



# 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. 09

LORD’S DAY 27 FEBRUARY 2022

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 134	Psalm 135:1-3 & 21
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 42 – “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 143	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 143 second version verses 1-5</i> (to the tune of I Need Thee Every Hour, RHC 387)	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Nehemiah 13:3	2 Corinthians 9:7
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Prevention of Worldly Pollutants into the Church</i>	<i>Giving as Unto God</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 388 – “O for a Closer Walk with God”	---
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	---
<i>* Congregation Stands</i>		

### 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 104

**Q: What do we pray for in the Fourth Petition?**

*A: In the Fourth Petition – (which is, GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD) – we pray, That of God’s free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.*

Comments:

We now come to the petitions concerning ourselves – the *order* of the prayer being God *first*, and *ourselves afterwards*. In this petition we pray for the supply of our bodily wants. We ask for two things – a sufficient portion for the day, and God’s blessing with it.

Scriptural Reference:

Proverbs 30:8, Psalm 90:17

# **THE CHRISTIAN IN AN AGE OF SPIRITUAL CONFUSION**

## **Introduction**

The growing interest in the occult is a phenomenon of our time, although occultic practices have also been around since the time of the Old Testament (Lev 19:26-31). When the author was ministering in a BP church in Western Australia some years ago, he and his wife visited a market in Fremantle, and found a store with a lady selling occultic advice and services.

Some of the more common forms of occultic activities today include astrology, geomancy, necromancy, astrology, horoscopes, geomancy, crystal gazing, and fortune-telling, fantasy games and Halloween, Diablos and other violent or occultic computer game and Ouija boards and others. These practices may seem innocent and harmless to some, but they can be a doorway to deception, leading to enslavement to sin and to the Devil.

## **1. Occult Activities**

The New Age Movement is gaining ground with each passing day. The latest manifestation is an obsession over crystals that supposedly have cosmic power. Their “energy,” we are told, can influence our lives and businesses for good or evil.

The word “occult” simply means “hidden,” implying hidden forces or knowledge. It covers a wide range of practices that include spiritism, psychism, cabalism (remember the Bible Code of Michael Drosnin?), horror movies, freemasonry, channelling, witchcraft, sorcery, telling the future from tarot cards, crystals and palmistry, astrology and similar things.

Groups like the freemasons and “holy laughter” advocates also dabble with occultic activities in their beliefs and practices, sometimes unknowingly. An article in Computer Times (21 April 1999) had a whole section on computer games, one of them being “Advanced Dungeons and Dragons.” This includes a segment on how to cast spells and combat wizards and demons. These games are obtainable from most computer shops today. Let parents and their children be forewarned of this before it is too late. Restraint, counsel and correction may be needed here for some.

## **2. Just Inquisitive?**

Most people who get involved in the occult are either just inquisitive or seeking something that God has not allowed us (for example, consulting the dead). But the Word of God is not silent on this subject. Leviticus 19:26, 31 says, *“Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times...Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.”*

The practice of the occult is strongly condemned in the Bible. It is an abomination to God and He will not leave unpunished those who indulge in these forbidden activities.

Saul consulted the witch of Endor, and he was severely dealt with (1 Sam 28:7–20). We need to remember that, *“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law”* (Deut 29:29). This Scripture reminds us to resort only to the written Word of God when we need help; to consult the occult world is asking for trouble.

### **3. Inner Healing?**

New Age practices such as channelling and yoga, hypnotic music, transcendental meditation (TM), and non-traditional alternative forms of treatment like reiki (ie using inner power transferring from a body to apparently cure sick people), have mesmerised many who are in search of spiritual healing and contentment. Instead of seeking the living and true God, many are misled into trusting the counterfeit, thinking that it will satisfy them and bring “inner healing.”

The Word of God warns believers not to have anything to do with these practices. In Deuteronomy 18:9–12, our Lord says, *“When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.”*

Do not play with fire or else we may be burned by it including geomancy and spell casting and tarot cards and the palmistry.

### **4. Age of Delusion**

The New Testament has the same emphasis on total separation from the occult. One of the things clearly condemned in Galatians 5:20 is witchcraft or sorcery. Ephesians 6:12 warns of “the rulers of the darkness of this world.” Simon Magnus, who was dabbling with the occult, was severely admonished (Acts 8:9–11), as were Elymas the magician (Acts 13:8) and the medium of Philippi (Acts 16:16–18).

This is an age of deception and delusion. The powers of darkness are so influential that even today they can deceive the people with signs and wonders (Matt 24:24). For example, the author and his wife have visited India for missions for more twenty times, and they also visited a religious centre in Bangalore where the former guru Sai Baba (he died a few years ago) was and the latter claimed to perform supernatural acts to impress their followers, and know their thoughts in advance. He teaches transcendental meditation and yoga and other new age techniques to bring about spiritual wellness in people apparently and claimed one million followers are one time. We should not be alarmed at such phenomena, because we have been forewarned by our Lord Jesus Christ about false prophets doing “great signs and wonders . . . [to] deceive” (Matt 24:24–25). Involvement in the occult can only lead to spiritual bondage and fear, and expose gullible people to possible demonic obsession and even possession.

## **5. The Believer and the Occult**

The ultimate end for those who persist in these occultic and abominable practices is eternal condemnation in hell; the Apostle John tells us that those excluded from heaven will include spell casters, wizards, witches and sorcerers (Rev 22:15). But what about Christians who become involved in the occult or even the cults like the Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Christian Science, Scientology and Freemasons?

Let us be clear; a child of God cannot be demon-possessed, for the Holy Spirit indwells him. Remember 1 John 4:4, *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”* It is possible, however, that believers can be negatively influenced by spiritual forces from the diabolical source. To guard against these attacks of the Evil one, we are told to submit to God and resist the Devil, who will then “flee from us” (1 Pet 4:8–9; Jas 4:7). Christians are also told to put on the full armour of God, to withstand the wiles of the Devil (Eph 6:10–18).

If a believer persists in occultic activities, God may discipline him or her (as He does all sons; Heb 12:5–11), and such punitive action may well have temporal consequences. The only way of deliverance from the occult is through belief and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:16 says, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”*

### **Conclusion**

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for our sins to break the bondage of sin and stronghold of the Evil one and we are to repent of our sins and trust in Him as our Lord and God, and put on the whole Armour of God (Eph 6;11-18). Only a saving relationship with Jesus our Lord can protect us. Seek Christ and Obey His Word and submit to His will, and do so constantly. Flee from these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, truth, with those who call on God out of a pure heart (2 Tim 2:22; 1 Tim 6:11–12). Jesus Christ is the only way for victory over sin and bondage of the evil one and there is no other (John 14:6).

adapted and edited from Pastor Jack Sin, Church Bulletin of Sovereign Hope BP Church, Singapore

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins with the **Pre-Worship 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, with the legal Covid restrictions lifted on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, **the Afternoon Service will recommence in the Church premises next Lord's Day, 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 2022 at 3pm.**  
Please continue to use face coverings in the church out of consideration for all worshippers and as per government advice.

For those unable to attend Church in person, we will continue to stream our services online. If you require the link to our online zoom services or have any queries, please call the church manse, or email us at [admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk](mailto:admin@newlifebpc.org.uk).

**Tithes & Offerings** – The offering box is located at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary.

**Bereavement** – The church extends her deepest condolences to Magdalene for the recent passing away of her mother.

**Worship Service Collections** - Last Sunday: £636.00,  
Church Maintenance Fund: £100.00

**Church Maintenance Fund**  
**Total: £8,390.50**

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*"...for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*  
**Nehemiah 8:10**

### This Week

*"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."*  
**2 Corinthians 7:10**

### Next Week

*"Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee."*  
**Nehemiah 9:6**

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

With the lifting of the legal Covid restrictions on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, we will be following the precautions listed below until further notice:

- No offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can still be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- Temperature measurements will still be taken for every worshipper and visitor. We must urge those who feel unwell with Covid symptoms not to come to services until tested.
- During worship services, please continue to sit with your own households.
- We strongly recommend face coverings to be worn in the church out of consideration for all worshippers and as per government advise. For young children under the age of 11, the use of face covering is optional. Please bring your own face covering.
- From 6<sup>th</sup> Mar onwards, access to non-essential areas of the church (e.g. the Fellowship Hall and kitchen) will be made available. Please bring your own lunch as Fellowship Lunch is still suspended. Drinks will be provided.

To join our online services or for more information, please visit the church website ([www.newlifebpc.org.uk](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,  
Task Force Members