



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

Email: pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk

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

Vol. 27 No. 34

LORD’S DAY 20 AUGUST 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 34:1-3

Opening Prayer

John Poh

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 226 – “*The Lord Is King!*”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 69

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 69 verses 1-2, 14-16

(to the tune of tune of St Peter, RHC 456)

Scriptural Text

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message

The Day of the Lord

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 227 – “*Until Then*”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Lim Chee Boon

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 74

Q: What is required in the Eighth Commandment?

A: The Eight Commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

Scriptural Reference:

Romans 12:17, Ephesians 4:28

Dear brethren, starting this week, we will be publishing articles on the Beatitudes written by Rev Mathews Abraham. The articles were originally written for Lively Hope (the weekly newsletter of Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church, Adelaide, Australia) and they are now reproduced for you with Rev Mathews' kind permission. We pray that the articles will help you gain more insight into the truths of God.

BLESSED BEATITUDES

The Beatitudes is one of the most famous texts of the New Testament in the Bible. The Beatitudes are the eight statements of blessedness spoken by Jesus at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12), each starting with the words, "Blessed are..." In these short and beautiful verses, Jesus lays out the character sketch of a Christian. The person whom Jesus describes in this passage has a different quality of character and lifestyle than those still "outside the kingdom." Augustine was said to have described the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes as a perfect standard of the Christian life.

Jesus spoke the Beatitudes to "the disciples," not "the crowd." From the text, it becomes evident that Jesus literally "saw the crowds" and "went up on the mountain." In Luke 6:13-16, Jesus ascended the mountain to summon the twelve disciples. So, Jesus was probably directly teaching and interacting with the disciples while the multitude listened in on the conversation. It is important to note that the Sermon was directed at the disciples. They are blessings pronounced to those who are already Jesus' followers, not the conditions of entry for outsiders. Jesus earlier had already given the message of repentance to the disciples. Jesus said in Mark 1:15, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." To such disciples who repented and were now followers, Jesus the master teacher gave the Sermon on the Mount, describing what true blessedness is or, in other words, who is a Christian and what he will look like.

Eight Beatitudes begin with the exact words, 'Blessed are.' Even though there are eight statements on the Beatitudes, we should consider them as one unit. You can see that the eight Beatitudes of verses 3–10 are a unit when you look at the first and the eighth. Notice the promise of the first Beatitude in verse 3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." And notice the promise of the eighth beatitude in verse 10: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Both have the identical promise, "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." So we must take the eight Beatitudes as one unit, much like the fruit of the Spirit, which has nine characteristics but is still one fruit of the Spirit.

Another important thing about the promise is the tense. Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them,"—present tense. Then, when you come down to verse 10, He says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them." So you have this present tense—the kingdom is theirs—and in between, in verses 4 through 9, they are all future tense: " Verse 4: "For they shall be comforted." Verse 5: "For they shall inherit the

earth." Verse 6: "For they shall be satisfied." Verse 7: "For they shall obtain mercy." Verse 8: "For they shall see God." Verse 9: "For they shall be called the sons of God."

What does that teach us? You can both count on the promises of God which have a present reality and future promise. For example, we have the promise of comfort, 'they shall be comforted.' We are comforted now on earth through the Holy Spirit, our comforter through the means of grace like the Word of God and Prayer, but we know that full comfort will only be in heaven. As Revelation 21:4 says, "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore." We partly experience the comfort of God now, but there is a future promise when perfect comfort will be ours. We have foretastes of it now, but we will experience vastly more in the future.

One of the keywords of the Beatitudes is 'blessed.' Some translations use 'happy' instead of 'blessed.' Happiness is temporary. Not even the most optimistic person in the world is happy all the time. We know of many celebrities who ended their life after depression. The reality is we all face sorrow, sadness, and down days. We feel happy one day, and the next, we might feel depressed. The word 'blessed' has a much deeper meaning as it has to do with our souls, our inner being. This blessedness is not merely an emotional state but an inner attitude that gives us true peace, joy, contentment and fullness of life. It refers to a deep, contented state, deep in the heart, knowing we belong to God and are joyful knowing His love and sovereignty. A truly blessed person will experience His favour and grace in spite of trials. The apostle Paul writes about the times he has been shipwrecked, lost at sea, beaten nearly to death, put in prison, and then he writes about the joy that comes from his faith in Christ. None of those were happy experiences, but they didn't diminish his joy as he knew he was blessed. We are indeed blessed people and will remain blessed because of Christ.

Jesus wants us to enjoy this blessedness as these are the characteristics of God's children. The Beatitudes are about life and about how to live. The Beatitudes are the foundation of the Christian life upon which a godly life is to build for God's glory. This is the blueprint of true joy and satisfied living. Jesus calls the disciples to live a life of blessedness. Take a closer look at the Beatitudes and the sins present in the world, and you will see two paths ahead of us and with clearly two sets of invitations. Both call us to serve them, eat their fruit, enjoy, believe, and experience life. But only one will lead us and make us blessed. Listen to this invitation from Jesus to us and embrace the Beatitudes.

Do you have these character traits? Are you a blessed person?

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

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

John 14:3

This Week

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."

1 Thessalonians 5:2

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) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,

Task Force Members