



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. 26

LORD’S DAY 25 JUNE 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 99:1-3

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 2 – “O Worship the King”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 61

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 61 verses 1-4

(to the tune of tune of Belmont, RHC 22)

Scriptural Text

Genesis 39:6b-21

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Matthew Yong

Sermon Message

Lesson in the Life of Joseph

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 401 – “Yield Not to Temptation”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Matthew Yong

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 66

Q: What is the reason annexed to the Fifth Commandment?

A: The reason annexed to the Fifth Commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God’s glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

Comments:

The Fifth Commandment stands at the head of the second table of the law. It requires us to honour our parents, to render due respect and obedience to all who are superior to us, and, in a word, to pay heed to the claims of those who are *related* to us in any way. This commandment bids us always show a certain respect to those above us in station, and requires certain duties to be discharged to all, whether above, beneath, or equal to us. It forbids us to refuse to pay honour to whom honour is due, or to neglect to discharge any of the duties we owe to our friends or neighbours. The special reason it gives for its observance is that God has promised to lengthen the days of those who keep it.

Scriptural Reference:

Ephesians 6:2-3

THREE AREAS WHERE FAITH OVERCOMES

Jean Hamilton corresponded with several prominent Covenanting ministers, including James Renwick. Here are updated excerpts from three letters which she received from Renwick while her personal and family circumstances were in turmoil and she was dealing with a lot of uncertainty as to what to do for the best for herself and her children. When the troubles of the moment and the inadequacies within ourselves threaten to obscure God's plain truth, Renwick's wise advice helps us to refocus, and to fortify ourselves against the temptation to get so bogged down in problems that we forget we are journeying onwards to meet Christ in glory.

HOW TO INTERPRET PROVIDENCE

31st March 1683

I hope you will not think me so far out of my duty as to be unmindful of your case, for I am very conscious of the circumstances you find yourself in. However, though your trials be many, and your fears not few, yet I do not think your case is strange – similar things have happened to the Lord's people.

O take it well, whatever comes from the Lord's hand. Look to His purposes in His providences, and then you will be able to read love to you in the saddest of them. Away with scanty sense, which always interprets God's heart to be the same as His face. Faith is a noble thing – it soars high, and can read love in God's heart even when His face frowns. Do you not have reason to think the best of Him? You can depend on getting good from His hand. Your evening of sorrow shall be turned into an everlasting morning of joy.

Let the faith of this sweeten your present situation to you. The Lord be with you all. Remember your friend and servant in the Lord, who sympathises with you in your trials.

HOW TO INTERPRET YOURSELF

20 June 1684

I received your letter, which unbosomed to me a troubled case, which touches me in no small measure. But as I am touched by the trouble of spirit which you express, I am just as much refreshed to see that you are not insensible about your situation. Your great complaint is that you lack light and life. I am convinced, however, that anyone who utterly lacks one or the other of these cannot be troubled to realise that they lack them. Nobody misses what never belonged to them. A horse has no sense of loss about the wings of an eagle, because they never belonged to him, but he would soon notice if he lacked his feet. Those who never knew anything of light and life would never miss them.

But what shall I say to you? Let nothing less than Christ Himself satisfy you. Try to live under the impression of His preciousness, for contemplating this fills the heart with love to Him, and love, you know, is a most active and lively thing.

Do not judge your own state by how you feel about yourself. A very fruitful tree will bear neither fruit nor leaves in the winter, but there will still be plenty sap in the root. Do not spend time debating it, but make sincere and serious use of the means that you have of union and communion with Christ. This is both the surest and the shortest way to reach fixedness.

Also, do not seek simply to have your feelings satisfied for the time being – what you need is a well-grounded assurance for the future. So, look to the infinite power and infinite love of Christ. That is a two-edged sword to cut in pieces all your Gordian knots! Infinite power, what can it not do? Infinite love, what will it not do? Never seek anything in yourself to commend you to Christ, for that will keep you continually staggering. Instead I recommend you to the grace of Him who is able to perfect what concerns you.

I remain your ladyship's soul's well-wisher, sympathiser, and obedient servant in the Lord.

HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME

18 November 1685

You doubtless think my long silence strange, and it is far contrary to my own resolution, but the abundance of cares and ongoing troubles block me up from doing many things I would like.

I think that when the Lord returns to us again, it will be with such a measure and outpouring of His Spirit that the remnant that are left shall have almost a heaven on earth, and our land shall be made the joy of all lands.

For us today, though, what is there but to make sure of Christ for ourselves, and to spend our days here below admiring the loveliness and condescension of our Beloved, and our own happiness in enjoying such a potion.

But this is a great work! Time isn't enough for it! That is why we shall get eternity for it. O let us pursue the increase of the beauty of holiness, for happiness is inferior to it. It is by holiness that we are made like God, and is this not true nobility? O what is like it?! If we knew more of this pursuit – and attainment – we would feel less as if we have been deserted by the Lord, and we would enjoy more of the smiling of His sweet countenance, and of the breathings of His Spirit.

Also, while we are in this pilgrimage, let His will be ours in all things. Whatever He may carve out for us, or whatever we are involved in, let us say Amen to it, for if He wills it, it is enough for us. For that matter, let us reckon on the worst that can happen, so that whatever comes, we will not be surprised.

— adapted and edited from *Reformation Scotland* — Blog, by James Renwick (1662 – 1688), who was the last of the Covenanter field preachers to be put to death. He was just twenty six when he was executed in the Grassmarket. 22 Jun, 2023

SERMON NOTES: LESSON IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

(Genesis 39:6b-21 – Fleeing Temptation)

Temptations are common to all men, including Christians. God is faithful, He knows how much pressure/strain we can withstand. He opens a way for us to escape so that we can bear it - 1 Corinthians 10:13

James 1:12-15 – God tests us but never tempts us.

Genesis 39:6b – And Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

v7 – Potiphar's wife was attracted (cast her eyes upon Joseph) and offered herself to him.

v8 – Joseph refused her advances because of his strong convictions learnt from God (v9).

- 1) His master trusted him, and he would not break it.
- 2) She was his master's wife.
- 3) Adultery was (and still is) great wickedness.
- 4) It was a sin against God.

v10 – She continued to pursue Joseph.

v12 – She planned to get what she wanted, but Joseph fled. Unlike Samson who gave into Delilah (Judges 16:16).

Potiphar's wife's revenge.

“Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned” (a proverb adapted from a line in a tragic play by William Congreve in 1697) – it means no one is as angry as a woman who has been rejected or betrayed in love.

v13-18 – Potiphar's wife lied to the men of her house about Joseph. Potiphar was lied to by his wife about Joseph.

Joseph was cast into prison.

v21 – The Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy. Joseph had to meet the butler and baker.

In ancient Egypt, adultery was punished by 1000 lashes. Rape was punishable by death.

Conclusion

Temptation is not sinful (Jesus was tempted). Yielding to temptation is sin.

Praise the Lord for the possibility of victory (1 Corinthians 10:13) and bringing glory to His name.

Amen

God Bless,

Rev Matthew Yong

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.

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

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

This Week

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

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