



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. 27 No. 14

LORD'S DAY 02 APRIL 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 138:1-5

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 47 – “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 49

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 49 verses 1-9

(to the tune of Martyrdom, RHC 38)

Scriptural Text

Acts 9:5-6

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

An Awakened Mind of an Earnest Inquirer

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 361 – “Jesus, Lover of my Soul”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

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 54

Q: What is required in the Third Commandment?

A: The Third Commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's name, titles, attributes, ordinances, Word, and works.

Comments:

The Third Commandment bids us use in very reverent manner – 1. God's names, such as *the Lord*; 2. His titles, such as *King of Kings*; 3. His attributes, such as *holiness*; 4. His ordinances, such as *prayer*; 5. His Word, or *the Bible*; 6. His works, such as *man*.

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 29:2, Ecclesiastes 5:1, Job 36:24.

CULTIVATING A SPIRITUAL MIND

Jeremiah Burroughs (1599-1646)

You might say, “What should we do to get our conversation [manner of life] to be in heaven? It’s an excellent life, indeed. O that we might attain unto it.

First, take this rule: be persuaded that it is attainable. Let Christians thus conclude with themselves, “It is possible for me to live a life of heaven while I am upon the earth.” There is a heaven to be had. It will mightily stir up the spirit of a Christian if he will believe this. You may live here with God, Christ, His angels, and His saints. There are some who have attained to this, and how have they done so? Not by their own strength: they were men subject to the same infirmities as you. Even Paul himself, who had his life in heaven, was subject to many infirmities. But through the strength of Christ, he could do all things. He was nothing in himself, though.

Just read Romans 7. Paul said of himself that he was even sold under sin. When he wanted to do good, evil was present with him. He was led captive and found a law in his members rebelling against the law of his mind. He had many corruptions and was given a prick in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to humble him. He spoke of this heavenly conversation, not only that he had it, but wrote to the Philippians that they had attained unto it. They were a very spiritual church but were poor and lowly in respect to others. They did not have the eminent gifts of the Corinthians, and yet the Philippians had their lives in heaven. Therefore, it is a thing that is attainable.

Secondly, if you would get your life in heaven, labor to keep a clear conscience—keep a heaven in your conscience. Those men who fully defile their consciences lose their [communication] with heaven and, indeed, the presence of God is tedious to them. They loathe to go into His presence once they have defiled their consciences. If there is a hell in a man’s conscience, there will not be a heaven in his life. Let men and women labor to keep conscience clean and a heaven there, and then there will be a heaven in their lives.

Watch opportunities for heavenly exercises. Though you have much business in the world, *watch your time!* You who are servants should not neglect your master’s business, for you serve God in the work of your master; but you still must watch your opportunities. Get alone, and if your time cannot be long, then let it be frequent. Watch all opportunities for heavenly exercises—for meditation, for prayer, for reading, for conversing with God. O we might get many opportunities to get our souls in heaven if we would just watch! Those who are diligent to watch opportunities for heavenly exercises and prize opportunities for them are the men and women who will attain to heavenly living. [They] do not make it a light matter whether or not they converse with God in holy duties. Christians that would have their lives in heaven must look for opportunities for heavenly exercises. They eye them as being where much of the joy and comfort of their lives consists.

In the next place, do not forget this: Take heed, and be careful that you do not rest in formality [outward form of religion]. Watch to get opportunities, but do not be formal in duties in them. O this will mightily darken your lives: it will make them very earthly! There will be no beauty in them if you rest in formality in holy performances. There are many Christians who, we hope, have some good underneath, yet, growing into a form of religion, never honour their profession. They have little comfort to their own souls. They go on in a dead-hearted condition. They do not know what it is to have communion with God. O beware of that! We are all subject to it by nature, too.

Those who have enlightened consciences dare not but take opportunities for heavenly duties. But then comes the temptations of the devil and the corruption of our own [flesh]. When you have done your task, it is over. You have prayed, yes, but have you been in heaven during that time? What [spiritual dealings] did you have with God? Take heed of formality! It will greatly hinder your heavenly life. A Christian, though weak, can only chatter to God and speak a few broken words and half sentences. Yet, if he does not rest in formality, he may have much communication with God. Others who have excellent parts, but rest in their work, never know what it means to have a life in heaven.

Labor to beat down your bodies, that is, take heed of making provision for the flesh—beware of sensual lusts. How did Paul come to have his life in heaven? He said, “I beat down my body” [1 Cor. 9:27 — I treat my body roughly and subdue it, which is a figure of speech about rigorous self-discipline, not real physical harm to himself]. The words literally mean “black and blue.” He clubbed it down, as if he should say, “This body of

mine would draw my heart from spiritual things and make me earthly and sensual. I will keep my body down; I will not give that satisfaction to the flesh and body so as to strengthen any temptation that might draw my heart from spiritual and heavenly things. No, instead I beat down my body.” There is no Christian who is heavenly, but he must be very careful and watchful over his senses while he lives here, to beat down his body and so come to have his life in heaven.

Labor to be skilful in the mystery of godliness, to draw strength from Jesus Christ in everything you do. My brethren, Christ is Jacob’s ladder (Gen 28:12; Joh 1:51). When Jacob lay asleep, he saw a ladder on which the angels descended and ascended up to heaven. This ladder of Jacob’s is none other than Jesus Christ to Christians, and that ladder must be set up to heaven. If you would go to heaven and converse with heaven, it must be by Jesus Christ. You must be instructed in the mystery of the gospel, in conversing with God through a mediator. There is such an infinite distance between God and us that unless we have Christ the Mediator, we can never come to God, nor can God come to us. It is only Christ the Mediator Who is the ladder... We may have Christ in our hearts and set Him up, so we may go up to heaven by His mediation.

When a Christian comes to live in this manner and is able to say, “What I expect from God, I expect to draw through a mediator; and all the services I offer to God, I offer them through the hand and heart of Christ,” he has much communion with heaven. By Jesus Christ the Mediator, I may come up there and present myself there, even though no unclean thing may come there. God looks upon the saints as righteous, through Christ, being clothed with His righteousness. They may come to their Father with boldness, having their elder Brother’s garments upon them. They may come and kneel before the throne of grace every morning for their Father’s blessing! It is by Him that we have access unto the Father. O acquaint yourself with the mystery of godliness in drawing all from Christ and offering all to God through Christ! By this, heaven comes down to you and, by this, you climb up to heaven. This is Jacob’s ladder.

But those men that only look on God in a natural way reason thusly: “All good things come from God,” and so they go to prayer, “Lord, we beseech Thee, bless us this day, for all good things come from Thee.” They serve God; their consciences tell them they must worship and serve God, while they live here. But it is in a dull, natural way. Let me leave this with your hearts: all good comes from God through a mediator, through Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, the God-man. All my services are offered up to God through Him. There is this mediator, this God-man, that unites God and me together. By Him, I have acceptance for both my person and my actions. By Him, I have other kinds of blessings than come from God merely as Creator. God, in bounty, bestows upon the creature many good things. But when we come to deal with God in Christ, we come to have heavenly blessings, blessings beyond the power of nature, yea, beyond all those blessings that nature can convey, beyond all the blessings that the creature can hold. They have the blessing from God immediately by the mediation of Christ.

They enjoy God in Christ, and so come to enjoy God in a heavenly, supernatural way. O *this* is the way to have our lives in heaven, and those Christians who are well acquainted with the gospel of Christ come to live far more heavenly lives than others who go on in a dull, heavy, natural kind of service! But the hearts of those who are not acquainted with this mystery lie low upon the earth and do not know what it is to have their lives in heaven.

So, the next rule, with which I must close all this, is this: Exercise much the grace of faith. There is no way to get above the creature, and above nature, but by exercising the grace of faith. Many Christians think they must exercise love to God and exercise sorrow for sin. The grace of repentance, mourning for sin, is good. You should do that, and you should exercise patience; but the great grace that is to be employed if you would attain a heavenly life is the exercise of faith. Make conscience to put forth that grace much, for it is by faith that we converse with God through Christ. Though Christ is the ladder, it is faith that carries up this ladder and brings us down again. It’s faith that makes the things of heaven real to the soul.

From *A Treatise of Earthly Mindedness*, Soli Deo Gloria, Reformation Heritage Books,
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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**. 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 is 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 1:30pm.

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

Dr David Allen will minister the Word next Lord's Day, for both the morning and afternoon worship, and will also administer the Lord's Supper. Please come with hearts prepared.

Worship Service Collections: Last Sunday – £1080.00, Maintenance Fund - £100.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £16,290.50

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

This Week

“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”

Acts 5:31

Next Week

“But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

Acts 10:35

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

Dear all,

While the legal Covid restrictions having been lifted, we will continue to observe the following precautions:

- We continue to urge those who feel unwell (especially with Covid symptoms) to stay home and join us at our online services.
- No offering will be collected during the worship service. Offerings can be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- During worship services, please continue to sit with your own households.
- While not required, the use of face covering is voluntary. 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