



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. 23

LORD’S DAY 08 JUNE 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Opening Hymn *

RHC 227 – “O Glorious Day”

Opening Prayer

Joey Seow

Responsive Reading

Psalm 5

Second Hymn *

Psalm 5:

(to the tune of Vox Dilecti, RHC 298)

Scriptural Text

Genesis 1

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

The Presence of God

Closing Hymn *

RHC 115 – “Constantly Abiding!”

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 61

Q: What is forbidden in the Fourth Commandment?

A: The Fourth Commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Comments:

This commandment forbids: 1. The omission of Sabbath duties; 2. The careless discharge of them; 3. Being idle; 4. Committing sin; 5. Being engaged, without proper reason, in worldly matters.

Scriptural Reference:

Isaiah 58:13, 14; Malachi 1:13

Dear brethren, this week, we will conclude the series of articles on Discipleship written by Rev Jack Sin, Pastor of Sovereign Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church in Singapore. The final article is entitled "True Disciples & Changed Lives".

True Discipleship & Changed Lives

We find a clear relationship between committed discipleship and salvation. This relationship between true salvation and discipleship cannot be ignored: Salvation is a free gift; but discipleship come with a price tag. Salvation relates primarily to Christ as Saviour, discipleship to Christ as Lord. Salvation involves the will of God in redemption and reconciliation; discipleship involves sanctification and the whole will of God. Salvation's sole condition is "believe"; discipleship's conditions are abide, obey, love, deny oneself, take up the cross, follow, lose one's life, "hate" one's family, etc. **Salvation is a new birth; discipleship is a lifetime of continuing growth and stewardship. Salvation depends on Christ's work on the Cross for all people; discipleship depends on a believer carrying his or her cross for Christ. Salvation is a believer's response to Christ's death and resurrection; discipleship is a commitment to Christ's lordship and hence victory over sin and walk in holiness.** Salvation determines eternal destiny; and discipleship determines eternal and temporal rewards. Salvation is obtained by faith; discipleship is evidence of that faith through an obedient life of service to Christ.

The sequence of justification before sanctification, salvation before discipleship, or faith before commitment is clearly taught in the Bible. Many verses appeal for commitment on the basis of grace already received (e.g. Rom 12:1; Eph 4:1; Col 2:6). The teaching of Tit 2:11-12 is especially relevant because it explicitly relates grace to the believer's sanctification. This passage shows that commitment and obedience come in response to God's sovereign election and grace:

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world"

The grace received in salvation is witness of divine approval of the Christian commitment and discipleship. Paul uses a verb to express the idea of training that is different from the idea usually related to discipleship. The verb he chooses ("teach") is rooted in the Greek idea of training a child. Grace, when received, takes an immature person and trains him or her toward godliness. The commitment of discipleship is testimony of all true Christians. **The close relationship between discipleship and salvation cannot, therefore, be separated. If salvation could somehow be free but costly, to a true Christian, justification by faith alone also requires sacrifice from the sinner (costly grace) can be biblically justified.**

The Meaning of Cross-Bearing

In the first century, a cross meant shame and suffering and death. Christ in his death at Calvary is talking about forsaking everything, even your own life. *"He that findeth his life shall lose it"*, you have your life and need to hold on to your life and faith lest you deny Christ under pressure, deny Christ under any persecution, be faithful to you calling with a transformed life bound by God's gracious power to follow Christ. **You will lose your soul finally if you are not a true disciple. But the one who is willing to lose his life for His sake is evidence that he has a changed life and is supernatural. God has transformed you and put His Spirit within you to transform your heart and you cannot be unsaved once saved** (Jude 24-25).

Genuine disciples do not give up in the face of threat and peril and false believers will fail. In Heb 11:38, talks about men who...who were so worthy the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all these having gained approval through their faith did not receive what was promised because God had provided something better for us so that they apart from us should not be made perfect.

Those faithful men were tested, and they passed the test finally. They conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight, women received back their dead by resurrection, others were tortured, not accepting their release. This is true discipleship.

Discipleship and Our Family

Matthew and Luke have deeper thoughts on discipleship. In Matthew's account, Jesus says the one who "loves" family more than Him is "not worthy" of Him. In Luke, Jesus says no one can be His disciple who does not "hate" or love less his family and his own life. This condition reeks of a deeper commitment to Christ over our relationships on earth.

Jesus must be the Master of all of our lives if one is to be His disciple. But in both Matthew and Luke, the words are applied to believers only. In Matthew, the saying is **Christ gave a warning about family members who may be divided over our commitment to Christ (10:34-35). In such a situation, a person who is convinced that Jesus is the Messiah will have his loyalty tested by trials and testing in relationships. This would present a great temptation to close family ties and harmony over one's identity with Christ, but the true disciple will always pass the test.**

We must be totally loyal to Christ. The Bible teaches that God offers salvation to some people He has chosen while they were yet sinners and requires their love and loyalty to Christ (Rom 5:6-8; I John 4:10). Furthermore, it speak of salvation as Matthew records that to Christ makes or shows one to be "not worthy" of Christ (Matt 10:37). The statement about unworthiness as none can be worthy of Christ but yet he chose some. **The unsaved are not chosen of Christ and His salvation and they do not believe in Him too. No fallen sinner is ever worthy of Christ's righteousness.**

It is truth of salvation which brings some who will be believers into a deeper relationship with Jesus as Lord through predestination and their loyalty to Him.

Forsake All and Follow Christ

Another condition that Jesus gives is that *"whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all ... cannot be my disciple."* It shares the same context as the condition discussed above (Luke 14:27) and is addressed to believers. Following the example of a builder who of the necessity to complete their tasks, this condition demands that a believer commit or surrender our time talents and possessions are to follow God's will. The condition is in absolute terms. Are we willing to give all of yourself to Christ to be a authentic Christian. Be committed to forsake all of earthly assets that we have (Luke 14:33), to acknowledge Christ as the Lord of our lives.

A truly saved person will surrender fully to Christ as a testimony of his salvation. He or she will abide in His Word and rely on Him fully and repent of our sins and obey His word (John 8:30-31).

This passage is thought to be a condition of discipleship spoken to unbelievers, but it is not. Speaking of Jesus' ministry, John writes, *"As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed"*. Some were not prepared to yield Him the far-reaching allegiance that real trust in Him implies.

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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 Worshipers, 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 week, Mr Charles Scott-Pearson will be ministering to us again.

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 continue the studies on "The Making of the Tabernacle" and today, he will speak on "The Brazen Altar".

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

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Genesis 1:1-2

Last Week

"But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:"

Acts 9:15

(continued from page 3)

The condition for becoming disciples in verse 31 is an uncompromising call to believers to be changed by God. Abiding is a condition for obedience and further knowledge of the truth and our freedom in Christ. Discipleship, as abiding relationship with Christ, is elsewhere in John made conditional on our total love and obedience to Christ (e.g., 13:35; 14:15, 21, 23; 15:4, 7, 10, 14). The true disciple will prove to be real, and he or she persevere to the very end (Jude 24, 25).

Conclusion

The call to discipleship given in the Gospels are directed toward challenging believers to live lives of obedience, surrender, sacrifice, and self-denial. Discipleship is costly, but the cost is worth it if one has truly received at salvation. Fake Christianity will be exposed here as a believer we need to understand the sacrifice of God for his redemption, he will respond to the grace given with a reciprocal commitment of following him till the end of life. As he learns to also sacrifice, obey, and deny himself, he will become more like the Saviour who exemplifies these things. Salvation is by grace alone, but discipleship is costly. The term *"costly grace"* is not a paradox, although grace, by definition it is free and remembers that salvation is costly and the **perfect example is Jesus Christ who paid the highest price, His life, for the sinner's redemption and he requires us to follow him with self-denial and full surrender. Let us then be true disciples of Christ today and take up our cross and deny self and follow him fully.**