



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. 53

LORD’S DAY 31 DECEMBER 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 66:1-4

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 45 – “We Gather Together”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 87

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 87

(to the tune of tune of Ortonville, RHC 68)

Scriptural Text

Proverbs 9

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

Wisdom’s Cry

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 259 – “Lamp of Our Feet”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

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 92

Q: What is a sacrament?

A: A Sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by CHRIST, wherein, – by sensible signs – Christ, and the benefits of the New Covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

Comments:

We are here taught that the marks of a sacrament are: 1. That it is appointed by Christ; 2. That it is a way of teaching the gospel by outward signs. Its uses are three in number: 1. To represent the gospel to us, or teach it plainly; 2. To seal the gospel to us, or confirm our faith in it; 3. To apply the gospel to us, or bring it home to our hearts. The word sacrament is derived from a Latin word, which signified the sacred oath of fidelity to his commander, which the soldier took on entering the army for the service of his country. In a Christian sense, it means the vow of fidelity and obedience to Christ which is taken when we enter the Church. This vow was taken for us in Baptism, when we were infants. In the Lord’s Supper, we take it upon ourselves.

Scriptural Reference:

Genesis 17:10, Romans 4:11

STARTING IT RIGHT WITH GOD IN 2024

We want to end well in 2023 and to begin the New Year 2024 by the grace of the Lord with sound directions and aims that will glorify God in our lives. Let us consider how we can develop ourselves with 5Cs in our lives. They are namely,

1. Be Christ-Centred in our Goals

Our main focus in life is not the accumulation of wealth or increase in our worldly assets for ourselves or our pets or our work or studies or leisure but the glory of Christ. Matt 6:33 says, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* And Paul reminds us in Col 3:1,2, *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

In our work, studies and leisure, let us remember to put God first and not dishonour Him in breaking the sabbath day or in forsaking the reading of His Word, and not compromising our Christian values or biblical principles of life. Rom 12:2 says, *“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.”*

There may be events that may distract us from our focus on Christ and His Word, but we need to discipline ourselves. **It is important to maintain a theocentric outlook as we purposefully look to Christ our Lord in life and move forward in the will of God and not be discouraged or defeated by the evil one.** (Phil 4:6-8)

2. Be Competent in what we do for Christ



God has given to us gifts and talents that we can discover and develop and use in His kingdom to serve Him. We must keep learning and acquiring new skills to serve the Lord more effectively and in the workplace. Is there any area that you can serve the Lord in His church or missions this year? One of our members attended a course on how to set up a website so that he or she can serve God in this area (with skills future credit) and others may attend theological courses or the SS class or the evening service or the church camp or the May Day Seminar too. Read more books and **Learn more of the knowledge of God from His word and wait patiently upon the Lord in the new year and not be idle or indifferent to the cause of Christ in our lives. Be dutiful and responsible with what God has entrusted to us and be a good steward of Christ for we are accountable to the Lord one day.** Paul in Rom12:11,12 says, *“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.”*

3. Be Compassionate and Caring towards Others



The prophet in Mic 6:8 says, “*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?*” Let us develop a genuine care and affection for others in the new year and reach out to others in practical ways. Is there anyone who needs your visit or care and concern or your help in the new year? Is there a missionary in the wide harvest fields to support or care for ?

Many who are tired in life may give up easily and are discouraged and they may need comfort and support from us. **We need to resolve to be a good witness and be resilient and be a blessing to others and comfort, counsel console or encourage those who need it in the Lord.**

We need to love others and to learn endurance or perseverance which is the key to victory in our spiritual life and work. Gumption in the race of life is an important quality to develop this year. Heb 12:1, 2

4. Be a Godly Companion in Relationships

1Cor 15:33 says, “*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*” The Bible does talk about the importance of friendship and relationship with one another. We need to discern and make friends with careful selection. Friends that honour God will influence us for the better. We need to develop godly traits and be a blessing to others and influence others for Christ. **Pray for the working of the Holy Spirit in your life and submit to God’s moulding of your life to be the person He wants you to be and to reach out to others as well.** Encourage others to read the Word and to seek God in prayer and worship. Be a good example and testimony for the Lord and reach out to others as good friend and sharpen each other in the fear of God as Solomon says in Prov 27:17, “*Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*”



5. Be Consecrated in our Prayer & Service to God



By consecration, we mean a life of holiness and prayer and dedication to the cause of Christ and not our selfish ambitions. 1Pet 1:15 says, “*But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*” It is our constant fight against sin and temptation, and we do not fall into the wiles of the evil one. Worship of the Lord on the Lord’s Day is paramount and a mark of godliness.

Consecration includes our commitment to both personal and corporate worship and prayer. Daily praying to God is a delightful discipline for every regenerate and justified man. It is the expression of sincere dedication to God; to wait, to be committed to serve God in His church and to commune and seek the Lord daily in our quiet time. David says in Ps 5:3, "*My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.*" Our Lord Jesus Christ set the perfect example when he spent time with God the Father every morning as a priority in the wee hours of the morning (Mark 1:35). To dutifully intercede and pray for others as requested is a spiritual discipline that we should cultivate in our lives this year.

Prayer is the breath of godliness and the lifeline to divine supplies. Be humble and pray to God and seek God for his will for without Christ we cannot do well in 2024. Conversely with Christ, we can live triumphantly in the year and for all eternity if we pray, trust and depend on Him. Phil 4:6,7 and Jn 15:6.

Conclusion

Let us be diligent in whatever we do for the Lord in the new year as we want to serve and glorify Christ, be it in our secular profession, studies or service In the Lord. A godly and Christ-centred person is blessed of God; the indolent and idle brings sorrow. Godly Labour has its own rewards and laziness its consequences too.

During the year, remember and seek to apply and practise these 5Cs in 2024. Encourage your children and family to do the same as we seek Christ and begin the year aright with God. A good beginning is half success according to a Chinese proverb.

Pray for the well-being of your walk with God, your family, church, gospel missions and the revival of our nation in the will of the Lord. Pray and seek God for His sovereign guidance in the decisions you have to make, and for protection and wisdom in the new year. Psa 65:11 says, "*Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.*"

Rev Jack Sin, Sovereign Hope BPC

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

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

This Week

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

Proverbs 9:10

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