



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. 16

LORD’S DAY 20 APRIL 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 16:7-11

Opening Hymn *

RHC 213 – “Welcome Happy Morning”

Opening Prayer

John Poh

Responsive Reading

Psalm 148

Second Hymn *

Psalm 148:1-6

(to the tune of Azmon, RHC 61)

Scriptural Text

Luke 24:13-32

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Carl Vermeulen

Sermon Message

The risen Christ proclaims Himself to His own as the Christ of the Scriptures.

Closing Hymn *

RHC 205 – “Thine Is the Glory”

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 53

Q: Which is the Third Commandment?

A: The Third Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Comments:

This commandment tells how to treat the Name of God, and by his *Name* is meant everything by which he is named to us, or specially made known. To take God’s name in vain is to use it for a vain or frivolous purpose; and we break this command by profane swearing, or by irreverently using God’s name. We recognise the command when we pray – *Hallowed be thy Name.*

Dear brethren, our bulletin article is written by Rev. Jack Sin, pastor of Sovereign Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church. We pray this article will be truly edifying as we worship together this Easter Sunday.

Why An Empty Tomb Spells Eternal Hope

Introduction

Today we remember an important event in history, the Resurrection of Christ. It has been said that Christianity rise or fall with the truth of this Resurrection. **Every living man faces these 5 Ds In our lifetime as we grow old – Depravity, Decay, Disability, Disease, and Death.** However, as Christians, we see a glorious hope in the victorious resurrection of Christ. **Job knew the fact of resurrection some 2500 years ago when he spoke of his own resurrected body where he died and he will see God In the flesh (Job 19:25-26).** We shall consider the significance behind the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Different Worldviews of Life After Death

There are various world views of life after death. Let us consider the following:

Purgatory. The Roman Catholics believes that the dead enters into a place called purgatory, a half-way house between heaven and hell. This view is not found nor taught in the inspired canonical Scriptures but in the Apocrypha which is used by the RC Church.

Soul Sleep. The 7th Day Adventist believes when a person dies, his or her soul sleeps in the ground of the earth until Christ comes. This view has no biblical basis or theological foundation.

Reincarnation. This is a very popular theory, especially with followers of the New Age movement and eastern religions and those who are pantheists. There are many others in the world who believe in reincarnation of the dead. It is the belief that when we die, we will return to this life in a different form one day. This view is not shared by those who believe in the Bible.

Annihilation. The Jehovah Witnesses, liberals and atheists believe in this, that the human body and soul would be totally destroyed after death. Heb 9:27 refutes this. Judgment will follow after death and the soul lives forever after judgement will end up in either in heaven or hell forever.

Resurrection. This is an important theological view of the intermediate state that is taught concerning Christ after his death in both the Old and New Testament of the Bible.

Dan 12:2 *“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”*

Daniel wrote the above about 540 BC concerning life after death. When Jesus resurrected Lazarus, He said to Lazarus’ sisters: *“I am the resurrection, and the life.”* (Jn 11:26) Believers in Christ do not need the old body, but the new body when Christ descends on His second coming and when we meet Him in glory.

In the 1970-90s, there were famous sceptics like, Frank Morrison and Josh McDowell and Lee Strobel, who doubted the doctrine of resurrection and embarked on studies to “*expose the myth*”. After long extensive research and coming to the truth of verified evidence and facts concerning the resurrection of Christ all of them are now devout Christians sharing their newfound faith without apology in their books and public teaching and preaching. It is a total transformation of lives that only God can do.

1 Cor 15:1-4 – The gospel speaks clearly on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the bedrock of the Christian faith. No other religions preach resurrection.

Theories to Discredit the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Over the years there are theories concocted to undermine or discredit the life and the resurrection of Christ and here are some of them

Fraud theory. The Jewish chief priests and elders cooked up the story that Jesus' body was stolen away by his disciples – Matt 28:12-15. Could a few frightened disciples overcome an equipped and trained centurion and his armed soldiers and fight them off to take the body and the Romans did nothing about it after that? You be the judge

Swoon theory. An early 20th century theory that said that Jesus did not actually die. In fact, Jesus suffered flogging, dehydration and hunger and hung on the cross for 6 hours and in the coolness of the tomb He awoke. He was supposed to be dead when He was buried in the tomb, but he was not. It would have been incredible for this emaciated man who had lost much blood and was half dead to be able to push away the huge boulder and proclaimed Himself to have risen to His disciples, and that He was God and all and they were supposed to believe Him.

Wrong Tomb theory. There is a strange theory that says that the disciples were so distraught and confused emotionally that they went to the wrong tomb. To solve this so-called confusion, it is very easy as **all they need to do is to show the world the right tomb with the body of Christ and the disciples would have been discredited, but it never happened because this theory is unfounded and has no basis.**

Hallucination theory. Some claimed that people can be so mentally distressed that they see things that are not there. But it is also proven that it is highly improbable for two people to have the same hallucination at the same, place and time, leave alone a few hundred people. **In that case, five hundred or so people (1 Cor 15:6) who witnessed Christ's ascension were accused of hallucinating the same thing is possibly a greater miracle than the resurrection itself. There is no medical basis for this outlandish allegation.**

The Resurrection Factor

The authenticated historical truth of the Resurrection of Christ gives to finite man who will die one day an eternal hope of their victory over death and sin. Paul says correctly in 1 Cor 15:12-19 that *"If Christ is not risen, our faith and work would be in vain, and we would be most miserable"* and he firmly taught this truth to the churches in the first century as a central doctrine of Christology.

Attributes of the Old vs the New Body

Paul in 1 Cor 15:40-44 describes the attributes of the present human and the new resurrected body:

- Old body – Sown in corruption, and dishonour. Sown a natural body, subject to the laws of chemistry and physics.
- New body – Raised in incorruption, and in all glory. Raised a spiritual body. A perfect body that will last for eternity and is to last forever.

Many people use facilities like the gym to strengthen their bodies, but this physical body can last only a certain number of years (80-86 years normally.) Why not strengthen ourselves spiritually for the everlasting body? To be absent from the body and present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8).

The Day of Judgment

Note that the Bible teaches that Every Christian will appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10) one day for divine assessment of our service. Unbelievers will face the Great White Throne in judgment for condemnation. (Rev 20: 11)

Believers are already saved; however, they will face judgment for rewards for their service to God not for salvation. This thus is a clear reminder of God's final assessment of all that we have done in or with our present body that we need to be mindful of.

Conclusion

Paul provided authenticated theological truths to silence the critics as we affirm the resurrection of Christ and wait for His second coming. We cannot but give thanks to God for our salvation through the victory of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 15:57-58 encourages us to "be steadfast, unmovable, and always abound in the Lord's work." 'Steadfast' refers to a clear and unwavering mind towards faith. 'Unmovable' refers to tenacity in the face of temptations and wiles of evil. Labour for the Lord will not be in vain. **Rev 14:13 says that the works of those who laboured for the Lord will follow them even after they die.**

What have you been doing with your life today for the risen Christ for eternity's sake? Something to prayerfully think and work in our lives before He comes again in his glory.

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 the concluding thematic message on Christian world view entitled “Unpacking some texts to build our world view”.

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

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Luke 24:27

Last Week

“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:”

Luke 24:44

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 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