



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: newlifebplondon @ yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.newlifebpc.org.uk

Supervisory Pastor: Rev Lim Chee Boon

Email: pastor @ newlifebpc.org.uk

“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 29 No. 12

LORD’S DAY 23 MARCH 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 106:1-5

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 27 – “Now Thank We All Our God”

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading

Psalm 144

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 144:1-5, 9-10

(to the tune of All Saints, RHC 438)

Scriptural Text

Acts 8:1-8, 26-40

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Paul Hanna

Sermon Message

Called from the heart of blessing, to the middle of the desert

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 416 – “Wherever He Leads I’ll Go”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Paul Hanna

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: Which is the Second Commandment?

A: The Second Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth, THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM, NOR SERVE THEM: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Comments:

The First Commandment tells us whom we are to worship. The Second tells us how we are to worship him. It tells us we must not think to represent God to our minds by any image visible or even conceivable, or that he will accept such worship at our hands. We must worship God, who is a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. We are here likewise told that God visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children; but this does not mean that the children have to bear the *guilt* of the fathers. It means only that bad fathers are punished by seeing the evils of their misconduct entailed upon their children, while good fathers are cheered and rewarded by the opposite.

Dear brethren, this week's article is entitled "Repentance" written by our speaker today, Rev Paul Hanna. The article was published in the Vision Magazine on 15th January 2025. The article has been reproduced for our edification.

Repentance

Introduction;

Today in our '**post-modern**' and ever increasingly '**woke**' society, the subliminal teaching of '**own who you are**' **has been replaced with out and out Pride with being different!**

Flowing from that germ of thought, we are encouraged never to apologise for who you are, or for your actions, no matter how they are perceived by others. **Sin** is no longer considered as sin, but an expression of the way you were born and the way you will continue to be.

While society in general is moving further and further away from what was considered 'normal' in the not-too-distant-past, we, as Bible believing Christians ought to be Godly examples to the rising generation as those who not only know, but adopt and follow the Biblical principles on such matters as is taught in the Word of God on subjects such as '**Repentance**', arguably one of the key and fundamental elements of our Salvation.

Proposition; 'Repentance.'

1. What is Repentance?

In relation to the Biblical term set before us, firstly we must have a sound understanding of its meaning, especially in regards to its Scriptural usage in general and in soteriology (the doctrine of Salvation) in particular.

The Greek word translated as '**Repentance**' in the New Testament, is a word that holds the thought of '**causing one to stop, reconsider and to think differently afterwards**'. It is a very strong term and is to do with the feeling of moral compunction or repudiation about an action or a thought.

The Greek word employed by the sacred writers of the New Testament is a compound word and comes from two different words, one of which (significantly) holds the thought of **exercising the mind in an understanding way about a matter of importance.**

One of the dictionary definitions of the word Repentance is, '**...to change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins.**' (Thayer).

The Oxford dictionary gives the following definition of the word 'repentance'. ***'Noun – the action of repenting; sincere regret or remorse.'***

Cambridge dictionary defines the term in the following way; ***'The fact of showing that you are very sorry for something bad you have done in the past, and wish that you had not done it.'***

2. Biblical Examples of Repentance.

- **The theme of Repentance is a key doctrine taught throughout the Word of God!**

As we read the Gospel records, for example the commencement of John the Baptist's ministry was marked by this theme as *he* preached about the need for repentance to all who listened to him in his final days prior to the commencement of Christ's own public ministry.

- **Matthew 3** as well as **Mark 1** records examples of these for us.

Matthew 3:1–3 “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, (2) And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (3) For this is He that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.”

- Again, when the LORD Jesus Christ commenced His earthly ministry, The Son of God, in His preaching and teaching exhorted all men everywhere to Repent and believe the Gospel!

He followed in the same vein of thought as John, His forerunner did in *his* preaching – He preached first and foremost about the need for ***'Repentance'*** and flowing on from that fundamental thought, the necessity of saving faith in trusting in the Gospel of Jesus Christ for sins forgiven.

Matthew's Gospel marks the commencement of Christ's ministry in **4:14** and does so in a very notable and telling way, especially when dealing with the subject of ***'Repentance'***.

Matthew 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

John's Gospel too takes great pain to impress upon the reader how the LORD Jesus Christ commenced His ministry in **Mark 1:14** onwards. I believe it is most telling and significant the order in which Mark outlines how Christ began to preach the Gospel of the kingdom of God.

Mark 1:14 & 15 “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, (15) And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

- In **Mark's Gospel** we note something of extreme significance; **Christ's first recorded command is the word ‘Repent!’**
- Of course, following on in their preaching and teaching after the assumption of the Saviour into heaven after His resurrection, the disciples continued on as the Saviour had commended them.

In their preaching, teaching and exhortation, the disciples continued to preach the need for true Biblical Repentance in the work of Salvation.

We only have to read the inspired record of how the rapid expansion of the first century Church, **the Book of Acts**, and we soon discover this to be so.

In his sermon at Pentecost, Peter preached about the need for repentance to his Jewish audience. When they were challenged and pricked in their hearts and pleaded with Peter and the rest to guide them in what they ought to do, Peter's response was clear and unequivocal – **it's recorded for us in Acts 2:28 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”**

Again, in **Acts 3**, we read of an impromptu sermon delivered by Peter as the people rushed them following the healing of the lame man in Solomon's porch. On that occasion, he urged them not only about the need to repent, but to do so there and then upon the promise of having their sins blotted out!

Again, in dealing with the sin of ‘**Simony**’ in **Acts 8**, Peter impressed upon the individual the grievances of his sin and what he was suggesting and of the obvious state of his heart, while at the same time urging upon him the efficacy of repentance from such sinful thought and how it may be regarded by the LORD in this matter by forgiving him of his sin.

While there are other examples of ‘Repentance’ being preached and taught in the Book of Acts, the final occurrence of this fundamental word is a particularly notable one.

Acts 26:20 “But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.**”

In this important passage, the Apostle Paul urges King Agrippa not only to **‘Repent’**, as in the mental turning away from his sin and sinful attitudes, but significantly in this example, he couples the mindful act of ‘Repentance’, to the physical manifestation impressing upon Agrippa how his actions should match and follow his change of attitudes.

Of course, this was a bridge too far for Agrippa; however, the truth brought out by the Apostle in his converse with him applies significantly to each and every one of us today!

3. The Absolute Necessity of Repentance.

‘Repentance’ is an absolute necessity for Salvation!

This is a key and fundamental Bible truth that there is simply no getting around or avoiding!

The very fact the LORD Jesus Christ, as well as His forerunners and followers preached this doctrine unwaveringly is testament, if it were needed to this key and fundamental truth!

Dr Alan Cairns in his Dictionary of Theological Terms states the following under the subject of **‘Repentance’**, ***‘Repentance is necessary for sinners to be saved...’***

Unless the sinner, enabled by Spirit of God Himself, sees, understands and acknowledges the filthiness and odiousness of his sin, turns from them unto God he cannot and will not be saved.

• What about you today dear reader?

Does the light of God’s Holy Word, especially on subjects such as this illuminate and highlight the sin in your life?

Would you not, with true contrition of and hatred of that sin, repent today and enjoy the knowledge of sins forgiven?

Conclusion;

1. What is Repentance?

2. Biblical Examples of Repentance.

3. The Absolute necessity of Repentance.

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 Paul Hanna to minister to us this Lord's Day.

Next Lord's Day, our speaker will be Mr Charles Scott-Pearson.

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 Hanna will deliver the study entitled "The New Heaven and the New Earth" taken from Revelation 21:1-4, 10 to 22:7.

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

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
Acts 8:37

Last 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

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