



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: newlifebplondon@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.newlifebpc.org.uk

Supervisory Pastor: Rev Lim Chee Boon

Email: pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk

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

Vol. 28 No. 19

LORD’S DAY 12 MAY 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	Psalm 106:1-5
Opening Hymn *	RHC 20 – “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”
Opening Prayer	Jonathan Kim
Responsive Reading	Psalm 106
Second Hymn *	<i>Psalm 106 verses 1-5</i> (to the tune of Dundee, RHC 555)
Scriptural Text	1 Peter 4:12-19
Pastoral Prayer	Rev Mark Lehman
Sermon Message	Trust God
The Lord’s Supper	Rev Mark Lehman
Closing Hymn *	RHC 355 – “Day by Day”
Benediction/3-Fold Amen *	Rev Mark Lehman
Postlude	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>

* 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 4

Q: What is God?

A: God is a spirit – infinite, eternal, and unchangeable – in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Comments:

The first thing we are here told concerning God is, that he has no *body* as we have. The second thing is, that he is not limited like us by want of power, affected by time, or subject to change. And the third thing is, that in character he is wise, and holy, and just, and good, and true. This is *our* God – the greatest of all beings, and the best.

Scriptural Reference:

John 4:24, Job 11:7, Daniel 4:35, Psalm 90:2, Psalm 102:26, 27

HOW TO BE GODLY - PART 11

Last week we considered two of the categories of hindrances to meditation. One category keeps God's people from meditating at all, and the other category abuses meditation. Having considered hindrances, today we are going to consider a few of the rules of meditation suggested by Rogers (Kindle, loc, 1033-39 of 2097).

Four rules of meditation

Rule 1: Whoever desires to benefit from meditating should consider how slippery, fickle, bad, wandering, and infinite are the ways of his heart (Jeremiah 17:9), and how this leads to his exceeding harm. Therefore, he must necessarily appoint a set time to check, reclaim, and wean his heart from these ways.

Rule 2: Whoever desires to benefit from meditating should watch over his heart (Proverbs 4:21-23), since he has so often been deceived by it. This he must do throughout his whole life, holding his own heart in suspicion, so that it may be more fit to be drawn and remain in such heavenly exercises.

Rule 3: Let him (if he is able) draw matter for meditation and prayer from his own needs and infirmities, from God's benefits, and from the changes and mortality of this life. He should chiefly meditate upon love, humility, meekness, peace of conscience, the glory of God's kingdom, His love, and those things contrary to it.

Rule 4: If he cannot do this, let him first read part of Psalm 119, some of the epistles from the Apostles, some of Christ's sermons (e.g., John 14-18), some part of this direction, or some of the meditations which follow, or any other good matter fit for this purpose, that he may season and well affect his mind.

Eight daily goals or directions

1. That every day we should be humbled for our sins, as through due examination of our lives by the law of God we will see them.
2. That every day we be raised up in assured hope of the forgiveness of them, by the promises of God in Christ.
3. That every day we prepare our hearts "to seek the Lord" still, and keep them fit and willing thereto.
4. That every day we strongly and resolutely arm ourselves against all evil and sin, fearing most of all to offend God.
5. That every day we nourish our fear and love of Him, and joy in Him more than in any thing, and endeavor to please Him in all duties, as occasion will be offered, looking for His coming (2 Thessalonians 3:5).
6. That every day our thanks be continued for benefits received, and still certainly hoped for.
7. That every day "we watch and pray" for steadfastness and constantly in all these.
8. That every day we hold and keep our peace with God, and so lie down with it (loc. 1061-69 or 2097).

Some Puritan books about daily directions

There are a few well known books that could help us pursue godliness. The following short list is of books are written mostly by Puritan authors, except the last one. They are: Lewis Bayly's *The Practice of Piety* (c. 1611), John Downname's *A guide to Godliness* (1622), Henry Scudder's *The Christian's Daily Walk* (1631), Richard Baxter's *The Christian Directory* (1673), and Charles

Hambrick-Stowe's *The Practice of Piety: Puritan Devotional Disciplines in Seventeenth-Century New England* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982).

The Armor of the Christian

In His mercy, God appointed the armor (means) to equip and strengthen the Christian against all spiritual battles. The spiritual equipment will enable the Christian to be delivered from all the power of the enemy. It also helps him to obey the will of God. One outstanding result of putting on the spiritual armor is to bring the mind and thoughts to God. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 says, "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)¹ 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." The Christian is able to overthrow every imagination that exalts himself. Ephesians 6:14-17 describes this armor as: the belt of truth (sincerity?), the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation (hope also?), and the sword of the Spirit (God's Word).

1. The belt of truth: it could refer to our sincerity or uprightness. There is no guile, pretense, of hypocrisy in us, not by a few actions, but in the whole life. It must be toward both God and man. The Lord Jesus called Nathaniel a true Israelite in whom there is no guile (John 1:47). It is a sad thing that there are not many people like him. Proverbs 20:6 says, "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?" "Faithful man" here could refer to "trustworthy man." Men are infested with sin and corruption. They must be changed by God to uphold and keep the truth in good conscience. Rogers argued that "sincerity requires all opinions to be measured and censured by the Word" (loc., 1122 of 2097).
2. The breastplate of righteousness: in righteousness, our hearts are bent to "all manner of goodness and righteous dealing, approving it, and delighting in it, and disliking and hating all wickedness and evil." We resist all manner of unrighteous things against God and man, as far as our knowledge guide us. Our testimonies will be like that of Job in 31:35-36, "Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book. 36 Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, and bind it as a crown to me."
3. The shoes of peace: just as we have to put on shoes to take a long journey, we ought to deny ourselves and to take our cross and follow Christ no matter what. In order not to faint or be discouraged, even by trials, we ought to bear the burdens of Christian life and ministry. Our peace surpasses anything, as Paul says, "it passeth all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Perfect peace comes when we are convinced "if God is for me, who can be against me?" (Romans 8:31). Psalm 27:1 says, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" We ought to be fully persuaded by His promises.
4. The shield of faith: faith rests on Christ Jesus, which implies that we ought to not only believe in Him, but also know Him intimately. The shield of faith requires not only our knowledge of Him but also our relationship with Him. The shield of faith is to build on God's faithful promises that Christ is ours, we are forgiven, and all things work for good for us. It is because faith affirms the truth as follows: "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

The helmet of salvation: we are fed on the hope of salvation. We are delivered from the condemnations of sin and will be delivered from all our infirmities including tears, sorrows, sighs, illnesses, etc. The helmet of salvation rescues us from all despairs and temporal losses, because it leads us to the everlasting hope in God. All other hopes are only vain and deceitful.

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 live on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@NewLifeBPCLondon>

We thank God for providing Rev Mark Lehman to minister to the church – he will leaving us and returning to Taiwan tomorrow. Do pray for his journey mercies.

Next Lord's Day, we have Rev Paul Hanna ministering to us, do pray for his preparation.

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.

Afternoon Bible Study – Rev Lehman will be leading a study from the book of Jonah titled: *“Jonah: The Work of Evangelism”*

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Mark 2:17

This Week

“Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

1 Peter 4:16

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