



# **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. 26

**LORD’S DAY 30 JUNE 2024**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### **Morning Service – 11am**

**Prelude**

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

**Call to Worship**

Isaiah 40:28-31

**Opening Hymn \***

RHC 226 – “The Lord Is King!”

**Opening Prayer**

John Poh

**Responsive Reading**

Psalm 113

**Second Hymn \***

*Psalm 113*

*(to the tune of Ellacombe, RHC 29)*

**Scriptural Text**

Matthew 25:1-13

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

**Sermon Message**

**Watching for the Coming of the Son of Man**

**Closing Hymn \***

RHC 220 – “Will Jesus Find Us Watching?”

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

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

**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 11**

**Q: What are God’s works of providence?**

*A: God’s works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures and all their actions.*

Comments:

The power of God is quite as necessary to maintain the world as to make it. We cannot live of ourselves. It is *in God* that all things live, and move, and have their being. And so this answer informs us that God not only created everything, but that he cares for his own glory.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 6:26, Proverbs 16:9, Psalm 103:19

# WALKING WISELY IN A FOOLISH WORLD

## – PART 2

### The Test of Walking in Wisdom

Those who walk in wisdom are also to "redeem the time because the days are evil." What does it mean to redeem the time? The English word translated "time" is not continuous time, as measured in hours, days, weeks, months or years but a measured, allocated, fixed season or epoch. The Apostle Paul is noting the quality of the time, ie "*the days are evil.*" (ie **last days are difficult and perilous before Christ returns**). Here is the reason why we should redeem the time. We should walk in wisdom because this is a distinctly evil age; cf Gal. 1:4. So what does it mean to redeem the time? The term here means to buy back, ie to purchase the time for ourselves.

Paul is not merely exhorting us not to waste our precious limited time. He is saying we must go out of our way to seek opportunity to serve God and advance His kingdom. One cannot do if one is idle and wasting one's time. **Be alert, be alive, and seek out opportunities for the Lord.** Look for them and take them eagerly every time you are presented with one. This, of course, is all-important, because the days are evil (ie the depravity of the system and the soon coming judgment) and the conditions in which we find ourselves.

It is a call to seize one's opportunities (ie the sharing of the gospel) for oneself in view of the particular evil of our contemporary world. Instead of fools who waste time in trivial pursuits and ignore opportunities during these evil days, believers are to buy up the time for themselves, by seizing opportunities in contrast to the evil days in which they live. The wasting of time and opportunities is a foolish thing. Jonathan Edwards, the 18th century American theologian and revivalist just before his twentieth birthday wrote: **"Resolved: Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can."** The Psalmist captures the value of redeeming the time in view of our temporal existence, compared to the eternality of God in this life. Our days are but threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom* (Ps 90:9-12). Eph 5:17 *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*

When we know what God's principles are and apply them obediently to our walk and make good use of our opportunities because of the evil conditions of our age, we are not to be fools but understand what the specific will of God is for our life. **Therefore, we are to walk circumspectly and to redeem the time. When we are obedient to God and carefully make full use of opportunities, then will we have an understanding of, "what the will of the Lord is."**

### The Seeking of God's Will as Wisdom

The "will of the Lord" in this case refers to the specific will of God, in contrast to the general will of God, mentioned in verse 15. At the moment of salvation, we are given the spiritual wisdom in Christ. As the New Covenant promise puts it, God "*writes His*

*law on our hearts"*, cf Jer 31:33. And as we are obedient to that and seize the opportunities provided, we follow and will understand the direct leading of God for our personal lives. Obedience and sensitivity are required here to the prompting of the Holy Spirit... (Gal 5:16). Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding (Prov 3:13). Our culture is heavy on information and technology but weak on true practical and spiritual wisdom. Godly Christians must know how to take the raw material of knowledge and refine it into true lasting wisdom, turning crude data into spiritual wisdom. **Spiritual wisdom perseveres**; it lasts beyond all the currents of culture and social norms, beyond the ephemeral fashions of the day. Spiritual wisdom seeks that which will last and is willing to trade immediate gratification for an eternal reward.

## **The Character of True Wisdom**

There are all kinds of claims to wisdom by the world. According to James in Jas 3:13-17, there are two kinds of wisdom: false, earthly and devilish wisdom which leads to strife, confusion and every evil deed and true, heavenly, spiritual wisdom from God which has its attributes. They include purity, peace, mercy, gentleness, impartiality and non-hypocrisy or sincerity among others. Do we measure up to these characteristics today? Something to think and pray about.

## **Conclusion**

**Folly or foolish living should not be used to describe the redeemed life. The elect are called to walk wisely and circumspectly, ie in wisdom where we know what God's principles are and submit to the spiritual rules that God has given to guide us.** We are to make good use of our time by seizing our opportunities because of the evil times in which we live. In order to understand what the specific will of God is, for our personal life, we need to pray for wisdom and to know, obey and do the will of God. Therefore, let us be wise in our thoughts, words, deeds; pray and read his Word daily, follow and obey God while we study, work or serve in the National Service. Then one will be kept in the right direction with godly prudence and discretion in these last perilous days.

Rev Jack Sin

(Sovereign Hope BP Church Weekly, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins 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 Worshipers, 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>

**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** – Mr Scott-Pearson will lead a study taken from 2 Chronicles 34 titled: *"Lessons from the Life of Josiah"*

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep,  
and am known of mine.*

*As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the  
Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."*

**John 10:14-15**

### This Week

*"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day  
nor the hour wherein the Son of man  
cometh."*

**Matthew 25:13**

## 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](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,  
Task Force Members