



# 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. 35

LORD'S DAY 27 AUGUST 2023

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### **Morning Service – 11am**

**Prelude**

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 33:1-5

**Opening Prayer**

John Poh

**Opening Hymn \***

RHC 15 – “How Shall I Sing That Majesty”

**Responsive Reading**

Psalm 70

**Second Hymn \***

*Psalm 70*

*(to the tune of tune of All Saints, RHC 562)*

**Scriptural Text**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev Lim Chee Boon

**Sermon Message**

***The Church that Pleases God***

**Closing Hymn \***

RHC 261 – “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

**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 75**

**Q: What is forbidden in the Eighth Commandment?**

**A:** *The Eight Commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbour's wealth or outward estate.*

**Comment:**

This commandment refers to *money* and *property*. It acknowledges that it is right and proper to gain money, and that it is wrong in a man to squander his own property, or to plunder another's. It commands us to work for the supply of our own needs, and to help others as well as ourselves to increase in wealth. And it forbids aught that would tend to hinder these ends.

**Scriptural Reference:**

Romans 12:17, Ephesians 4:28

# **Blessed are the Poor in Spirit (Matt 5:1-3)**

The beatitudes are the foundation of the Christian life upon which a godly life is built for God's glory. The blueprint of true joy and satisfied living is found in the beatitudes. Jesus calls the disciples to live a life of blessedness.

Let us take a closer look by considering the first beatitude. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God"* (Verse 3). This first beatitude is the foundational key to all other beatitudes. When we read, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit,"* we are not immediately sure what Jesus means. It's clear what the word "poor" means, and we know what "spirit" means. But what does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? It refers to our spiritual state of abject poverty, which is our true condition before the thrice-holy God. Blessed are those who can see their spiritual bankruptcy in the eyes of God. It is the polar opposite of being rich in our achievements or good deeds or proud in spirit. To be poor in spirit means to recognize our true spiritual condition before God.

The parable of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee may illustrate this truth. One man thought highly of himself, and the other saw his failures and shortcomings. One self-approved and recommended himself to God, but the other man pleaded for God's mercy. One was saved, and the other was not. One man was full of pride; the other was poor in spirit. Just like the first beatitude, the blessed ones, the tax collector was able to see his spiritual poverty in the eyes of God. The Pharisee was full of himself. The boasting of his accomplishments and comparison with the tax collector's bad deeds further revealed the actual condition of his heart. But the tax collector who felt unworthy and begged for mercy was heard by God. Poor in spirit means we are spiritually bankrupt and helpless before God, morally unclean due to our sinful actions and a sense of unworthiness before a holy God.

The first beatitude promise is, *"for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* Heaven belongs only to the poor in spirit. There will be none in heaven who are rich in pride for their accomplishments. Heaven belongs to the poor in spirit because God gives it to them as a gift. Every believer listed in the scriptures knew about this truth. Let us consider ten examples of men of faith or godly men who knew the truth of the first beatitude. Look carefully to the abject poverty in spirit that these godly men described in these verses. (Underlined for emphasis.)

**Abraham:** As he pleads with God about Sodom and Gomorrah, he said, *"Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes"* (Genesis 18:27).

**Jacob:** When Jacob returned to the promised land after spending 20 years in exile, he wrestled with God in prayer and said, *"I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness which thou hast shown to thy servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan; and now I have become two companies"* (Genesis 32:10).

**David:** Both when he fell into sin, and in good times, David knew he was poor in spirit. *"The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise"* (Psalm 51:17). Indeed, when one sins, he needs to know how terrible and sinful he is, but what about when he is doing good? When the collection

for the temple was being taken, David prayed, "Who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from thee, and of thy own have we given thee" (1 Chronicles 29:14). We are what we are by His grace. If we do any good unto Him, it is only by His sovereign grace. Blessed are those who know they are poor in spirit, and they belong to God and His kingdom.

**Isaiah:** "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" (Isaiah 6:5). It took a vision of God for Isaiah to see how unclean and appalling he was. Yet to such, God gave the call to be chosen and sent in His name.

**John the Baptist:** "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie... He must increase, I must decrease" (John 1:27; 3:30). I wonder if this is the reason why Jesus said, "Among those born of women, none is greater than John" (Luke 7:28). John understood his unworthy status, and yet he knew he was the forerunner to Christ.

**The Canaanite woman:** "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." To which Jesus responds, "O woman, great is your faith!" This gentile woman was refused help by Jesus as she was not a Jew. But when she held the banner of her being poor in spirit, even she was accepted and commended.

**Peter:** When he saw the power of Jesus on the Lake of Gennesaret, "Simon Peter fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord'" (Luke 5:8).

**Paul:** "I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh..." (Roman 7:18). "I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:15-16). "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth..." (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

The world says the blessed are the strong, mighty, wealthy, influential, beautiful, but Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling; Naked, come to Thee for dress, Helpless, fly to Thee for grace. Foul, I to the fountain fly. Wash me, Saviour, or I die." 'Nothing in my hand I bring simply to thy cross I cling', should be our prayer like in the hymn 'Rock of Ages'. Every child of God joyfully should declare, 'I am poor in spirit, yet I am a citizen of heaven because of Christ alone.' Let us empty ourselves of spiritual pride, throw away all our accolades at Jesus' feet. Let us also be thankful for His mercy and grace poured unto undeserving and unworthy sinners like us.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3)

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

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

**1 Thessalonians 5:2**

### This 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**

## 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