



# 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. 36

**LORD’S DAY 03 SEPTEMBER 2023**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Isaiah 12:4-6

*Opening Prayer*

Rev Lim Chee Boon

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 33 – “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 71

*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 71 verses 1-5*

*(to the tune of tune of St Agnes, RHC 231)*

*Scriptural Text*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

*Pastoral Prayer*

Rev Lim Chee Boon

*Sermon Message*

*Closing Exhortations*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 243 – “The Comforter has Come”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Rev Lim Chee Boon

*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 76**

**Q: Which is the Ninth Commandment?**

**A: The Ninth Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR.**

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:16

# **Blessed Are Those Who Mourn**

The second beatitude is given in Matthew 5:4 "*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*" Today pleasure and joy are the way of happiness, and Jesus' assertion that it is a blessing to mourn seems absurd. The world looks for legal and illegal ways to be happy and does anything to avoid sorrow or mourning. Entertainment, sex, alcohol and even drugs are sought by many in the world to be in a euphoric state. Jesus' second beatitude may look absurd and may make no sense to a hardened sinner. But to the redeemed disciples who belong to Christ, we know Jesus is declaring the secret to find blessedness. In the Beatitudes, Jesus unlocks true blessedness to be spiritually bankrupt, mourn, be meek and so on. Jesus is teaching his disciples, not from the worldly manual of happiness, but he is teaching us about the kingdom of God which is spiritual blessedness.

The term 'mourn' means to experience deep sadness or grief. Christian mourning here is not referring to some financial loss, sickness, rejection in a relationship, death of loved ones or divorce. In our context, Jesus is referring to mourning, grieving due to sin in our lives. Those who mourn will genuinely repent of their sinful life and end in the pathway of obedience. When we realize we are sinners before God, we recognize our failures in obedience, and hence, we repent of our sins. When we repent of our sins, we are comforted, and such a life is a life of being blessed.

This kind of mourning is called godly sorrow. In 2 Corinthians 7:10, the Apostle Paul describes what godly sorrow is to the Corinthian church. "*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*" In Romans 7:24, we see godly sorrow in the Apostle Paul when he cried, "*What a wretched man I am!*" Godly sorrow will cause a believer to hate, despise and reject sin. It is what Peter refers to in Acts 11:18 as, "*repentance unto life,*" meaning repentance that indeed shows one has eternal life. A believer mourns for his sins, as God has given all believers the Holy Spirit, which convicts him of sin. When one breaks God's moral law, whether lustfully looking at women, covetous living, or even sinful anger, the indwelling Spirit of God causes us to feel remorse. A Christian acknowledges that his fallen nature and its evil tendencies are against a Holy God. Thus, he mourns and repents.

Godly sorrow can be contrasted with another type of sorrow that has the appearance of repentance. That sorrow is carnal as it centres around self. You may feel sorry for the confusion or hurt or mess you created, but you do not hate sin. It is like the sorrow displayed by Esau, Saul or Judas. All three felt remorse and sadness, but there was a lack of godly sorrow, leading to true repentance. Their sorrow was selfish or me-oriented and not Godward. The worldly sorrow of Saul, Esau and Judas was repentance unto death, for it did not lead to eternal life. Godly mourning is not having a long, gloomy face or feeling sorry or sympathetic towards oneself. Those who genuinely experience godly sorrow will truly forsake sin and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

In Luke 7:36-38, we have an excellent example of godly sorrow. "*And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.*" She spoke not a single word, yet her expression revealed what godly sorrow is, and true repentance is. God's Spirit moved her to do this spontaneously. Blessed are those who mourn, and they are comforted. Jesus words comforted this penitent woman when he said in vs 47-48, "*Wherefore*

*I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven."* She left the feet of Jesus with forgiveness and peace.

We see godly sorrow demonstrated for us in Psalm 51 also. After committing horrible sins of murder and adultery, David prayed in verse 4, *"For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:"* David knew true repentance as he pleaded for God's mercy and forgiveness. He came with a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, and God in His mercy purged and made him clean. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. In the latter part of David's life, he becomes, *"a man after God's own heart"* (1 Sam. 13:14). We see similarly godly sorrow in Luke 15:21 when the prodigal son realized he had sinned against God and made a u-turn to the father's abode, desiring only to be a servant. His mourning and repentance led to blessedness, which is seen in the welcome back home celebrations. Only Spirit-led repentance causes one to see the true nature of sin. Zacchaeus demonstrated his deep mourning for sin when he said in Luke 19:8, *"If I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

It is blessed to mourn, yet many delay mourning. Some love sinning and make a presumption that the mercy of God will always be there. Then others delay mourning and repentance, for they consider their sin to be small or insignificant. Then some know they need to mourn but procrastinate. In the epistle of Hebrews, we have a repeated warning, 'not to harden our hearts when you hear God's voice.' May we be not counted as those who harden their heart. Let us emulate the examples of the prodigal son, David, and the adulterous woman, to weep and mourn for our sins. If you weep and mourn because you have sinned, you will be comforted.

The second beatitude comes with a promise, *"they will be comforted."* Who will be comforted? Only those who mourn, meaning with godly sorrow. Yes, only those who mourn with a repentant heart. To the Saviour who came to seek and save the lost, to Him we should flee when we feel overtaken by sin. He alone saves, forgives, and comforts. The imputed righteousness of God to us through Christ Jesus is our confidence and comfort. Yes, our comfort is found in the person of Jesus Christ, not in any human institution or any person. We are comforted by our all-loving God through the Holy Spirit, our comforter, our defender, and our advocate.

There is comfort when we look to the future. In Psalm 56:8, we read that God is keeping a record of our tears. We keep records of our money spent, but God keeps a record of our tears. Our tears are more precious than gold to God. In the book of Revelation, one day, we will enter the fullness of comfort and then on that day, God shall wipe away all our tears. The same God of comfort, comforts us while we are on this earth. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Paul wrote, *"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God."* Jesus calls us all to this blessedness of comfort through our mourning for sins. Let us turn away from every evil.

Have you mourned for your sin? Christ is our sufficiency. Come to Him humbly and be approved of God, then divine blessings of peace, joy and comfort will flow.

*"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."* (Matthew 5:4)

Rev Mathews Abraham, Singapore

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins with 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.

**Bible Study on the book of 'Proverbs'** - 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.

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

**Romans 12:1-2**

### This Week

*"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

## 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.
- Please place your offerings in 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](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,

Task Force Members