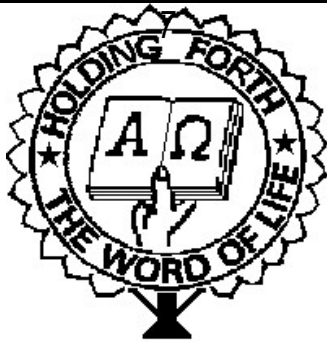




NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Vol. 30 No. 31

LORD’S DAY 02 AUGUST 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 30:1–5

Opening Hymn *

RHC 561 – “Come, let us to the Lord our God”

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading

Psalm 63

Second Hymn *

Psalm 63:1–5

(To the tune of Martyrdom, RHC 38)

Scriptural Text

Genesis 35:1–15

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message

“Arise to make an altar unto God”

Closing Hymn *

RHC 370 – “Nearer, My God, To Thee”

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Rev Lim Chee Boon

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 16

Q: Did all mankind fall in Adam’s first transgression?

A: The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind – descending from him by ordinary generation – sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Comments:

The agreement which God made with Adam did not affect himself alone, but all his descendants. When Adam sinned, therefore, the whole of the human race, except Christ, incurred along with him his punishment – the punishment of death. They ‘sinned in him and fell in him’. This result is in strict keeping with the plan on which all the world’s affairs are conducted, for we still see children suffering on account of the misdeeds of their parents.

Scriptural Reference:

Romans 5:18-19, 1 Corinthians 15:22

Dear brethren, starting this week, Rev Lim Chee Boon will be authoring the main article in our church bulletin. The articles have been specially prepared for our edification, and we hope they will be a source of encouragement and growth.

A Healthy Church (2 Thessalonians 1:1–5)

Introduction:

Paul visited the city of Thessalonica in his second missionary journey. Many people responded to the preaching of the gospel and accepted Christ as Saviour. A church was established to cater to the needs of the believers. But soon persecution broke out, and Paul had to leave the city. Not long after that, Paul sent Timothy to minister to the church. Paul heard good reports about the young church and wrote the first epistle to encourage them.

A few months after writing the first epistle, Paul heard some disturbing news about the church. Some believers had wrong ideas about the Day of the Lord. They thought the Lord's return would be in their lifetime. So, they stopped working and had been wasting their time in idleness. Therefore, Paul wrote to them the second epistle. The purpose of the second letter was to straighten out some moral and doctrinal matters.

Paul begins his letter with his usual apostolic greetings — “¹ Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ² Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Next, he told the church how thankful he is to God for the believers — “³ We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; ⁴ So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: ” In these four verses, Paul said that the church is a good church, despite its weaknesses and problems. The church had demonstrated growth and perseverance in the faith. The desire of Paul is that the church will continue in that healthy state.

First, a healthy church acknowledges the Godhead of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (vv. 1-2).

Paul teaches the unity of the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. They are co-equal in the Godhead. A healthy church believes in a Triune God — Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are sovereign over the lives of the believers and the church. The church responds to God's sovereignty by acknowledging His authority over their beliefs and behavior.

The Roman Catholic Church's belief is dependent on the Pope's declaration of ex cathedra. This happens when he declares doctrines and moral matters from his papal throne. This declaration is binding, and it is considered a mortal sin to disobey the Pope. But Christians hold to the Bible as its only source of doctrines and moral teachings. God and His Word have absolute authority over our belief and conduct.

The acknowledgement of the Godhead of the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ requires the worship of God in spirit and in truth, and in the beauty of holiness. In the Bible, worship describes both a way of life and a specific activity. Praising, adoring, and expressing reverence for God, both publicly and privately, are specific acts of worship. In a broader sense, worship refers to an overall lifestyle of serving and glorifying God and reflecting His glory to others.

Finally, acknowledging the Godhead of the Father and Jesus Christ demands that we serve Him wholeheartedly and faithfully. We are stewards of God's property. The Bible tells us that stewards must be faithful in carrying out their duties to the master. It is our prerogative to ensure that the Master does not suffer loss. The parables of the talents and the pounds clearly illustrate this truth (Matthew 25 and Luke 19).

Second, a healthy church aligns itself with God.

The church is a spiritual entity. It does not align itself with the world. "Kosmos refers to an ordered system...Of which Satan is the head; his fallen angels and demons are his emissaries; and the unsaved of the human race are his subjects, together with those purposes, pursuits, pleasures, practices, and places where God is not wanted. Much in this world-system is religious, cultured, refined, and intellectual. But it is anti-God and anti-Christ" (Wuest, K. S. Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: Eerdmans). This is the reason for John to command the Christians to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." (1 John 2:15)

The church is a witness to the world. It witnesses to the world regarding the life, work, and salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus prayed to the Father, "17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." The word "sanctify" means to set apart, to be holy. We are set apart by the finished work of Christ on the cross. We have a new life in Christ, and is now distinctively different from the world. Therefore, we witness for Christ by living a holy life.

The church is a witness to the world by declaring the Word of God. It is our duty to "go into all the world and preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15). Christians must deem it a privilege to be the bearer of the good news. And we must do it because many people are still outside the kingdom of God.

Finally, we are commanded to hold to "sound doctrine." Sadly, this is an age of apostasy. The word means "a turning away from that which is sound and truthful." Apostasy seeks to sway people away from God's word. Therefore, we are exhorted to "not believe in every spirit, but to test them." This is necessary for our protection and the defense of the truth. We must guard against any so-called church, organization, movement, literature, and person that has the motive of destroying God's truth.

Third, a healthy church abounds in faith in God and in love for one another (1:3)

A healthy church is not without problems. But it is growing in spite of the many problems. Why did Paul say, “We are bound to thank God always for you”? The word bound means to be under obligation. F.F. Bruce says, “Paul felt that he was under obligation to thank God because he had heard that the Thessalonians were protesting that his earlier praise of them was excessive.” So he is encouraging them by saying that their evident growth in faith and love shows that God is truly at work in their hearts.”

The church abounds in faith in God. The book of Hebrews says, “¹² 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; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 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.” (Heb 5:12-14)

The church’s faith grew by:

1. Receiving the Word in much affliction and joy (1 Thess. 1:6)
2. Being ensamples to all the believers (1 Thess. 1:7)
3. Spreading the Word everywhere (1 Thess. 1:8)
4. Turning from idols to serving the living God (1 Thess. 1:9)
5. Hoping for the return of Christ (1 Thess. 1:10)

Next, a healthy church increases love for one another. Faith and love cannot be divorced from one another. (1 Thess. 1:3; 3:6; 5:8) The Bible teaches that the increasing love for one another always flows out of growing faith in the Lord Jesus. Jesus mentioned two reasons for loving one another in John 13:34-35. First, we love one another because He first loved us. Second, it is evident that we are His disciples.

Fourth, a healthy church suffers for Christ with joy and patience (1:4-5)

The verse tells us that the church was growing in faith and love in spite of persecutions and afflictions. This is a praiseworthy church. In church history, we see that persecution did not exterminate the church. Instead, it propels the church to grow in strength and number. On the contrary, when the church is enjoying peace and prosperity, it becomes weak and ineffective in its witnessing. It becomes worldly.

How we respond to trials is important. We can either have an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God, or our faith can grow vigorously as we put our trust in Him. Then we will see His faithfulness in keeping His promises. The church in Thessalonica rejoiced in tribulations and persecutions. Paul was in prison when he wrote to the church in Philippi, saying, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.” He and Silas were singing and praising God in the prison of Philippi, and God caused the earth to tremble. The doors of the prison cells were opened.

The church had faithfully persevered in suffering. This is evidence that they have hope in God’s eternal kingdom. So Paul says in verse 5, “Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer.” We can also interpret the verse to mean that they chose to suffer for the kingdom of God. They regarded it as something worthy—a privilege to bear the mark of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John MacArthur commented on verses 4 and 5: “Having a right attitude toward suffering is essential, and that required attitude is concern for the kingdom of God.” They were not self-centered, but concentrated on God’s kingdom. Their focus was not on personal comfort, fulfillment, and happiness, but on the glory of God and the fulfillment of His purposes. They were not moaning about the injustice of their persecutions. Rather, they were patiently enduring the sufferings they did not deserve (v. 4). This very attitude was positive proof that God’s wise process of purging, purifying, and perfecting through suffering was working to make His beloved people worthy of the kingdom (cf. 2:12) by being perfected (cf. Jas 1:2–4; 1Pe 5:10). For believers, afflictions are to be expected (cf. 1Th 3:3) as they live and develop Christian character in a satanic world. Suffering is not to be thought of as evidence that God has forsaken them, but evidence that He is with them, perfecting them (cf. Mt 5:10; Rom 8:18; 2Co 12:10). So the Thessalonians demonstrated that their salvation, determined by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ, was genuine because they, like Christ, were willing to suffer on account of God and His kingdom. They suffered unjustly as objects of man’s wrath against Christ and His kingdom (Ac 5:41; Php 3:10; Col 1:24).

Conclusion:

Who and what are you suffering for? We should not be suffering from the consequences of sin. If we are living in sin, turn away from it now. The Lord is mercy; He wants to spare us from the penalty of our sin. So, do not persist in our wrongdoing. But if God would allow us to experience the hardship of trial, let us be bearing it patiently and willingly. God’s grace is sufficient for us. For He will not allow us to suffer above that which we are able to bear. But with each trial, He will provide a way of escape, so that we are able to endure it. (1 Cor 10:13)

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 Lim Chee Boon to minister to us today. Rev Lim will be ministering to us until end September. Thank God for his journey mercies and also for the brethren who arrived safely for the UK heritage tour.

We bid farewell and journey mercies to Eld and Mrs Foong Kon Yu who will be departing this week.

Tithes & Offerings – The offering box is located at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary.

Extraordinary Congregational Meeting (ECM) – Please note that an ECM to elect the Church Session will be held after the morning service today. Rev Lim will be moderating the ECM.

After-Service Fellowship – Lunch will be provided today after the ECM. Do stay back and join us.

Due to the ECM, no Afternoon Bible Study and Sunday School will be held today.

Lord's Supper, 9 August – We will be observing the Lord's Supper next Sunday.

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

"And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel."

Genesis 35:15

Last Week

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

Ezekiel 22:30

The Believer's Daily Remembrancer – 2nd August

(written by Rev James Smith)

"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." 1 Timothy 4:10

THE living God is opposed to a dying world, to our dying frames, and to our dying friends; these must not be trusted, or we shall be wretched. Our God may, ought to be trusted, for He is the only suitable object of a Christian's trust; He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think. He is immutable. He never disappointed a sinner's hope, if founded on His word; or refused a believer's petition, for deliverance or relief. If we trust in the living God, it will preserve us from perpetual disappointment; from bitter reflections on self and others; from many dangers; and from the threatened curse. If we trust in the living God we are blessed; we shall be fruitful; we shall be delivered from slavish fears; we shall enjoy perfect peace; we shall be provided for; we shall find a refuge in every storm; have an answer for all who reproach us; experience firmness and stability; and enjoy solid happiness. Let us ascertain, Are we trusting in the living God? Let us seek grace, daily to live in simple, child-like dependence upon Him. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord.

*In Thee, O Lord, I put my trust, Mighty and merciful and just,
Who hides my life above; Thou canst, Thou wilt my helper be;
My confidence is all in Thee, My faithful God of love.*