



# 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. 33

**LORD’S DAY 17 AUGUST 2025**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 67

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 44 – “We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer”

*Opening Prayer*

John Poh

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 14

*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 14*

*(to the tune of Green Hill, RHC 192)*

*Scriptural Text*

Hebrews 12

*Pastoral Prayer*

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

*Sermon Message*

*Ye have not yet resisted unto blood*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 401 – “Yield Not to Temptation”

*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.

### **WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 72**

**Q: What is forbidden in the Seventh Commandment?**

*A: The Seventh Commandment forbiddeth all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.*

Comment:

This commandment respects *purity*. It commands us to be pure in thought, word and deed. It forbids all unchastity and immodesty. It acknowledges God as the owner of the body as well as of the soul, and the right he has to command that both of them should be kept pure and holy for himself.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 5:28, Ephesians 5:4

Dear brethren, this week article is the second article on the topic of “Soul Care” written by Rev Mark Chen, Pastor of First Evangelical Reformed Church in Singapore. This was published in their church weekly on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 and it has been reproduced for our edification.

## **Soul Care: When We Don’t Want to Forgive and Forbear**

Forgiveness is difficult. There are Christians who have been offended deeply. How can a few words of “will you forgive me?” solve their problems? They struggle to forgive — to be large-hearted and merciful.

Forbearance is also difficult. They may ask why they must have an attitude of forgiveness when their offender does not seek forgiveness? And why God calls them to do good to their enemies to melt their resistance?

As Christians, when we believe in Christ, we vow to love him, our fellow Christians, and even our enemies. And when we feel we are waning in love, we are to press on in love. His love is shed abroad in our heart.

This is obedience to the gospel and the outflow of the gospel. How do we help those who struggle with disobedience?

### *Help Others to Overcome Sin*

It is true that Christians are tempted to sin in many ways — especially in their love toward their neighbour.

Hebrews 12:12-13 speaks of this danger — *“Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.”*

They are tempted to *“turn out of the way”* — to drop out of the Christian race.

So in those times, what do we do? When we see others struggling, what do we do? We are to strengthen one another not to sin. We are to lift up their hands. We are to help one another to walk righteously — to straighten the paths.

All of us have that difficult task — to instruct Christians not to despise or complain against each other, to help enemies to love each other, and to instruct Christians to draw closer to God.

But often, the hardness of heart resists the Word and Gospel. And when we are at odds with one another and God, we will drop out of the race. Perhaps this is why Christians struggle so much spiritually — when we don’t love one another, how can we love God?

Hence, to prevent dropping out of the race, the writer of Hebrews instructs Christians to pursue peace and holiness with God and all men (v 14).

We have all experienced conflict in the church and family. And that is why we are to pursue peace and purity.

One of the keys to peace and purity is to receive the grace of God and not to resist it.

### *Do Not Resist God’s Grace*

Hebrews 12:15 says, *“looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God.”*

God supplies us with sufficient grace not to hate or despise our offender. He gives grace that we may love our brethren and overlook their weaknesses. He gives us grace that we may press on in our walk with him, despite suffering and temptation.

In fact, grace encompasses every area of our Christian walk.

We are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8,9), God's grace is sufficient to help us overcome hardship (2 Corinthians 12:9), we can always pray for grace at the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16), God gives us grace so that we can serve him (Ephesians 4:7), and God's grace teaches us to turn away from sin (Titus 2:11,12).

And God freely offers this grace to us so that in our temptations and trials, we may have strength to overcome them and to obey God. And so we are instructed not to fail or lack this grace by resisting it.

It's like a still small voice. Don't sin! Don't give up on your faith! Don't quit! Keep on loving the brethren! Forgive your spouse! Don't judge!

But when we silence that voice, we are treating God's grace contemptuously.

There are warnings in Scripture not to resist God's grace. 2 Corinthians 6:1— *"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."*

Therefore, we are to look diligently, to watch over others so they don't resist God's grace.

Alas, many resist that grace. Spouses refuse to be tender to each other. Brethren continue to complain against their brethren. And we forget God. And what is the result of resisting that grace of God?

### *The Bitterness that Comes By Resisting God's Grace*

If we are not diligent in receiving God's grace, there will be a *"root of bitterness springing up [that will] trouble you, and thereby many be defiled"* (v 15).

What is this root of bitterness? The author is quoting Deuteronomy 29:18. A root of bitterness refers to a person whose heart is turned away from God. When our hearts are turned away from the grace of God, we can bring trouble to many.

When a husband refuses to love his wife, or vice versa, when a Christian hates his brother, and when a Christian neglects God, it can lead to much trouble.

Cain brought trouble on himself and his brother when he didn't resist jealousy. There was murder. Esau gave up his birthright when he couldn't control his hunger.

Korah hurt himself and others when he could not control his rebellion. The 10 spies led the people into wandering when they couldn't control their fear. 40 years of wandering!

Judas led Christ to his death because he couldn't control his greed. The rich young ruler would not give up all to follow Christ, but hung on to his covetousness.

In each of these cases, there was grace offered. Cain was warned not to give place to sin. The 10 spies were countered by Joshua and Caleb's faithful report.

In Judas' time of temptation, Christ offered him the sop. It was his plea to turn from evil. The rich young ruler received Christ's words of instruction and love — sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

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

Next week, Mr George Anababa will be ministering to us.

**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 study on “The Making of the Tabernacle”. This week's topic is “The Brazen Laver”.

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

## MEMORY VERSE

### This Week

*“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin”*

**Hebrews 12:3**

### Last Week

*“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;”*

**Titus 2:11-12**

That is the grace of God given in the Gospel. Follow Christ. If we do not, many will be defiled. Yes, we may fail of God's grace at times, but it is always there when we return to him, as in the case of Peter, who denied Christ, but was restored.

May our words, in accepting his grace be — *“Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.”*

### Conclusion

Forgiving and forbearing are difficult. In fact, they are impossible without the grace of God. There are those in our midst who struggle to receive the grace of God to do what is right. But when we receive that grace, it changes us. Christ, who was filled with that grace because he is the source of that grace, forgave his offenders — who repented and believed by the same grace at Pentecost. And they became his brethren.

Perhaps the Lord is speaking to you in some way through this Pastoral Voice. Are you at odds with someone? Have you received the grace from God to seek forgiveness? Have you been offended? Have you received the grace of God to do good to your offender? And when they don't seek forgiveness, have you received the grace of God to forbear?

If not, there will be many roots of bitterness in our congregation who will be unable to grow in Christ and be free from bondage. The Lord has granted his abounding grace to us already. Let us receive it.