



# 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. 43

LORD’S DAY 26 OCTOBER 2025

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 46:1-7

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 46 – “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

*Opening Prayer*

John Poh

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 24

*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 24:1-4*

*(to the tune of Evan, RHC 379)*

*Scriptural Text*

Romans 1:14-17

*Pastoral Prayer*

Rev Mathews Abraham

*Sermon Message*

*The Gospel of the Reformation*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 359 – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Rev Mathews Abraham

*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.

### **WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 83**

**Q: Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?**

**A: Some sins, in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are MORE HEINOUS in the sight of God than others.**

Comments:

This answer tells us that some sins are worse than others. It says that some sins are worse by reason of their own nature, as it is worse to sin against God than against man; and some are worse by reason of certain circumstances, as it is worse to sin deliberately than when hurried by passion.

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 12:47-48

Dear brethren, this week article is on the Reformation and has been written by Rev Mathews specially for the edification of our church congregation.

## **Remembering God's Work In Church History**

Today is Reformation Sunday. What is the Reformation, and why do we remember the 16th-century Reformation? The Reformation was a historical event in the **16th century** from which we received our Protestant heritage. The Reformation is generally dated to **October 31, 1517**, when a German monk named **Martin Luther** allegedly nailed his famous **95 Theses** to the door of the church in Wittenberg. In the theses, he challenged the erroneous teachings and abuses of the Roman Catholic Church.

For centuries, the Roman Catholic Church had been plagued by false doctrines, superstition, ignorance, and corruption. They taught unbiblical doctrines like purgatory, indulgences, and salvation through good works. Since most ordinary Christians were illiterate and had little knowledge of the Bible, they relied on their clergy for religious instruction and guidance. People tried to earn salvation through charitable works, pilgrimages, and all kinds of religious performances.

God in His sovereignty raised men even before the Reformation to speak against the false doctrines that plagued the Roman Catholic Church. One name that should be singled out is **John Wycliffe**. As a professor at Oxford University, Wycliffe represented England in a controversy with the Pope. Wycliffe championed England's independence from Papal control and supported King Edward III's refusal to pay taxes to the Pope. With royal favor, he attacked the corruptions, superstitions, and abuses of the friars and monks. He also declared the monasteries unbiblical and exposed their supposed powers to forgive sins as fraudulent. Wycliffe taught, "**Who can forgive sins? God alone!**" He also exposed indulgences, purgatory, and transubstantiation as unbiblical heresies. Wycliffe mobilized lay preachers (Lollards) to travel throughout the land to read, preach, and sing the Scriptures in English. Wycliffe was the **Father of the Reformation—its Morning Star**. Wycliffe had to flee for his life, but his writings and example inspired other reformers like **Jan Hus** and **Martin Luther**.

Centuries later, God raised another man named **Martin Luther** in Germany who heralded the Biblical doctrine of **justification through faith alone**; salvation is by **God's grace alone**, received through **faith in Christ alone**. Because of Luther's unequivocal stand and firm conviction, he was excommunicated by the Pope and finally outlawed by Emperor Charles V. God's work can never be hindered. On the contrary, God ignited the Reformation through Luther's work and raised other godly men like **Ulrich Zwingli**, **John Calvin**, **John Knox**, and others to proclaim these glorious truths of Scripture that had become obscured by the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. With one voice, they all sounded the battle-cry of the Reformation: **Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Solus Christus, Soli Deo Gloria**, which means The Word alone, by grace alone, and through faith alone, through Christ alone, to God alone be the glory!

We must thank God for the rich heritage of the Reformation. Remember, we are not celebrating the great figures of Luther, Calvin, or other reformers. We commemorate the 16th-century Reformation because it **restored the truth of God's Word back to the church**. The church before the Reformation was a church without the Bible. And a church without a Bible is useless. It is a lighthouse without a light or a motor vehicle without an engine. The Bible, the only rule of our faith and conduct, was freely made available in the local languages. Brave men and women died so that you could have the freedom to delight in God's Word. If you have a Bible in your language and enjoy reading and studying God's Word, never forget that you owe that Bible to the Reformation. If you enjoy Church services, Scripture choruses, hymns, prayers, and sermons in your language, remember that you are also indebted to the Reformation for this. Without God's work in the 16th century, we would still be in darkness.

Today, 508 years later, while commemorating the 16th-century Protestant Reformation from which we have received the heritage of the Reformed faith centered on the Word of God, it is prudent that we **guard ourselves against untruths and spiritual counterfeits**. We live in similar times of spiritual apostasy and moral degradation. Churches are falling away to new doctrines of feel-good theology and pragmatism. The doctrine of biblical separation is shunned, and many Protestant Churches are moving back into the Roman Catholic fold. Many Churches are embracing a morality that is alien to Scripture and an abomination in God's sight. Many churches are trying again to amass power, wealth, and status rather than caring, sharing, preaching, and reaching out with the truth of God's Word.

On Reformation Sunday, this is an important reminder of what it means to be the church. The **Truth of God's Word must be preserved, preached, and proclaimed without compromise**. To be a friend of the world is to be an enemy of God. The message of this Protestant Reformation is centered on the Word of God. The reason to stand up for God's Word and to defend the faith once delivered unto the saints goes back to Church history. The period from the 5th to the 15th century AD is known in Church history as the Dark Age, and a church that rejects these five Solas and doesn't stand on the Word of God will deviate again into the Dark Ages. So let us rejoice and continue to press on in our faith and obedience to God's Word, for now and until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The coming of the Lord is near.

But the Reformation is not an isolated event. History is nothing but HIS Story. God is awesome; God is amazing; **God rules**. As in the first commandment, we shall have no other gods before Him. On Reformation Sunday, this is an important reminder of what it means to be the church. Rather than trying to amass power, wealth, or status, we are to be caring for others, sharing what we have, and doing so quietly, prayerfully, and humbly. In that way, we will be faithful stewards of the

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# 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 Mathews Abraham to minister to us this Lord's Day.** Rev Abraham will continue to minister to us until mid-November.

**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** – Rev Mathews conduct the study on “Church History and Reformation” referencing Romans 1:16-17.

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

## MEMORY VERSE

### This Week

*“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

**Romans 1:17**

### Last Week

*“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

**Jude 1:3**

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good gifts we have been given. Central to the Reformed tradition is understanding the **sovereignty of God**—that there is only one God and that God is actively working out His purposes among us. Therefore, we claim to be **Reformed and always reforming** (*Semper Reformanda*).

The whole Protestant Reformation, which we celebrate today, was carefully planned and wrought by the Lord. We ought, therefore, to give God all the glory and praise for this wonderful work! And since it was God who restored the truth to His church in the Reformation, we can be confident that God will ensure that His Truth will continue to be preserved and propagated in the church today, no matter how significant the threats may be. Therefore, may the Lord help every church of His to be faithful to the **whole counsel of God** in these perilous times.