



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. 34

LORD’S DAY 24 AUGUST 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

1 Timothy 1:15-17

Opening Hymn *

RHC 55 – “Our Great Savior”

Opening Prayer

Joey Seow

Responsive Reading

Psalms 15

Second Hymn *

Psalms 15

(to the tune of Wiltshire, RHC 35)

Scriptural Text

Job 23:10

Pastoral Prayer

Mr George Anibaba

Sermon Message

The God who knows, tries and refines

Closing Hymn *

“O Rejoice in the Lord”

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Mr George Anibaba

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 73

Q: What is the Eighth Commandment?

A: The Eight Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:15

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 110

Q: What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

A: God forbids not only those thefts, and robberies, which are punishable by the magistrate; but he comprehends under the name of theft all wicked tricks and devices, whereby we design to appropriate to ourselves the goods which belong to our neighbour: whether it be by force, or under the appearance of right, as by unjust weights, ells, measures, fraudulent merchandise, false coins, usury, or by any other way forbidden by God; as also all covetousness, all abuse and waste of his gifts.

Dear brethren, this week article is the fifth 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 10th October 2021 and it has been reproduced for our edification.

Soul Care: Striving to Grow in Godliness

As Christians, one of the things we struggle with is growing in godliness. Many of us, having been in church for a while, have become experts in doing church but not necessarily in growing in Christ.

Growth in Christ is not merely gained by growing in knowledge, but it is achieved by persisting in obedience. In the past few Pastoral Voices, we have been considering the issue of soul care – especially on forgiving, forbearing, forgetting, and receiving the grace of God to obey.

We know that we ought to grow in these things – to be godly. But we do not always put in the necessary effort to subdue mind, heart, and will toward sin nor excite mind, heart, and will toward obedience. We may start well, but we must also end well.

The thief on the cross started well when he trusted Christ – that’s why Jesus said, *“Today, thou shalt be with me in paradise.”*

However, had he lived, what would God’s will have been for this saved man? Colossians 1:10 says *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”*

How do we grow in godliness?

The Obligation to Grow in Godliness

Every Christian is obligated to grow in godliness. Hebrews 5:12-14 says *“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God.”*

The Hebrew Christians had been Christians for such a long time, that they were obligated to teach others how to be godly. Unfortunately, they had backslidden to be like babies, who needed to be taught basic holiness.

They were once godlier, but were no longer. They had *“become such as have need of milk, and...unskilful in the word of righteousness”* (v 13).

So how does one grow in godliness? It is by exercising our moral muscles to make holy decisions. Only then will we grow in godliness.

Verse 14 – *“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

Full grown Christians get to where they are because they have lived habitually holy lives. They have striven to be holy. The longer we are as Christians, the godlier we should be. It’s an obligation to grow in conformity to Christ. We may grow in knowledge but if we are still argumentative, disagreeable, and always in conflict with people – we are not growing in godliness. And I have seen how we argue on chat groups – much knowledge, but we are not tempered in speech.

If we serve but are always giving in to lust and temptation, we’re not godly. And many of us have accepted this as a norm – we continue to put much effort into our service, but not as much in our personal holiness.

The Importance of the Thought Life

Being godly is not rocket science. There is no secret to becoming godly. The place to start is the mind. To be godly, we must guard our thoughts and affections. Proverbs 4:23 says, *“Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.”*

The object we must keep is the heart. The word “keep” means to do the work of a watchman. It is to be done “with all diligence” – the way a guard watches a criminal. But why are we to watch our hearts like that? Because it is the source of all life. And that’s a scary thing!

The heart is the source of all evil. Matthew 15:19 says, *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”*

If we don’t guard the heart, it leads us to murder, lie, and write stinking emails/texts/posts. And we need to guard our hearts because while we may think our motivations and judgments just, they may not actually be. Our hearts have the capacity to deceive us.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”*

Psychologist Dr Elinore Kinarthy says, “The average person has more than two hundred negative thoughts a day, worries, jealousies, insecurities, cravings for forbidden things, etc. Depressed people have as many as six hundred.”

If we don’t guard our thoughts and affections, they can lead us to self-destruct or to commit vile sins against others.

The thought life is vital for godliness. We are what we think. Philippians 4:8 says, *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

If it is vital to think virtuous thoughts, how is it godly to be quick to think ill of others?

The Necessity of Putting Off and On

But godliness is practical. There will be proof of change. There will be a putting off of sin and putting on of obedience.

Ephesians 4:22,24 – *“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man...and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

And the proof of change is not simply that a person stops sinning, but that he starts being holy. The proof that a liar has changed is that he starts telling the truth.

Verse 25 – “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

A thief has changed not only when he stops stealing, but when he starts working and giving.

Verse 28 – *“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”*

An accuser has changed when he uses his tongue to encourage others.

Verse 29 – *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*

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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 George Anibaba to minister to us this Lord's Day.

Next week, Dr David Allen 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 Anibaba will conduct the study on "The Fruitful Living" taken from Galatians 5.

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

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

*"But he knoweth the way that I take:
when he hath tried me, I shall come forth
as gold."*

Job 23:10

Last Week

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

Hebrews 12:3

Growing in godliness is very practical and an obligation. And the reason why we don't grow holy is because we choose not to do so in a practical way. Meeting the Lord by the skin of our teeth is not God's will for us.

God Helps Us to Be Godly

But in being godly, we mustn't forget that God helps us to be godly. He doesn't leave us alone to fight our way.

The love of God overflows in our heart by the Spirit (Romans 5:5) – it thrills us to grow in godliness! God has given us a new heart that delights in his laws (Jeremiah 31:33-34). God will also transform us by renewing our minds to have the mind of Christ (Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:5). And he has given us all power to be godly (2 Peter 1:3-4).

We are not only saved by grace, but made godly by grace.

Conclusion

It is very demoralizing as a Christian to live in sin. While we are given promises of victory over our sins, we don't always experience it. One of the reasons is because we are not striving against sin – we have given up! We are not surrendering our thought life to God, neither are we thinking practically how we may put off and put on.

We will consider in other instalments of Soul Care in the Pastoral Voice, how we can pursue change and godliness.