



# **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. 29 No. 08

**LORD’S DAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### **Morning Service – 11am**

**Prelude**

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 93

**Opening Hymn \***

RHC 43 – “God is Still on the Throne”

**Opening Prayer**

Joey Seow

**Responsive Reading**

Psalm 140

**Second Hymn \***

*Psalm 140 verses 1-2, 11-13*

*(to the tune of Ballerma, RHC 130)*

**Scriptural Text**

Hebrews 11:1-16

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

**Sermon Message**

**God’s essential requirement for us to please Him**

**Closing Hymn \***

RHC 441 – “Faith Is the Victory”

**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 45**

**Q: Which is the First Commandment?**

**A: The First Commandment is, THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.**

Comments:

God wrote the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone. On the first table he wrote the first four commandments, which contain our duty to God; and on the second he wrote the remaining six commandments, which contain our duty to man. This First Commandment teaches us the only proper *object* of worship. It is GOD – and beside him there is no other. This is the simple meaning of the commandment, but in the Shorter Catechism each commandment is explained and expanded, by showing first what it bids us do, than what it *forbids* us to do, and lastly, what *special reasons* or motives there may be for its observance.

Dear brethren, this week, we continue the article entitled “Will you end well?” This is a 4-part series written by Rev Mark Chen, pastor of First Evangelical Reformed Church in Singapore.

## **Will You End Well? (Part 2)**

In the previous part of the article, I wrote about the need to end well in light of news of friends going home to glory. How prepared are we to die? Paul was prepared at anytime to meet God (2 Timothy 4:6-8). The reasons he was ready were that he had completed his work – he fought a good fight, he finished his course, and he kept the faith.

This is why Christians ought to fight against self and sin, persevere in and keep the faith, and to continue to do what God has required of us.

As the church is aging – pioneers are in their twilight years – and illness is catching up with us; it is important to explore again the topic of death. And while we expect acute illness that leads to death at the end of life, we should also not be surprised with acute terminal illness in the prime of life.

These challenges – acute and prolonged chronic debilitating illnesses – can cause distress, desperation, and they can also challenge convictions. This is why we need scriptural perspectives to help prepare us to seek the Lord, to prepare for death or the long haul, and to prepare us to care, comfort, and exhort one another.

### **Death Is a Judgment**

Now, we know that death is a result of original sin (Romans 5:12). Everyone will die. Death is a result of the curse – and well-deserved by all (Psalm 11:6).

God does use catastrophic events – like illness – as judgment, but he doesn’t always judge immediately. In the days of Noah, when the imagination of man’s heart was continually evil, God waited 120 years –demonstrating his mercy (1 Peter 3:20). We should never deny that God does use such events to judge (Exodus 9:10-11).

### **Christian Death Is Not a Judgment**

But we must affirm this: God never uses death, acute illness, and such calamities as judgment for his people. Psalm 116:15 – “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.” When his people die, it is precious to God. In other words, as God sets a high value on the lives of his people, he also sets a high value on the death of his people.

The death of Christians is under his superintendence – they’re not accidental but arranged by God. So whether a Christian dies at 20 or 80, it is by the will of God.

This is even the case when Christians die and suffer unexpectedly. Job’s children died in a catastrophic manner. God may mercifully take away a believer to prevent him from sinning anymore (1 Corinthians 11:29) – but all of this is done in his love and mercy toward us.

### **Christian Death Works Good**

Our time on earth is done; our work is done. Moses was taken even though he was still spritely.

Deuteronomy 34:5-7 – “So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day. And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.”

That is why for Christians, untimely death, catastrophe, acute illnesses are not seen as condemnations from God. After all, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39).

We should, in such very difficult times, learn to echo Job’s words in Job 1:21 – “The LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” He was comforted in knowing that just as God had given him his children in birth, so it was God who had taken them in death.

Such death works humility. We realize that God doesn’t need us on earth. Our lives are not indispensable. God took Elijah home, as he did Moses, because there were others to continue the work. Jehu, Hazael, and Elisha would continue the work (1 Kings 19:16).

That’s why we should be comforted. When Jesus told his disciples of his imminent death, they were troubled. But Jesus told them they could have peace (John 14:27). This is why, as Christians, if we are convinced of the principles of Christian death, we can face it well.

Listen to the stark but true words of pastors in the past:

“He who fears death or is not willing to die is not sufficiently Christian.” ~ Martin Luther

“If anyone cannot set his mind at rest by disregarding death, that man should know that he has not yet gone far enough in the faith in Christ.” ~ John Calvin

“No one has made progress in the school of Christ who does not joyfully await the day of death and final resurrection.” ~ John Calvin

While we know that this should be the case, we do struggle with death, acute illness, terminal chronic illnesses. The Christian will experience trauma, doubt, and fear. We will explore these in the next pastoral voice.

But let us bolster ourselves with the truths on death – even though it is a judgment on sinners, as Christians, it is no longer a judgment. Christ has removed the curse of sin and death. And because we are children of God, our deaths are precious to him.

So when such calamities come on us and the family, let us fight those words of doubt and judgment that so easily come to us as accusations from Satan. Let us find, instead, in Christ, his words of assurance.

#### Recommended Resources for Further Reading:

The Life & Death Dilemma by Joni Eareckson Tada

Sickness & Death In The Christian Family by Peter Jeffery

The Happy Mourner by William Jay

Comfort & Care For The Critically Ill by June Kolf

Between Life & Death: A Gospel-Centered Guide to End of Life Medical Care by Kathryn Butler

Beyond the Big C: Hope In the Face of Death by Jeremy Marshall

Dying & Death: Getting Rightly Prepared for the Inevitable by Joel Beeke

# 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 Mr Charles Scott-Pearson to minister to us this Lord's Day.**

Next Lord's Day, our speaker will be Rev Paul Hanna.

**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 bring your own lunch as only drinks will be provided.

**Afternoon Bible Study** – Mr Scott-Pearson will deliver the study entitled “The making of the Table of Showbread” taken from Exodus 25:23-30 and Leviticus 24:1-9.

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

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*“When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.”*

**Jonah 2:7**

### This Week

*“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

**Hebrews 11:6**

## 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