



# 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. 13

LORD'S DAY 31 MARCH 2024

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 3 – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*Opening Prayer*

Jonathan Kim

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 100

*Second Hymn \**

RHC 20 – “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

*Scriptural Text*

Genesis 38:23-30

*Pastoral Prayer*

Rev Mark Lehman

*Sermon Message*

***God Meant it for Good - Judah***

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 327 – “All Things Work Out for Good”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Rev Mark Lehman

*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 105**

**Q: What do we pray for in the Fifth Petition?**

**A:** *In the Fifth Petition – (which is, AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS) – we pray, That God, for Christ’s sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.*

Comments:

In the Fifth and Sixth Petitions we pray for the supply of our spiritual wants. We ask first for the pardon of our sins. This is promised in Scripture on the condition that we forgive others. If God, then, has enabled us to forgive all who have offended us, we may confidently trust that he will hear our own prayer for forgiveness. Sins are here called *debts*, because in sinning we become debtors to the law; and the law demands either obedience, or the penalty of disobedience.

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 51:1, Matthew 6:14

# THE POWER AND GLORY IN THE RISEN CHRIST

## Introduction

About 3000 years ago, Job asked this pertinent question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). That is the most important question we need to answer today.

Have you ever seen a corpse or a dead person? Have you been to a funeral and ever experienced the cold, clammy, sad feel of death? There is no life at all in a corpse. Death is inevitable and we feel sad, and terrible, and even fearful. When we stand over the body of someone we love, we often feel totally helpless, depressed and even hopeless.

**Death is a sobering, frightening, terrifying aspect.** The Bible calls it "the last enemy" (1 Cor 15:26). There is probably no man who has ever lived who has not feared for his own death. Deep in our hearts we wonder how we will do when our time comes to cross the river into the new world in eternity. How will it be with us when we have to go through the valley of the shadow of death, will we fear no evil? Will there be morbid phobia? Will our faith stand the test? What happens when a person dies? Does Christ have an answer to the question of death?

If a man dies, will he live again? All of us will face death someday. But for those who know Jesus, death holds no fear. We are not afraid of the darkness for Jesus is the Light of the world. We do not fear the valley of the shadow of death for Jesus has said He will be our Guide. We may die, but we will not want to stay dead forever. Jesus has the keys of life and one day He is coming back for us. He is going to unlock those doors of life and let the redeemed dead free and they will be worshipping God forever one day.

## Triumphant Over Death

Is there a way out of the threat of death, distress and depression (no reincarnation at all)? For the Christian, the answer is yes. To raise Christ from the dead is His resurrection power and that is real divine power that we need today!

If you would have Christ as Saviour and Lord, you will have victory over sin and His resurrection power. You can have the same divine power that raised Jesus from the dead if you confess and repent of your sins and trust Him fully as your Lord and God. Romans 10:9-10 says, *'That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.'*

Here is the glorious, good news. The power that raised Jesus Christ is the power that saves Today as we celebrate Easter, it is God's answer to the problem of the total inability of man to save himself because Jesus rose from the dead. With Christ, we have the power to face and conquer sin and death and to face every problem in this life.

## The Empty Garden Tomb of Hope

Some time ago the author and his wife led a group of 34 of from different BP Churches and visited the Holy Land and Jordan on a pilgrimage. We visited the Garden Tomb, the place believed by many people to be the actual site of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We saw Golgotha, the place of the Skull where Jesus was crucified alongside two thieves. Then we walked to the place where an ancient tomb has been hewn out of the side of a mountain. Like all the first-century tombs, the burial chamber is within a cave like grave. The very place where Joseph and Nicodemus would have placed the body of Jesus late on the Good Friday evening (John 19:38-41).

Unlike the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the location of the Garden Tomb fits the biblical description for the burial place of Jesus Christ. Everything is just as the Bible says it should be and one thing is missing. The body is really not there and was gone! The tomb is truly empty! Praise the Lord!

As we left the Garden Tomb, we saw a sign which reads, *"He is not here, for He is risen"* (Matt 28:6).

## Defeating Sin and Death

There are different ways that people handle their sinfulness. First, some people try to do good. Others turn to alcohol, drugs, pills, and others. It is the only way they can deaden the deep inner pain. Secondly, some people become very religious. They know they need to make their peace with God so some even join a religious organization, get baptized, try to read a religious book and even pray and give offerings, or try to take the sacraments. External religion for them is a way to alleviate the guilt they feel but it is in vain for all these cannot save us eternally.

We need to deal with the root problem, which is the total depravity of men or original sin since the fall of Adam and the true moral guilt that exists between all humanity and a holy God. No one can get around that issue. We cannot be good enough to do good works to erase your guilt, for it cannot be done before a pure Holy God. For Titus 3:5 says, *'Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.'*

Only the true account of the resurrection of Christ answers the problem of man's sin. Paul says, "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor 15:3). But that is only true because Christ rose from the dead. If Jesus is still in the tomb, then we are still in our sins. If Jesus did not rise, then the Romans and the Jewish leaders were right when they crucified Him. If Jesus did not arise from the dead, then Calvary's Cross was just a execution of a well-meaning, religious leader only and not God and there are no eternal consequences. Easter is the answer of hope after, a painful Friday for our Lord. The death of Christ forgives sins but only because the resurrection of Christ made His death effectual for all who believe In Him who will live forever. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *'For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.'* Praise the Lord for this.

This doctrine of the resurrection of Christ is one of the most important doctrines of the Bible. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead authenticates the deity of Christ. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then we are most miserable and we have no basis for our faith in Him. Christianity would be meaningless and useless, and it is no better than any other cult or false religion in the world if there is no reason Christ (1 Cor 15:11-19).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is a well-documented historical fact. Frank Morrison, a famous atheistic British lawyer who examined the claims of Christ critically and rationally came to his conclusion and wrote a book, 'Who Moved The Stone?' and was soundly converted as a result of his research and the writing of the book and So did a man called Josh McDowell who wrote Evidence that Demands a Verdict Paul said that in 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 we have the eyewitness account of many. We have the testimony of Peter, Paul, all the disciples and of over 500 brethren who all saw the risen Lord on one occasion. The resurrection is well documented in the inspired accounts of the Bible, **Luke 24; John 20-21; Matthew 28; Mark 16; Acts 1:3**. Now, if His resurrection is authenticated to be true and real, when does it mean for us? The benefits of the resurrection will be extended to all the elect of God who need not fear death anymore.

We praise God that Jesus is alive today and He is victorious over the grave! When the women went to that tomb early that Easter morning, He was not there for He had risen and it was totally empty! (Matt 28:4). Has His resurrection given you hope? Are you truly saved by Christ and are you also a beneficiary of the resurrection of Christ? Are you born again and assured of your eternal state today? We need to go quickly and tell others of the glorious news of hope (Matt 28:7) as did the disciples of old.

Have you been washed in the blood of the risen Lamb of God? Isaiah 1:18 says, *'Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.'* If Jesus came back today or tomorrow, would you be saved or will you be left behind without Christ and face the eternal consequences? Do you know that you are lost? Have you confessed your sins to God and placed your faith in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ? 1 John 1:9 says, *'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'* Have you received Christ as your

personal Saviour? If you have, then you have a reason to rejoice in the Lord this morning as do our 5 Chinese brethren who are baptized today as they have believed and professed Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour as you read in their testimonies. If you are not saved, you need to come to Jesus right now! Jesus is coming very soon to judge the world! Are you ready for His soon coming? Do not be caught unprepared! 2 Peter 3:9 says, *'The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.'*

Have you received the forgiveness of sins by God and been released from your guilt and received the peace of God in your hearts and minds? We need to look to the crucified, buried, and risen Son of God, Jesus Christ. Look to Him who rose victorious, and you will find forgiveness and freedom and peace forever when we look to Him alone. Hebrews 12:1-2 says, *'Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.'*

Consider the words of the hymn writer who says aptly here:

Death could not keep its prey,  
Jesus my Saviour.  
He tore the bars away,  
Jesus my Lord.  
Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain  
And he lives forever with His saints to reign  
He arose, He arose, Hallelujah, Christ arose!

Jesus has conquered our last enemy. He solved the intractable problems of sin and death forever because he entered the realm of death on our behalf and he is victorious, holding the keys to the victory over of death in his hands!

### **Conclusion**

Finally, Paul gives us a strong basis for confidence and assurance of faith for those in Christ and our eternal destiny in these words: *'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ'* (1 Cor 15:55-57).

Our eternal comfort and encouragement to all is to be faithful in worshipping and serving the Lord and to keep on till our risen Lord returns.

Rev Jack Sin

神有祂的美意  
God meant it for good

上帝在猶大的生命中有祂的美意 God Meant It for Good in Judah's Life

1. 猶大無法影響一些事情 Judah couldn't help some things
  - a. 珥死了。 Er dies
  - b. 俄南死了。 Onan dies
  - c. 示拉還小。 Shelah is small
  - d. 猶大的妻子去世了。 His wife died
  - e. 她瑪提供了妓女的服務。 Tamar offered her services as a prostitute.
  - f. 她瑪要求留下猶大的印章、帶子和棍杖作為當頭。 Tamar demanded deposits of his seal, cord, and staff.
  - g. 她瑪懷孕了。 Tamar became pregnant.
  - h. 她瑪生下了雙胞胎。 Tamar had twins.
2. 猶大可以影響一些事情 Judah could help some things
  - a. 他應該讓示拉娶她瑪。 He should have let Shelah marry Tamar.
  - b. 他不應該去找妓女。 He should not have gone to a prostitute.
  - c. 他沒有必留下印章、帶子和棍杖。 He didn't have to leave his deposits of a seal,
    1. cord, and staff.
  - d. 他選擇不再與她瑪發生關係。 He chose not to continue having relations with Tamar.
  - e. 猶大同意為便雅憫擔保。 Judah agreed to be personal security for Benjamin.
  - f. 當約瑟的杯子在便雅憫的口袋裡被發現時，猶大提議讓所有兄弟成為奴隸。 When Joseph's cup is found in Benjamin's sack, Judah offers for all the brothers to be slaves.
  - g. 猶大代表便雅憫向約瑟求情。 Judah intercedes to Joseph on behalf of Benjamin.

耶穌的祖先是誰？不是珥、俄南、示拉。是她瑪的兒子法勒斯。 Who is Jesus' ancestor? Not Er, not Onan, not Shelah. It is Tamar and her son Perez.

害約瑟37:26-27 26 猶大對眾弟兄說：「我們殺我們的兄弟，藏了他的血有什麼益處呢？ 27 我們不如將他賣給以實瑪利人，不可下手害他，因為他是我們的兄弟、我們的骨肉。」眾弟兄就聽從了他。

願意擔保43:8-10 8 猶大又對他父親以色列說：「你打發童子與我同去，我們就起身下去，好叫我們和你，並我們的婦人孩子，都得存活，不至於死。 9 我為他作保，你可以從我手中追討。我若不帶他回來交在你面前，我情願永遠擔罪。 10 我們若沒有耽擱，如今第二次都回來了。」

承認都是奴隸44:16 16 猶大說：「我們對我主說什麼呢？還有什麼話可說呢？我們怎能自己表白出來呢？神已經查出僕人的罪孽了，我們與那在他手中搜出杯來的都是我主的奴僕。」

關心父親44:18-34 34 若童子不和我同去，我怎能上去見我父親呢？恐怕我看見災禍臨到我父親身上。」

49 最長的祝福

# 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 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, 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).

**We thank God for providing Rev Mark Lehman to minister to the church till mid-May.**

**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** – There will be NO Sunday School today.

**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 conclude the Easter thematic messages with the final message on the topic "*God Meant it for Good*" – *A study of Joseph and Judah*".

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

**Matthew 4:4**

### This Week

*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

**Romans 8:28**

## **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