



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. 28 No. 45

LORD'S DAY 10 NOVEMBER 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Micah 6:6-9

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 21 – "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading

Psalm 125

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 125

(to the tune of Manoah, RHC 17)

Scriptural Text

Psalm 42:1-11

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Mark Chen

Sermon Message

The Despairing Saint Hopes in His Devoted Saviour

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 38 – "As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams"

The Lord's Supper

Rev Mark Chen

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Mark Chen

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 30

Q: How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A: The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Comments:

The last answer tells us *by whose* agency we become possessed of salvation; this one tells us of the method of it. It tells us that Christ's salvation becomes ours by union with him – that we are united to him by faith – and that this faith by which we commit ourselves to Christ, is the effect of the working of God's Spirit in our hearts. Faith in Christ means *trust* in Christ, and brings about *union* with him

Scriptural Reference:

John 15:26, 1 Corinthians 12:3, John 15:5

Dear brethren, this week's bulletin article is the continuation (part 2) of the article "The Vibrant Life and Doctrine of a Reformed Church" written by Rev Jack Sin, pastor of Sovereign Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore. We pick up where we left off week with the continuation of point 3 of the Reformed faith, i.e. Limited Atonement:

The Vibrant Life and Doctrine of A Reformed Church – Part 2

Limited Atonement

This is often misunderstood. Particular may be a better term here. It means that Christ's atonement is designed to specifically for His people who He has chosen - *"I lay down my life for the sheep"* (John 10:15). He did not shed His blood for those who He has not called and therefore they would not come to Him. Jesus says that He did not pray for the world but for those whom God have given Him, for they are His (John 17:9). He did not come to die for the whole world but for the elect of God (Matthew 1:21, Ephesians 5:25). This is its scope and intent. This is important as we know that all men are not saved today, so if we claim that Christ died for all, this would render His atonement inefficacious. Augustine says that His death is sufficient for all, (hypothetically if He wants to save all) but efficient only for the elect.

Irresistible Grace

It can be rendered as effectual calling as well. Those whom he has chosen will surely come to him. *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me"* (John 10:27). *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, . . ."* (John 6:37). God sends His Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of His elect; *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you"* (Ezekiel 36:26). *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;"* (John 6:44). *"For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable"* (Romans 11:29).

Perseverance of the Saints

Can we have full assurance of our salvation? Will a true Christian lose his salvation, the answer is No. *"Jesus says that he will never leave us nor forsake us as the Father, who has given them to him is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of his Father's hand"* (John 10:29). Note also here that *"he shall save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21). Salvation was not merited by any, nor is the election of His true sheep ever purchased by the believer, for *"he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 1:6). A truly born-again Christian will never lose their salvation even though he or she may backslide. He will return one day if he is a true son of God (Jude 23, 25).

The Threat of Semi Pelagianism or Arminianism

Much of what Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and other Reformers taught has been challenged by those who believe that God can be sovereign but has chosen to give up some of his control so that man's freedom is not limited. These challenges are often based upon the beliefs of James Arminius, a Dutch seminary professor. His followers are called Arminians and deny the

teaching of Reformed theology, especially as it considers man as intrinsically good. They do not believe that man is spiritually depraved or morally bad, but that he is only sick with sin and can help himself if needed without God.

While the Reformed church holds that man is saved by unconditional election and sovereign grace, Arminians teach that man is saved by conditional grace plus his good efforts. The condition is that God knows that we are going to choose Him therefore He chose us first and that each person must make a decision to believe in God himself or herself and then reach out for God's grace. The Reformers taught that man has no power to save himself or herself and it is solely God's Spirit that gives believers new life and faith (Romans 3:10-12). **The Arminians taught that man has enough goodness in him or her to be able to meet the conditions of God's grace and cooperate with God in his or her salvation. This is unsound and not supported by the Word of God. Salvation is by grace alone and not by works** (Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8, 9).

The Stand of the Reformed Faith

The Reformers four centuries ago sought to understand the true meaning of salvation and it really humbles man and it exalts the Almighty God. This God sanctioned aim was a sincere and fervent desire to know the true gospel and the Lord of the Bible personally. Reformed churches believe that *"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"* (Proverbs 9:10). They want to teach and share the Word of God in and out of season so that Christ's church may benefit from sound doctrine that exhorts a believer to a deeper appreciation of the God who is to be served.

The Reformed Faith is sound and biblically defensible, but it is in the minority today and oddly many " churches do not teach nor believe in the absolute sovereignty of God and in the Bible (i.e. Arminian in doctrine). Sadly, many modern, liberal or charismatic churches either do not understand, doubt or some even question such basic truths as the election of God, the sufficiency and inspiration of the Bible, the cessation of tongues and the sovereignty of God.

It is important to note that as a Reformed church, we must be convicted and stand for these Reformed doctrines, and this does not imply that one cannot be saved unless one is a member of a Reformed church. Salvation is of the Lord and He saves any whom He chooses. The intention here is to point to a system of faith and theology which is consistent with the Word of God and that we must abide by and teach and practice in our lives and our churches. (For deeper studies, see Steele and Curtis, *5 Points of Calvinism Defined, Defended and Documented*, 1963.)

(this article will conclude in next week's bulletin)

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begin with the **Worship Service** at **11.00 am** followed by a **Bible Study** at **1:30pm**. 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, please join our Worship Service and Bible Study on our live-stream via YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@NewLifeBPCLondon>

We thank God for providing Rev Mark Chen to minister to us for the entire month of November.

Today, we will be observing the Lord's Supper and Remembrance Sunday (a 2-minutes silence will be observed at 11:00am)

Tithes & Offerings – The offering box is located at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary.

After-Service Fellowship – Join us for lunch fellowship after the morning worship service. Please thank Rev & Mrs Chen for providing today's lunch.

Afternoon Bible Study – Rev Chen will conduct the study from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

Children's Sunday School – held after the After-Service Fellowship at 1:30pm.

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens."

Psalms 8:1

This Week

"Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life."

Psalms 42:8

Pre-cautions for Worship Services held at the church premises:

Dear all,

When attending the church Worship Service and Bible Study, 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 online.
- 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.

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