



# 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. 16

LORD'S DAY 16 APRIL 2023

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 145:1-5

*Opening Prayer*

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 21 – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 51

*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 51, verses 14-19*

*(to the tune of tune of Dundee, RHC 555)*

*Scriptural Text*

Acts 20:26-27

*Pastoral Prayer*

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Sermon Message*

*The Whole Counsel of God*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 259 – “Lamp of Our Feet”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

*\* Congregation Stands*

#### **THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE**

#### **THE LORD BLESS YOU**

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 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 56**

**Q: What is the reason annexed to the Third Commandment?**

*A: The reason annexed to the Third Commandment is, That however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet THE LORD OUR GOD will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.*

Comments:

The special warning here held out to us is, that although men may permit us to break this commandment with impunity, yet God will assuredly not do so. *He* will not fail to judge us.

Scriptural Reference:

Deuteronomy 28:58-59

# OUR CREATOR AND SUSTAINER

*Acts 17:29-31*

Paul's address begins in verse 22. When you write a formal address or sermon, you generally begin with an introduction, have three or four main points, and then a good conclusion. This is exactly what Paul does here. He has a short introduction, followed by four clear points: 1) that God is the Creator of all things; 2) that God is the sustainer of all things; 3) that God is the ordainer of all things; and 4) that we should seek Him. After this there is a conclusion which says that we should repent since we have not sought God as we should, to which he appends three inducements. It is here, at the very end, that his warning about Christ's resurrection comes in.

## Introduction

Paul began by reminding the Greeks of something he had noticed as he walked through the city. He said, *"Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."* (vv. 22-23).

Paul does not explain at this point why the true God was unknown to the Athenians, though we know what he thought about this from his teaching in Romans 1. The reason why men and women do not know God is that they do not want to know Him. God has made Himself known. The reason we do not know God is that we reject the revelation. Paul does not say that here, but he notes the ignorance and proposes to correct it by his proclamation.

**1. God is the Creator of all things.** Paul's first point, after his introduction, is that God is the Creator of all things. This is what verse 24 is about: "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands." The doctrine of creation, in addition to teaching man's responsibility to seek and serve Him (which Paul develops later), means that God has not left Himself without a witness. It is true that not everyone has had the Scriptures. The Old Testament was only given to the Jews. But all people at all times have had a witness to God in creation, that is, in the heavens and on earth. Thus no one can claim utter ignorance of the true God.

**2. God is the sustainer of all things.** Paul's second point is that God is the sustainer of all things. He teaches this in verse 25: "Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;" This means that God sustains or upholds His creation. It is not that we provide for Him; He provides for us. In the first chapter of Colossians Paul says that "And he [God] is before all things, and by him all things consist" (v. 17), which seems to suggest that, if God were not holding all things together, everything would fly apart. The very fact that we and the world are here, that we are alive and that we can think about both it and ourselves, are all due to the sustaining activity of God. Paul is teaching that no one, not even utter pagans, should be ignorant of these things. Because of the nature of the Greek language, the inscription, which lacks the definite article, can be rendered either "to an unknown god" (NIV) or "to the unknown god" (KJV and other texts).

**3. God is the ordainer of all things.** Third, Paul says that God not only sustains the universe but that He also guides the affairs of men. Verse 26 says, “And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;” Theologians refer to this as “the hidden counsels” of God. The word “hidden” means that God has not revealed these eternal counsels to us in Scripture as He has other things. We do not know the future; we do not know what God has determined to do in national affairs. Nevertheless, God is in control of what happens. He has made plans and thus also determines whatever comes to pass.

**4. We should seek God.** If God has revealed Himself to us in creation, as He has, and if God sustains creation (including ourselves), if God has determined the bounds of our habitations and our destiny, which Paul declares to be the case, it follows that we have an obligation to seek God out and find Him. Indeed, that is the purpose of the general revelation. God has revealed Himself so that we might seek Him out. Paul states this clearly and emphatically in verse 27, saying, “That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:”

**The conclusion.** The conclusion is that we have not done that. Instead, we have made idols that we can see and manage. And because we have made idols rather than having sought after the true God, we must repent. In fact, it is commanded. Verses 29 and 30 say, “Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:” We are more guilty than the Greeks since we know so much more of God and His ways. But repentance is still where we must begin. Christianity does not begin by saying, “You’re a very good fellow,” and “everything is going to be nice for you if you will just get in touch with God.” Christianity says, “You have failed to seek after God. You have gone your own way. You are willfully ignorant. Therefore, God commands that you repent of that sin of ignorance.” But, as we repent, God holds out the offer of salvation through the work of Jesus Christ.”

— adapted and edited from THINK & ACT BIBLICALLY WITH JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE — Devotional dated 12-13 April, 2023

# 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.

**Pastor Timothy Poh will minister the Word for the next two Lord's Days.**

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."</i> <b>Acts 10:35</b>	<i>"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."</i> <b>John 11:25</b>	<i>"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."</i> <b>Acts 20:32</b>

## 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](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,  
Task Force Members