

# 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. 52

#### LORD'S DAY 29 DECEMBER 2024

Website: www.newlifebpc.org.uk

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Morning Service - 11am

**Prelude** The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship Isaiah 49:8-13

Opening Hymn \* RHC 18 – "Come, Thou Almighty King"

**Opening Prayer** Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading Psalm 132

*Psalm* 132 Second Hymn \*

(to the tune of Ellacombe, RHC 29)

Scriptural Text Nehemiah 8:1-18

Pastoral Prayer Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message After the wall is rebuilt

Closing Hymn \* RHC 19 – "Come, We That Love the Lord"

Benediction/3-Fold Amen \* Rev Lim Chee Boon

**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 37**

### O: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A: The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately PASS INTO GLORY; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

### Comments:

Having learned the blessings which true Christians receive from God in this life, we are now taught the blessings they receive when this life is ended. 1. The *soul* is then made perfectly holy, or free from all sinful tendencies, and taken at once to heave; 2. The body rests in the grave in union with Christ till the last day.

### Scriptural Reference:

Revelation 21:27, Luke 23:43, 1 Thessalonians 4:14

Dear brethren, our final bulletin article for 2024 is entitled "Thoughts of our Lives in Eternity" written by Rev Jack Sin. While the article was originally published in Sovereign Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church's bulletin in 2019, the content is relevant to us today and been adapted for our edification.

# **Thoughts of our Lives in Eternity**

### Introduction

The end of the year is a seasonal time or us to remember the faithfulness and goodness of the Lord and to reflect upon our lives soberly. Here are some truths lest we forget.

### 1) The Sovereign God is still In control. (Exodus 3:14; John 8:58)

2024 has been a tough year for some. Remember that God is sovereign and he is absolute control of all things (Dan 4:35) and nothing happens without his permission. The omnipotence of God renews and revive our spiritual visions and lens, let us consider Him and his meaning for us in every step that we take for nothing happened by chance. God exists and He is the Sovereign Game changer for us in all of life and in every circumstance, pleasant or otherwise Be faithful to God through the many trials and testings of life that he allowed us to go through for his own glory and for our own spiritual good in the end. Remember what Joseph said in Gen 50:20, despite all, God meant it for good for us in the end.

**2) God has a saving plan for repentant sinners.** (Romans 5:8; John 16:27; Jeremiah 32:40–41)

An important biblical reality, that is related is to embrace God's ultimate power and plan of redemption concerning us, reminding me that he has set his affections on us unworthy and guilty sinners before the foundation of the world. (Eph 1:4,5) He is not indifferent to our spiritual needs as we seek him first and his kingdom and his righteousness to humbly confess and repent of our sins if any before the Lord and trust and believe in Him as our Lord and God. (Jn 1:12)

3) Jesus is the only source of eternal comfort and hope. (Romans 8:28; Romans 8:32) The central reality of all history is the life of Christ and his death on: the cross and his resurrection from the grave, three days later victoriously. It is an objective truth that Christ came to earth and he lived among man and he lived a perfect sinless life. This should draw our hearts away from our self-centred lifestyle to follow Christ through his strength. Furthermore, the outworkings of the atonement of the cross make clear that even the worst testings and trials can be a blessing, for our ultimate good, no matter how trying it may be for His grace is sufficient for us. If God is with us and we are in the will of God, we can do all things through Christ's grace and strength. (Phi 4:13)

**4) We are all depraved and sinners and we need divine help.** (Hebrews 10:14; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

We need to acknowledge our sinfulness and depravity and come to Christ for his cleansing power. There is no one righteous on earth (Rom 3:10-12) We need to be justified by faith alone and through grace alone and by Christ alone (Rom 1:17) and received the imputed righteousness of Christ. The question, "Do we recognise that we are all sinners in need of divine mercies and grace?" We need Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour for without him we can do nothing in the new year and always. (Jn 15;6)

5) There is the serious and eternal consequence of hell. (Romans 3:10; 1 Timothy 1:15) Life is aimless and worthless without Christ. There are serious effects for those who reject the grace of God. We need to know Him and to maintain a sense of trembling before a thrice holy God who will judge all of us one day and let us also develop a profound gratitude for our salvation by his sovereign will alone. The amazing glory of the gospel, also reveals to us the damnation of those who do not believe and the consequences of this unbelief". (Rev 20:10,11)

6) Death is real and we need to number our days and live wisely. (James 4:14, Hebrews 9:27) Nothing is clearer to us than the fact that our days here on earth are numbered and our lives are a vapour that can vanish away anytime (Jas 4:14, Psa 90:12) Our earthly lives can be taken away from us by an accident or incurable illness or even sudden death. We need to recognise that we are but frail and temporal creatures on earth but there is an eternity beyond the grave. To leave this world at any time is a possibility for everyone but are we ready to meet our God and give an account of our lives to him? (2Cor 5:10, Eccl 12;13)

# **7) Salvation in Christ will bring us to the eternal abode in heavens.** (Romans 8:18, Hebrews 10:34)

The bible speaks clearly of heaven and hell and there is no other option. (Mt 25:30, Heb 12:22-24) With Christ it is an endless hope, without Christ, a hopeless end. There is peace and comfort in the sovereign grace of the Lord hope. There is also the eternal inheritance and glory in the guarantee of indescribable bliss through Christ our mediator of the new covenant alone. All this is possible if we have our foundation in Christ as our Prophet Priest and King and if we truly repent of all our sinfulness and be washed in the blood of the Lamb.

## 8) We are only strangers and pilgrims on earth. (Hebrews 11:13–16)

Peter describes us as strangers and pilgrims on earth and we do not belong here (1Pet 2;11). A pilgrim Is a religious traveller who has a spiritual objection in his or her sojourn. We are travelling through life looking to Jesus, the author and Finisher of our faith (Heb 12:1-4) There is a song that we used to sing in the Youth Fellowship days and it is this world is not my home and I am just a passing through. Know for a fact that this only a temporal abode here, for we speak with conviction about the everlasting life in Christ Jesus, and we should hold loosely to earthly life for we are just passing through. Do not drive your stakes too deeply for tomorrow we may break camp

# **9) The things of the earth are not lasting except our hope in Christ.** (Jeremiah 2:13; Galatians 6:14)

Life is not just about wealth and pleasure and we are not to be seduced by it. We will inevitably be disappointed by every earthly pursuit of worldly wealth and ephemeral assets as it will vanish way one day for our home is not of this world but in the heavens. Let us therefore lay our affections on things above instead of this fallen world and seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to us (Mt 6:33)

## **10) The elect have the full assurance of eternal life.** (Philippians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:8–9)

Can we know if we are truly saved? These important thoughts or reminders should fill our minds. As we come to the end of the year and we need to examine our lives if it is right before the Lord. We need the wisdom and discernment of the Lord. Is there doubt and fear concerning of your eternal condition? Let us seek the Lord in saving faith and examine our hearts and if there is a need to confess and repent of our sins and turn to him in prayers for he will hear the cries of the sincerely repentant sinners. (2Chr 7:14,15) There is the joy and comfort of full assurance for any who truly believes and repents of his or her sins before the Lord.

### Conclusion

The end of the year, 2024 is a time of personal reflection and serious pondering. What is your life now and how can we count for eternity which is our hope of glory. What on earth are we doing for heaven's sake? Pray and ponder over this before you enter into the new year.

## 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 & Children's Sunday School** 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 worshipping 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 Lim Chee Boon to minister to us for the month of December and early January.

**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 Lim for providing today's lunch.

**Afternoon Bible Study** – Rev Lim will lead the study from 1 Thessalonians. This week, we shall cover Chapter 5, Vs 12-28.

**Children's Sunday School** – held after the After-Service Fellowship at 1:30pm. The church would like to wish you and your family a **Happy New Year**.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

### **Last Week**

"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work."

Nehemiah 4:6

### This Week

"Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10

# 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