9, we are given a glimpse of the nature and character of this person.

In verse 6, the prophet Isaiah made it clear that a special child was born and given to mankind for a special purpose. We know from another prophet, Micah that Christ was born in Bethlehem, a very small town not far from Jerusalem. Bethlehem has an amazing background, history and future. (Mic 5:2) There are 5 descriptive words that will showcase the personage and very character of Christ who was born on Christmas day.

1. Wonderful

In Hebrew, the word “Wonderful” has a sense of mystery — a sense of lofty concept in a high-sounding manner. The original word can be rendered as wonder of a counsellor, and there are 3 ways to be seen about Christ:

- (a) Christ is wonderful in the way He was born.

Isaiah 7:14 tells us how this child was born. Normally, a child is born as a result of two persons in marriage and the wife gives birth after pregnancy. This birth is wonderful in the sense that the virgin Mary conceived and bear Jesus the son without the help of Joseph, her husband-to-be. Humanly speaking, it is impossible. This is the only case in the world where God allows Mary to conceive of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ, and born of her alone and not from her and Joseph. In the bible context, words used to describe a birth are usually plural and masculine. In the case of Mary’s birth, it was singular and feminine. This is significant because if Christ was born of Joseph and Mary, he would receive the original sin that comes from man; in this case, without the involvement of man, Christ was without sin.

(b) Christ is wonderful in His humanity (how He became a man)

I Timothy 3:16 tells us that God was manifest in the flesh. God is a spirit and has no dimensions. But the second person of the Trinity took on human form, with a living soul, and subject to the vagaries of the demands of a human body in order to qualify to die for us. That amazing transformation from God in heaven to become a man is beyond any human comprehension. Imagine we become an ant and live among the ant community. Is that conceivable? For God who is the sovereign creator of the universe, Christ limited himself and became a man to die on the cross on our behalf. John 1:14 describes the whole process of God becoming man. In John 1:17, John identified this person as the incarnation of Christ, the Son of God from heaven.

(c) Christ is wonderful in His Humility

If a king comes to this earth, we expect him to be born in a royal family with pomp and pageantry and great expectations. But this scene did not happen in the birth of Christ. He was born in an insignificant town, which is unknown if Christ was not born there. Not many live there and there were not many visitors or inns. He grew up in Nazareth, which only have shepherds who attend to sheep. There were no expectations of anything coming from these small towns. The greatest humility was the humility to the cross; that Christ was born, lived and walked the way of the cruel cross of execution on our behalf. Luke recorded that Mary saw all these things and pondered in her heart what would become of her son one day.

2. Counsellor

The word invariably brings to mind: is He going to give us advice?

The coming of Christ is to give purpose, direction and guidance to the people of the world. The word counsel, in the original, has a sense of giving purpose, meaning and advice to people. We live in a world of consultancy; we seek advice on how to build a building, start a company, and have a family and medical consultation. These engineers, accountants, are counsellors in a sense, who help us in our lives.

Is it possible to have one person who have all the knowledge, as a one-stop counsellor, who can give us advice for life? The bible says Jesus Christ is that Divine counsellor. Isaiah 46:10 tells us that His counsel will stand forever, is everlasting, sure and absolutely true.

How do I get the counsel from this Counsellor? You need to know Him, trust Him before you can ask Him for His eternal counsel.

The most important counsel in life is not about making money, buy a car, a house. It is the true direction in the way of life.

The psalmist said *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path* (Psalm 119:105). One of the sources of counsel is the word of God, which is the basis of knowing the directions in life. Psalm 119:24 stresses that *“Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.”* The more you know the word of God, the more you know the counsel of God to guide you in the right and correct purpose and directions in life.

3. Mighty God

The Chinese rendering is accurate and according to Hebrew: He is not only mighty but sovereignly almighty in all His ways that no one can stand up to His might. During Isaiah’s time, the people were poly-theistic and believed in many gods. To say that your god is the all mighty god, many would challenge if this were true. There is only one God, the God of the bible. Christ is God himself, there is no other gods beside Him. This God is all powerful, all knowing and all present everywhere. He has our live and destiny in His hand, He decides our beginning to the end. As we come to know this God, we know the truth concerning life and know this God who gives us purpose and meaning, hope and peace forever. Jesus is not just human He is also the almighty God because when they crucified Him, He triumphed over the grave, destroyed death and three days later, He arose from the grave. This is the power of the babe in the manger, not an ordinary child, He is God in our midst, He is God on earth and who is triumphant over all.

4. Everlasting Father

The emphasis in this phrase is on the everlasting which is eternal or without beginning and the end. All of us have a beginning, we were born one day and will die and leave this world. But Jesus Christ, the babe in the manger, that was not His beginning but His incarnation. He has a beginning right from the start, like God the Father, who has no beginning or the end. There was an occasion when Christ was asked about Abraham and the Lord said before Abraham, I am. This shocked His listeners that He already existed before Abraham. In other words, the Lord was helping the people to realise that He was the eternal one.

Our lives are limited. But God, in Christ, is unlimited. If you know and believe this God, and entrust in this God and repent of your sins, you can have everlasting hope in Jesus Christ. To know this God, we have to know Him on His terms, of who Christ is and what He requires of us. We are to believe in Christ, receive, confess and repent of our sins and come and entrust our lives to Him. It means surrendering to Him and acknowledge Jesus Christ as King of kings and Saviour of our souls.

5. Prince of Peace

When Isaiah was writing this chapter, Israel was under threat of the Assyrians. King Hezekiah prayed to God for deliverance. God protected Israel and 180 thousand enemies

perished. Israel today looks for peace in all the wrong places; from alliances and political connections and the middle east is still in turmoil. The bible says Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Peace will not come from UN, USA or superpowers but from the true source of lasting peace. Our Lord made a statement in John 14:27 concerning peace.

Do you have peace in your heart today? Peace does not come by having more monetary resources, more fame, more assets or more power. Recently a famous K- pop singer committed suicide, and many suffered from depression, anxiety and phobias despite having fame, power and millions of fans. Peace comes not from the world or self. Peace comes from a person – only Christ is the fountain of peace.

Isaiah 26: 3 – 4 To have everlasting peace, you need to focus your mind on Jesus Christ alone. You may wonder why peace eludes you. You can have peace when you have Jesus Christ. Christ alone is the source of perfect peace for this life and the life to come. With Christ, you can have lasting peace in the midst of personal and worldwide turmoil and the adversity.

Conclusion

To know this peace, come to Christ, believe on the Lord Jesus and know that He died on the cross for our sins and He is coming back for us and takes us with Him.

Luke 2:10 - We can have hope, peace, joy, all found on the person who was born on Christmas Day.

Let this Christmas in 2022 in the midst of a pandemic be a new beginning, new life, new direction, because you truly know this God of Christmas who could give you eternal life and it is forever. If you would trust and believe in your heart and that Jesus is God, accept Him as Saviour and God, you can be saved. The bible says in John 1: 12 that as many as believe in Him and call upon His name will be saved. The bible says “*I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance*” (Luke 5:32).

All of us are born sinners, condemned to everlasting hell fire and are helpless and hopeless. Unless we have Christ, and know Jesus as our God and Lord, we are totally condemned in sins and trespasses. Jesus said *I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.* (John 14:6).

Will you turn to Jesus this Christmas? Something to think and pray about and act upon too.

Article written by Pastor Jack Sin, Sovereign Hope BPC, 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.

No Children's Sunday School this Lord's Day.

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

Christmas Day Lunch Fellowship – Please join us for our Christmas Day Lunch after the morning worship service.

Worship Service Collections: Last Sunday – £505.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £9,840.50

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

Jude 21

This Week

“The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.”

Nahum 1:7

Next Week

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

Psalms 90:12

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