



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. 19

LORD’S DAY 11 MAY 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Romans 8:35-39

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 95 – “My Saviour’s Love”

Opening Prayer

Joey Seow

Responsive Reading

Psalm 1

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 1:1-6

(to the tune of Azmon, RHC 61)

Scriptural Text

Proverbs 4:23

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Carl Vermeulen

Sermon Message

God commands His people to keep a close watch over their hearts.

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 247 – “Cleanse Me”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Carl Vermeulen

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 57

Q: Which is the Fourth Commandment?

A: The Fourth Commandment is, REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the SABBATH of the LORD thy God; in it THOU SHALT NOT DO ANY WORK, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath-day, and hallowed it.

Comments:

This commandment fixes the *portion of our time* which God requires us and our households to give exclusively to his worship – namely, one day in seven. Six days for *work* – one for *worship*. Such is the division of our time appointed for us by God, and required by the nature he has given us. The word *remember* is used in this commandment as implying that the Sabbath was not instituted here for the first time.

Dear brethren, our bulletin article this week (and for the upcoming weeks) is written by Rev. Okman Ki, Senior Pastor of Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church in Adelaide, Australia. This is a series of articles based on "Home Truths" written by Rev J.C. Ryle. We pray this article will be edifying to you.

The Real Presence - What Is It? (Part 2)

It is not easy to comprehend the doctrine of God's presence everywhere. However, believing it comforts us and strengthens our faith. To keep continually in mind that God is always present with us, to live always as in God's sight, to act and speak and think as under His eye – all this is eminently calculated to have a good effect upon our souls. Wide, and deep, and searching, and piercing is the influence of that one thought, "Thou God seest me."

Second, the thought of the presence of God enhances our spiritual life and strengthens our confidence in Him. (1) The thought of God's presence is a loud call to humility. Men and women surrounding us see and observe us, and thus, they know of us. However, what they can see is only our outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Man does not always see us, but the Lord is always looking at us, every moment, every hour, and every day, morning and evening. If we truly recognise this truth, then we will bow down before Him and say, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

(2) The thought of God's presence is a crushing proof of our need of Jesus Christ. If there were not a Mediator between God and man, what hope of salvation can we have? Our best righteousness is only filthy rags, and our best work only shows our imperfection before the eye of an ever-present God. The blood of Jesus Christ is the fountain of life open for all sin.

(3) The thought of God's presence teaches us the folly of hypocrisy in religion. Though God is ever looking at us and sees us through and through, if we wear a mere cloak of Christianity while we inwardly cleave to sin, what can be more silly and childish than this? It is not hard to deceive fellow worshipers in church and pastors, because they see us only on Sundays. But God sees us morning, noon, and night, and cannot be deceived.

(4) The thought of God's presence is a check and curb on the inclination to sin. When we are reminded that there is God who is always near us and observes us, and who will reckon all our words, deeds, and thoughts someday, we may well keep us from evil. This was the feeling that kept Joseph from sinning against God. He says, "*How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?*" (Genesis 39:9).

(5) The thought of God's presence is a spur to the pursuit of true holiness. The highest standard of sanctification is to "walk with God" as Enoch did, and to "walk before God" as Abraham did. To get away from God is the secret aim of the saint. The real servants of the Lord are a "people near unto Him." Psalm 148:14, "*He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.*"

(6) The thought of God's presence is a comfort in time of public trouble. When war, famine and pestilence break in upon a land, when the nations are rent and torn by inward divisions, and all order seems in peril, it is cheering to reflect that God sees and knows

and is close at hand, - that the King is near and not asleep. The world we are living in today appears to be abnormal, extraordinary, and war is common in Ukraine, Syria, Iran, Israel, and many other troubled regions. Domestically, we have witnessed changes of the concepts of marriage and love. All these upheavals may dishearten us, and our worldview may be very bleak. However, the notion of the presence of God provides stability, security, and comforts even in this world.

(7) The thought of God's presence is a strong consolation in private trial. We may be hit by personal tragedies, experience bereavements of our loved ones, and suffer great financial losses. Even in the midst of these trials, we can never go to any place where God is not, and under no circumstances can we be left entirely alone. Such thoughts as these are useful and profitable for us all. In every condition and place we are under the eye of God. Nothing should frighten us if we are true believers. Great is the mystery of God's presence everywhere, but the true man of God can look at it without fear.

II. Now we are moving from the general understanding of the presence of God to the real spiritual presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. He, in His infinite love, took man's nature and was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, dead, and buried, to be a sacrifice for sins, and yet never ceased for a moment to be very God. The peculiar "presence" of Jesus Christ with His church is the point which we will consider now. What is the real spiritual "presence" of Christ, and wherein does it consist?

First, there is a real spiritual presence of Christ within that Church which is His mystical body – the blessed company of all faithful people. This is the meaning of that parting saying of our Lord to His Apostles, *"I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"* (Matthew 28:20). There is not a visible Church on earth, which is secure against falling away. Rent by divisions, defiled by heresies, disgraced by superstitions and corruptions, the visible Church has often given mournful proof that Christ does not always dwell in it. On the other hand, the perpetual presence of Christ with His Holy Church, which is His body, is the great secret of its continuance and security. It lives on, and cannot die, because Jesus Christ is in the midst of it. It is a ship tossed with storm and tempest, but it cannot sink because Christ is on board. Its members may be persecuted, oppressed, imprisoned, robbed, beaten, beheaded, or burned, but His true church is never extinguished. It lives on through fire and water. The reason of it is the perpetual "presence" of Jesus Christ.

Second, there is a real spiritual "presence" of Christ in the heart of every true believer. This is what Paul meant when he speaks of "Christ dwelling in the heart by faith" (Ephesians 3:17). This is what our Lord meant when he says of the man that loves Him and keeps His Word, *"We will come unto him, and make our abode with him"* (John 14:23). As Christ dwells in the whole Church, which is His body, keeping, guarding, preserving, and sanctifying it, so does He continually dwell in every member of that body, - in the least as well as in the greatest. In themselves they are weak and unstable as water. But they have within them One who is "able to save to the uttermost," and will not allow His work to be overthrown. Not one lamb of Christ's flock shall ever be flocked out of His hand.

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 Carl Vermeulen to minister to us this Lord's Day. Rev Vermeulen will be ministering to us till early June.

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 Vermeulen will deliver today's study entitled "In the second petition, Jesus Christ teaches the Church to pray: Your kingdom come."

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

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Proverbs 4:23

Last Week

"That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever."

Joshua 4:24

Morning Service sermon and Afternoon Bible Study:

Dear brethren,

Morning Sermon:

Rev Vermeulen will be preaching from Proverbs 4:23 on "God commands His people to keep a close watch over their hearts" and will cover the following points:

1. Why this command is given.
2. What this command means.
3. How this command is kept.

Afternoon Bible Study:

Rev Vermeulen will be continuing his teaching on the Lord's Prayer – "In the second petition, Jesus Christ teaches the Church to pray: Your kingdom come."

In today's study, we will pay attention to each of the three words of the petition.