



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. 11

LORD’S DAY 16 MARCH 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Acts 4:11-12

Opening Hymn *

RHC 260 – “The Church’s One Foundation”

Opening Prayer

Joey Seow

Responsive Reading

Psalm 143

Second Hymn *

Psalm 143:1-2, 11-12

(to the tune of *Beatitudo*, RHC 388)

Scriptural Text

Matthew 7:24-29

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

The Wise and Foolish Builders

Closing Hymn *

RHC 317 – “The Solid Rock”

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 48

Q: What are we specially taught by these words, ‘before me’, in the First Commandment?

A: *These words – ‘BEFORE ME’ – in the First Commandment, teach us, That God who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of HAVING ANY OTHER GOD.*

Comments:

The special reason here given why we should observe this commandment is, that God, who seeth all things, keeps an eye especially on the breaking of this commandment, and punishes the offence with his sorest displeasure

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 44:20, 21; Romans 1:20-21

Following Christ Wholeheartedly in our Golden Years – The Example of Caleb

One question that is often asked when we reached our evening years: What should a Christian do when he or she retires? What are the evidence of one who is a true follower of Christ? These are pertinent questions that we must answer and examine ourselves. Let us consider the following.

The Positive Example of Caleb who Wholeheartedly Followed God

After the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea led by Moses, Joshua let the children of Israel into the Promised Land after conquering the enemies of the land. He had a notable companion in Caleb who was one of the 2 spies who gave a favourable minority report with faith in God (Num 13:29-33). **Jos 14:8-15 gives us the account of this senior servant of God who is a positive example for us to follow.** Caleb was first mentioned in Numbers 13:6. He was from tribe of Judah. He was the one along with Joshua and other 10 spies who were selected to spy out the Promised Land by Moses.

Num 14:8-9 gives a wonderful testimony of his faith in God. ***"If the Lord delight in us"*** (v 9) was his firm faith and trust in the Lord. He was not trusting in self or man, but he was sure of God's presence with Israel and therefore nothing to fear, even if the enemies were strong and powerful. We need this courage and God honouring perspective today in our lives.

It was said of Caleb who wholeheartedly followed the Lord, and he had a good spirit of obeying and trusting God. This was God's commendation for him (Deut 1:36). This was mentioned 3 times in Josh 14:8, 9, 14.

He was an old man of 85 years in Joshua 14. But he was still strong and his faith in the Lord was greater than ever. Many may think of slowing down when we retire in our mid or late 60s and maybe even take a break from serving God all together. **Instead of retiring, Caleb was refired spiritually by the Lord and wanted to accomplish greater things for the Lord.** So, he asked for Mt Hebron and by God's enablement and with the help of others, he finally captured it from the enemies after a tough fight (Judges 1). Thank God for his determined and fighting spirit that won the day for the glory of the Lord.

Requirement of Following Christ

This is an account of Jesus calling His disciples (Mark 1:15-20). Without hesitation, they all left and followed Him. (Their nets and boat - bread and butter of life). This is real sacrifice and surrender. **Following Christ requires more than just coming to church on Sundays or an occasional prayer and cursory reading of the Word or mere service. It requires faith and repentance and the surrender of ourselves to Him totally.** Rom 12:1-2 says, *'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.'*

Matt 10:37-39 calls for the forsaking of our father and mother, etc. It emphasises our priorities in following Christ. We should forsake many things, things that easily take away our attention from the Lord, pleasures and leisure that take away our time from the Lord. Note what Mose challenge us in Deut 10:12, *'And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.'*

The Negative Examples of Those who Claimed to be Following Christ

Luke 9:57-61 gave us a sobering account of three people who expressed their desire to follow Christ, but for different reasons and in different ways and receive.

In vs. 57-58, the first man wanted to follow Christ for his own personal benefits or some tangible gain. But Jesus told him that He had no place to lay his head that night and he did not possess the temporal things the man was possibly looking for. That man did not last long, and we did not hear anything about that man again. We should not follow Christ for personal benefits, such as power, fame, wealth, or other physical things, namely, to make use of God to get them for us. That is what the occult is all about. It is the manipulation of the supernatural for our personal gain; in witchcraft, tarot cards and fengshui and so on. **Christians follow must acknowledge Him by making Him the Master of our lives by surrendering all to Him our desires and our future.**

In vs. 59-60, the second man wanted to follow the Lord, but he wanted to wait till his father pass away. He wanted to first follow his father's religion, asking God to wait for a while till he buried his father one day. There are people who say they will follow the Lord when their worldly career is over one day or when they retire and have more time or when they have made enough money for themselves or when their grandmother dies. All these are distractions that lead us away from true commitment to Christ or even salvation in Him. **We dare not trifle with life and death and beware of a deadly delay in seeking Christ as we never know then the time is up for us. Note that Esau's repentance was not accepted as it was too late, and this is a warning to all of us (Heb 12:17).**

We should not delay in our repentance and in committing ourselves to Christ and surrendering our lives unto Him. Today is the day of salvation and dedication; tomorrow may be too late (2 Cor 6:2). The author was encouraged by someone who resolved to make a conscious effort to honour the Lord and return to Him and grow in His Word this year. Another person said he or she wanted to commit himself or herself to learn more about the Word of God and in prayer in the new year.

Finally, in vs. 61-62, the third man wanted to follow, but his priority was in other things, where family ties was more important to him than God. He was not fully committed to God, and he looked back into his old life, perhaps overly burdened about his family, children and other things. He too was not able to follow Christ whole heartedly. While it is not wrong to care for family and friends, it is important that we must not be encumbered with the cares of this world that we neglect our holy duties for Christ. **It is a great honour to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords, and we do it from our hearts with gratitude and cheerfulness. Following Christ requires our all to Him in total consecration and surrender in responsible stewardship and service.**

Conclusion

Who then is a genuine follower of Christ? Luke 9:23-26, *'And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.'*

There are some serious questions that we need to ask ourselves.

Are we ashamed of the cross or are we following the Lord whole heartedly?

Are we not willing to give up our comfort and personal gains and our time, talent and substance to support the kingdom of God?

Are we a convenient Christian who follow God on our own terms or are a committed and truly surrendered Christian?

Would you in your advance years daily seek to honour Him first and seek His kingdom and righteousness and follow Him fully?

The call today is still the same we are to deny ourselves, to sacrificially take up the cross, and then to follow Him whole heartedly. Will you pray about it and humbly seek to serve and honour the Lord in the rest of 2025?

Written by Rev Jack Sin, Pastor of Sovereign Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church, Singapore

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 Golden Candlestick" taken from Exodus 25.

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

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:"

Matthew 7:24

Last Week

"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"

1 Peter 2:7

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) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,
Task Force Members