



# **NEW LIFE**

## **BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: [newlifebplondon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newlifebplondon@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: [www.newlifebpc.org.uk](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)

Supervisory Pastor: Rev Lim Chee Boon

Email: [pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk](mailto:pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk)

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

Vol. 27 No. 44

**LORD’S DAY 29 OCTOBER 2023**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### **Morning Service – 11am**

**Prelude**

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 96:7-9

**Opening Prayer**

John Poh

**Opening Hymn \***

RHC 552 – “*God of Our Fathers*”

**Responsive Reading**

Psalm 79

**Second Hymn \***

*Psalm 79 verses 8-13*  
(to the tune of tune of Bethlehem, RHC 251)

**Scriptural Text**

1 Timothy 6:17-19

**Pastoral Prayer**

Eld George Chew

**Sermon Message**

**Value for Money**

**Closing Hymn \***

RHC 551 – “*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*”

**Benediction/3-Fold Amen \***

Eld George Chew

**Postlude**

*The Lord Bless You*

\* Congregation Stands

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

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**

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 84**

**Q: What doth every sin deserve?**

*A: Every sin deserveth God’s WRATH AND CURSE, both in this life and that which is to come.*

Comments:

The wrath of God means his holy displeasure against sin; and his curse is the doom which he has pronounced against it. This wrath and this doom, we are told, are the desert of every sin, and stretch over both this life and the life to come.

Scriptural Reference:

Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:41

# INSIGHTS INTO THE RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS OF THE REFORMERS

## Introduction

There is one historic event in human history that ought to be indelibly marked in the hearts of men especially the churches that honour the sovereign work of God. After the 13th-15th century Renaissance (temporally and not substantively) which brought about the intellectual revival in the arts, language and architecture, one of the greatest upheavals in the history of Europe is arguably the 16th century Protestant Reformation, **a religious awakening that profoundly alter the landscape of European history and the spiritual nature and direction of the churches today.** It came out of was a passionate cry for spiritual reforms from the depth of the souls of men that was long overdue. 1000 years of superstition, spiritual darkness and profound ignorance was a long wait and was put to an end, finally and providentially by the Almighty triune God.

The medieval church was powerless and spiritually bankrupt and was in desperate need of a spiritual overhaul. Ecclesiastical bureaucracy at the highest level had been exposed to be morally and ethically corrupt, doctrinally deficient (if not totally defective), spiritually wanting and doctrinally defective. Scandalous deeds had plagued the church and it has lost its spiritual vitality and moral strength. The people were craving for spiritual realities to satisfy their souls' hunger but the spiritually bankrupt medieval church in the middle ages was unable to supply that.

There was an urgent and pressing call to recapture the freshness and vitality of the Christian faith base on the word of God in all its fullness and wealth. To many sincere seekers of true religion, they want a reformation of sound doctrine based on the infallible truths in the Scriptures. The medieval church had lost their intellectual, spiritual and moral zest and the biblical principles that once governed the NT church. **There was a God given burden to rediscover distinctive religious concepts taken directly from holy Scripture** and not from lifeless church traditions, synods and councils made by men.

## Lessons from Pre-Reformers

It is noteworthy that the Reformation did not just happen with any signification in the 16th century. By the sovereign hand of God, it was brewing slowly over the past 2 centuries before even Martin Luther came on the scene. For instance, the English Reformation has its roots in John Wycliffe's reforming work and his followers, the Lollards. The English Bible for the first time was translated and disseminated in England in the 14th century and many ordinary Englishmen read it and many were enlightened and revived. They were forerunners of the Reformation in returning to the Scriptures and exposing the errors of the existing church, in indulgences (which are forgiveness tickets supposedly was able to take the payee to heaven directly with his sins forgiven by the human head of the medieval church) required of the people, the Mass with the teaching of transubstantiation, relics worship, the abuses and corruption of the clergy in the

Roman church. John Hus of Bohemia at the same time was relentlessly preaching the gospel and warning the people against serious erroneous practices and abuses in the medieval church, and the true nature of the church in the light of Scripture. He was promised safe conduct but was martyred unjustly in 1415 at the kangaroo court in the Council of Constance and this fuelled the flames of revival and reformation in Bohemia which is the present Czech Republic and it still has a strong Protestant population up to today.

The Bible-centred Waldenses started by Peter Waldo In the 12th century in the Alps believed in obeying Christ and the Scriptures alone and not the authority of a man nor the traditions of a church. They provided a strong impetus and prelude to the 16th century awakening in Europe

where it finally erupted. Others like Jerome of Prague and Savonarola of Florence stood against the excesses of the spiritually beleaguered church in moral reforms and were martyred in the 15th century. The Brethren of the Common Life despite intense persecution from the church contributed in their own ways to spiritual and moral transformation outside the established church and revive the people with the word and sound morals. Catalysmic religious changes came upon Europe in an unprecedented way and it was convulsed with religious vigour in a life transforming proportion in the sovereign will of God. **The Reformation had begun and was unstoppable as ordained in God's sovereign will and perfect timing.**

### Concepts & Convictions of the Reformers

The fundamental convictions that motivated the magisterial reformers was that true Christianity could only be restored and revived by returning to the teachings of sound scriptural beliefs and practices of the early church and the prophets of old. This means a challenge to the whole super structure of the bureaucratic and lifeless existing Roman medieval church with its lifeless rituals, ceremonies, man-made rules and practices. At the heart of this great spiritual concern was this question:

**How can a sinful man be declared righteous, and made acceptable in the sight of a holy, righteous, just and angry God? Martin Luther, a regenerated German monk from the Augustinian order rediscovered 4 important precepts of the Holy Scripture:**

1. The Righteousness of God
2. The Total Depravity and Wretchedness of Man
3. The Redemption Through Christ Alone
4. Justification by Faith

The first is a basic concept of biblical Soteriology that resonated throughout the old and new testaments. Christ is the only hope and source of salvation and not man, nor His works and nor that of the saints. The second concept was something that Luther had to grapple with in his soul's struggle. He realised that he is incapable of meeting the pre-requisite that God has set for everyone. The idea of the Righteousness of God and the depravity and sinfulness of man mean certain condemnation and punishment and this disturbed the German reformer's soul greatly. He had no satisfactory answer from the established Roman church when he consulted his vicar of the monastery, Johann Staupitz.

It must be stated that Luther was not involved in an intellectual exercise for a theological journal but a troubled soul searching for the answers from Scriptures with a deep sense of personal struggle in the inner most being. **The heart of the reformation was literally the reformation of the heart.** In 1519, Luther shared that initially he "hated" the phrase "the Righteousness of God" which means that if God is righteous He must punish unrighteous sinners and one has to be found to live a sinless and perfect life to escape this but he failed. Finally the answer came in a clear statement by the Apostle Paul in Rom 1:17 *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."* Peace and comfort flooded his soul and grace triumphed in his life from henceforth. **The depraved soul has hope finally in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone by the imputed Righteousness of Christ upon him.**

It suddenly dawned upon the learned Professor at Wittenberg that there was a solution to the problem provided by God through the Word. The pre-condition required of thrice holy and righteous triune God is already satisfied by someone else, the eternal Son of God, Jesus Christ who is God Himself. For the first time in his life, Luther understood that now if a man had faith in Christ alone, through his redemptive work at Calvary; which is essentially a work of grace, undeserving sinners can now have that Righteousness of God imputed to them by Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:21) the Lord if they humbly confess and repent of their sins and acknowledge Christ as

Lord and God. (Rom 10:9,10) It has nothing to do with papal indulgences, church penances, sacraments, relics and rituals and ceremonials of the medieval church which are powerless to save. This was an extraordinary rediscovery in those historic momentous days but yet the truth of justification by faith alone is as old as the OT and NT of Holy Scriptures (Hab 1:17, Gal 3:11 and Heb 10:38) hidden from the people for more than 1000 years.

**The concept of forensic justification by faith alone is finally apprehended by the Wittenberg Augustinian monk** who could not contain no longer and shared it with the whole world. This exploded in the Germany with the drafting of the 95 theses ( against the indulgences of the day ) being posted on the door of the Wittenberg Church on 31 October 1517 and other writings of the Reformers and the eyes of the common people were opened to the truth of God's Holy Word concerning true salvation by faith alone and not by man's works or church based forgiveness tickets sanctioned by the church. The almost 1000 years of spiritual bondage and darkness was finally over and spiritual change was inevitable.

### The Vital Place of Scripture in the Reformation

The place of the Word of God is relegated to a low or non-existent place in the life of the medieval church. Hardly any priest would read or preach from it, let alone expound it to the people. Some priests know more of the church fathers and their homilies than the writings of Christ and the Apostles. The Bible was virtually lost from the church. **The reformers in a sense rediscover the wealth and vitality of the Holy Scriptures that is able to make man wise unto salvation (2 Tim 3:15) and made it relevant and applicable to revival of hearts of the people.**

A Latin (the language of Rome) Bible from Jerome of the 4th century is of no use to the German, English and Swiss and other non-Latin speaking people because they cannot comprehend it. **The concept of giving the Bible in the vernacular language of the people is the heart of the Reformation.** Tyndale, Wycliffe, Luther and Layfayette did the same for their own countrymen In French, English or German and the result was life changing. For the first time, a commoner could hold a Bible, read, understand and relish it in a language that he or she could read and apply and it changed their lives. It transformed and reformed the church drastically and that was the beginning of a great spiritual awakening to come, reverberating all over much of Europe and forever transformed the eternal destiny of some people in the western world as God wills. **The Bible becomes the sole and sufficient authority for the life of the church and the believer. The authority, sufficiency, and perspicuity of the Bible were established during the Reformation and none can stop it.**

There is no need nor basis to consult man-made church traditions, and past decrees of Synods, Councils and papal encyclicals. No more auricular confessions to the priests, the mass, relics worship and praying to the saints or a mediatrix or for the dead in purgatory. Every born-again believer is a priest himself (1 Pet 2:9) and can come directly and confidently before God because of Christ without any human intermediary. Sola Scriptura is the answer. The reformers rightly understood and decided that the **Word of God alone provides the right direction and infallible guidance concerning the true knowledge of God and the principles of the christian religion for the churches of Jesus Christ.**

Today we have the precious complete 66 books of the inspired Bible in our hands, translated in part or whole in more than 2600 languages and dialects. We have the privilege to read, relish it and apply it to our lives without hindrance. (not for all countries though) May we never take this prerogative for granted but cherish and relish it. Wycliffe started the translation of the English bible from the Latin vulgate in the 14th century and this was the desire and labour of love of William Tyndale who died in the flames In 1536 (and he is now in the presence of God ) for the faith after translating the English Bible from the original Greek and Hebrew and the Lord answered the prayers of these valiant godly men.

We believe in **the sufficiency, inerrancy, canonicity, authority, perspicuity and verbal inspiration of the Bible**. Some claimed to have special revelations from God hence bypassing the need to consult and rely on the sufficient holy scriptures that is totally complete for us in its 66 books (Rev 22:18-20). Others have claimed that the NT is not as inspired as the OT or add or subtract from the sacred Writ and hence undermining the canonicity of the scripture sanctioned by God Himself (1Pet 3;15, 2 Tim 3;16,17). Age old heretical beliefs are revived in the 21st century. Some cults who came out of denominational churches have denied the deity or humanity of Christ openly and the doctrine of the blessed Trinity and the canonicity and authority of the whole Bible, serious heretical views that the church have to deal with the first 4 centuries and we need to have to faithfully continue to expose and defend even today.( Acts 20;28, 1 Tim1;20, Tit 3 :9-11. Rom16;17). The church needs sound expository preaching and the proper understanding, application and interpretation of the scriptures by the people to say the least. (2 Tim 3;16,17, 2 Pet 1;20,21, isa 40;8)

### Conclusion

The 16th century Protestant Reformation still has a relevant place in the church today after more than 5 centuries after a global deadly pandemic. The medieval church is still the same, the doctrines have not changed but sadly some Protestants have given in slowly and surely to the demands for theological compromise to barter for peace and unity in the ecclesiastical world. The tide for spiritual accommodation is very strong. **These last days of our decadent age will witness greater ecclesiastical downslide and ecumenical compromise in many churches. The seduction of ecumenism, the new age, (i.e. yoga, feng shui, reiki, crystals, spell casting, wizardry and other occultic literature, occultism, (i.e. necromancy, halloween etc) the unsound teachings of the signs and wonders movement, there is a global movement in uniting different religions into one world ecumenical religious order.** As the followers of Christ, we must walk, keeping to the sound biblical doctrines taught by our Lord and his faithful servants in the 16th century Reformers in this unswerving stand and withstand all these and valiantly fight for the purity of the faith in these perilous seasons. (Jude 3,4)

The Protestant and reformed Churches of Christ is theologically linked to the 16th century Reformation movement through its forefathers and the vigilant contention for the faith against the present day ecumenical, the cultic and occultic, New Age movements in the modern and the post-modern Era. **Biblical separation based on sound reformation truths, the advancement of the pure and unadulterated gospel should be the continued thrust and emphasis of every Bible-believing, God honouring church.**

May the Lord revive and strengthen us in the crucial battle for the faith and the truth in these momentous days of an post pandemic era .We are not to compromise our faith with the enemies of the gospel but vigilant and steadfast for the cause of Christ and His glory and defend and propagate only the pure and unadulterated gospel till He comes (Rom 1;17, Ga I 1;6,7 ,2 Thess 2;15)

*Dr Jack Sin, Pastor*

Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church, 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.

**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

*"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*

**Matthew 24:35**

### This Week

*"But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

*For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

*And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."*

**1 Timothy 6:6-8**

## 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