



# 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. 39

LORD'S DAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 30:1-4

*Opening Prayer*

John Poh

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 46 – “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 74

*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 74 verses 1-3, 10-11, 16-17*

*(to the tune of tune of Green Hill, RHC 192)*

*Scriptural Text*

2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

*Pastoral Prayer*

Rev Lim Chee Boon

*Sermon Message*

*The Righteous Judgment of God*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 441 – “Faith Is the Victory”

*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 79

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

*A: The Tenth Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT COVET thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:17

# **BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL**

The beatitudes are God's children's characteristics. The fifth beatitude is “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7). We are at the midway point on the list of eight beatitudes. The focus changes from here on with the beatitudes. The first four focus more on inner character changes in our relationship with God while the last four focus on our outward character changes in our relationship with others. The first four beatitudes speak of our hearts, our attitudes, and what we are in our being. Being always comes before doing in the Bible. The last four beatitudes describe the actions that flow out of our hearts. Linking them to our previous study on beatitudes, as believers hunger and thirst after God's righteousness, God will make them to be merciful (5:7), pure in heart (5:8) and peacemakers (5:9).

What does mercy mean in the fifth beatitude, “Blessed are the merciful...”? Often, we use the words grace and mercy interchangeably. The biblical understanding of mercy is not getting what we rightfully deserve due to our sinful actions. Being sinners, we all ought to go to hell, but God in His mercy saved us and did not give us what we rightfully deserve. Grace is slightly different. Grace is getting benefits or blessings which we don't deserve. Christ died for us and gave us forgiveness through Him; this is His grace unto us. So, when we pray and give thanks for God's mercy, we are saying, 'thank you Lord, for withholding punishment and judgment for what I rightfully deserve due to my sins or failures'. The apostle Paul gives us an example of mercy unto him in 1 Timothy 1:13, “Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.” Thank God our God is a merciful God. In the fifth beatitude, God wants this characteristic of mercy to be in us as his kingdom citizens.

Jesus is focusing here on our character and attitude towards others. Are you merciful? Are you lenient, gentle, and kind toward sinners? In Matthew 23:23, Jesus condemned the Pharisees for not having mercy. “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.” In this passage, Jesus condemns the Pharisees for neglecting the weightier matters of the law like justice, mercy and faith. The Pharisees were concerned only about ceremonial laws and the letter of the law and they missed the spirit behind these laws. Like the Pharisees, we tend to major in minor issues of life. Is it not true that many churches and fellowships are fighting over trivial matters? Have they forgotten about the core issues of showing mercy and faith? The fifth beatitude is a reminder not to be bogged in life with trivial matters but to have mercy at the core of our hearts.

Let mercy be also seen in our day to day living. We show mercy to others when we forgive and do not retaliate when offended by others. A merciful person will forgive the sins of others as he knows he has been forgiven of his sins by the mercy of God. Read Matthew 18:21-35, which tells a story of a man forgiven of an enormous debt. But he was unmerciful when it came to forgiving a small debt of less than a hundred dollars. The Master condemns the unmerciful servant: Matthew 18:32, “Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest, not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee?” A forgiven person is a forgiving person. One who has received generous mercy must show mercy unto others and forgive them. Are you holding any grudges or bitterness against anyone today? Let us remember it is God's mercy that

brought us thus far, and we need His mercy also today and on that day when we stand before Him.

We need to have mercy if we want to meet the needs of those hurting. So often, we end up judging others and turning a blind eye to their pain and suffering. Jesus taught us to consider others and meet their needs. In Matthew 25:35-46, we find those who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, gave water to the thirsty and cared for the sick were serving Christ indeed. Let us dispense mercy with cheerfulness as commanded in Romans 12:8: "he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness." Without a merciful heart, we will not show these acts of mercy. Jesus gave an excellent example in the parable of The Good Samaritan. The merciful don't just sit idly by and talk when there's someone in need. They also don't stand on the sidelines, offering up advice to the downtrodden. Instead, the merciful seize the initiative and actively help others. We should also be merciful when sharing the gospel with others. We should lay aside the usual judgemental and condemning spirit. We should plead with them by pointing them to Christ, telling of His love and mercy unto sinners like us.

Jesus Christ also promised that the merciful, "shall obtain mercy." It is almost like the principle of sowing and reaping. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). The merciful one will receive mercy. This teaching is consistent throughout the scriptures. Psalm 18:25 reiterates the same truth, "With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright." Proverbs 21:13 shares a practical example of this principle of mercy in action: "Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard." The Epistle of James, which emphasizes faith and works, shares the same principle in James 2:13, "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment." We have also seen this truth in the parable of the unforgiving and unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:23-35). He missed out on the mercy of God because he was unmerciful.

This promise is also for today and our future. Like the familiar verse in Lamentations 3:23, we need mercy every morning, and our merciful God's faithfulness gives this. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." We will also need mercy when we stand before God on judgment day. In 2 Timothy 1:16,18, we find the apostle Paul writing, "The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus... The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day." In Jude 21, the saints are encouraged with this promise, "...looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ..." Mercy-showing is a test of our spirituality. Let us cherish mercy and do good as this is God's desire for us. Micah 6:8 exhorts us, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" As Christ, our merciful high priest (Heb 2:17) lives in believers, we are to become people who are merciful.

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."*

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.

**No Children's Sunday School this week.**

**Bible Study on the book of 'Proverbs'** - held after Morning Service at 1pm.

**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

*"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

**1 Corinthians 3:11**

### This Week

*"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."*

**Ecclesiastes 12:14**

## 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