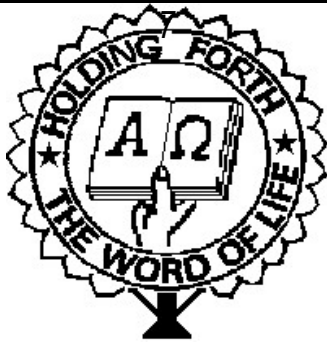




NEW LIFE

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. 36

LORD'S DAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Isaiah 6:1–3

Opening Hymn *

RHC 8 – “*Holy, Holy, Holy*”

Opening Prayer

Joey Seow

Responsive Reading

Psalm 68

Second Hymn *

Psalm 68:1–6

(To the tune of Ellacombe, RHC 29)

Scriptural Text

1 Peter 1:13–19

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message

“God is Holy”

Closing Hymn *

RHC 376 – “*O to Be Like 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 21

Q: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A: The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, BECAME MAN, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever.

Comments:

To redeem is to buy back something which has been possessed before, but of which possession has been lost. New, Jesus Christ redeemed us with his own blood. And of this Redeemer we are here told that, being God, he became man; so that the two natures in him remain henceforth and for ever united in one person. Jesus Christ, we must remember therefore, is not something *between* God and man, but *both* God and man.

Scriptural Reference:

Acts 4:12, Hebrews 2:14, Revelation 1:18

Dear brethren, Rev Lim Chee Boon will be authoring the main articles in our church bulletin – this week's article is an introduction to Biblical Counselling. As the article has been specially prepared for our edification, and we hope they will be a source of encouragement and growth.

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL COUNSELLING

Today, when someone is depressed and is unable to function normally in his daily life, the first thought for many of us is, to ask him to go for counseling. But, where? Many counseling centers are helmed by people trained in different types of psychotherapies. All the counselors, if not most, have degrees in psychology.

Psychology as an academic discipline started not too long ago. In 1879, Dr Wilhelm Wundt opened the Institute for Experimental Psychology at the University of Leipzig in Germany. This was the first laboratory dedicated to psychology, and its opening is usually thought of as the beginning of modern psychology. Wundt separated psychology from philosophy and biology by analyzing the workings of the mind in a more structured way.

After the founding of the new discipline of psychology, many doctors and academics built upon the principles of psychology to develop psychotherapeutic theories, intending to help people with psychological challenges in their lives. The main theories are psychoanalysis, behavioral, humanistic, and existential analysis. Thus, today, many counsellors trained in one of these theories are helping people to change their thinking and lifestyles to live and function normally.

But, where did the people go for counseling before the founding of psychology? Before psychology, the ministry of counseling was in the church domain. John MacArthur says, "Every since apostolic times, counseling has occurred in the church as a natural function of corporate spiritual life. After all, the New Testament itself commands believers to 'admonish one another' (Rom. 15:14); 'encourage one another' (Heb. 3:1, KJV); 'comfort one another with these words' (1 Thess. 4:18); 'comfort yourselves together, and edify one another' (1 Thess. 5:11); 'confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed' (James 5:16)." The apostle Paul wrote, 'We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves' (Rom. 15:1). "And if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:1-2). All those instructions apply to rank-and-file church members, not only to some priestly cast of experts. Counseling is a necessary duty of Christian life and fellowship. It is also the expected result of true spiritual maturity: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16). (John MacArthur, *Counselling: How to Counsel Biblically* (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, 2005).

For the past 150 years, many Christians have turned to psychotherapists for counseling. The problems with these forms of therapy are:

1. People who developed these psychological theories are non-Christians and atheists.

2. Their theories are built on the premise that there is no God and the Bible does not have answers to men's psychological problems.
3. The treatment is very much humanistic, thus making the counselees dependent on the gurus (psychotherapists).
4. The idea of emptying your mind so that the therapists can discover the problems hidden in the unconscious has no biblical basis.

The tide of psychological counseling is powerful; it has replaced the church's pastoral care. When asking a Christian to choose between a psychotherapist and a pastor for counseling matters, a large percentage go for the former. There are calls for the church to assimilate psychological methodologies into its pastoral care. Soon, seminaries and Bible colleges were teaching psychology rather than biblical counseling. The church must now decide – go with or against the tide.

THE BEGINNING OF BIBLICAL COUNSELING

In 1970, Jay Edward Adams wrote his first book, "Competent to Counsel." Adams called out to the church to return to nouthetic counseling. "Nouthetic" is from the Greek word, νουθετέω, meaning to counsel, admonish, exhort, and warn. The KJV translates the Greek word as admonish (Rom. 15:14) and to warn (1 Thess. 5:14). Adams's book, written in 1970, marked the beginning of the nouthetic/biblical counseling movement. The Christian church now calls for the return of counseling to its rightful place.

Adams made three assertions based on the word νουθετέω:

3 CONCLUSIONS ON NOUTHETIC COUNSELLING

1. All Christians should engage in it (Col 3:16).

- "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

2. All Christians should be qualified to do it (Rom 15:14)

- "And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."

3. It is particularly the work of the ministry (Col 1:28)

- "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

THE BASIS FOR BIBLICAL COUNSELING

There are Bible verses that form the basis for a counseling ministry in the church and for every Christian. The key passage of Scripture for biblical counseling is 2 Timothy 3:16–17.

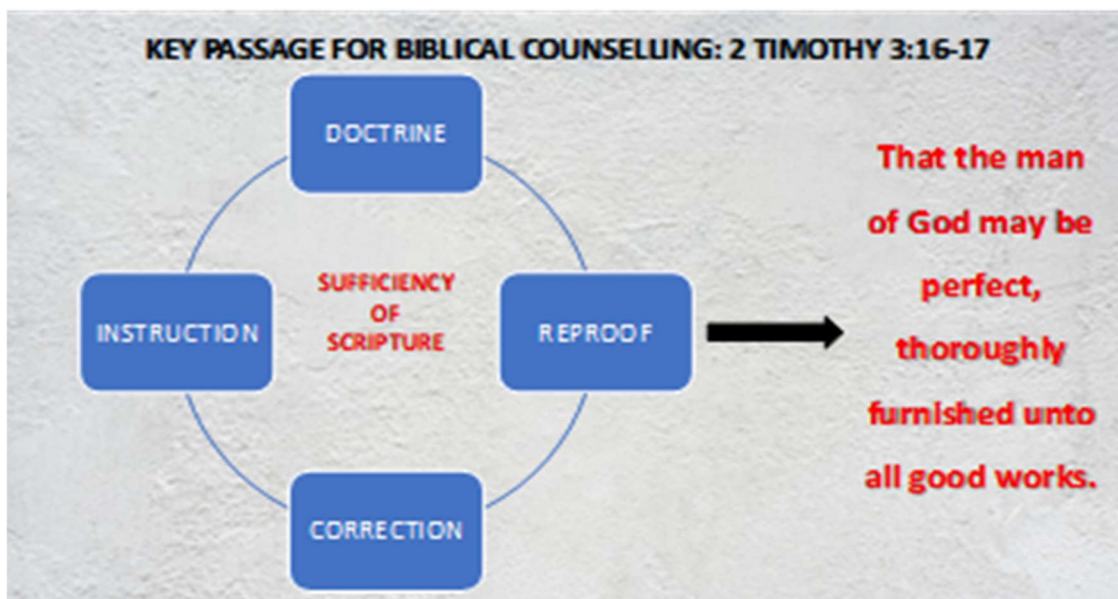
¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

What is the purpose of writing these words to the young pastor, Timothy?

WHY DID PAUL WRITE 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 TO TIMOTHY?

1. Not to teach the doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture (though the passage does teach inspiration of the Scripture)-this is assumed.
2. To teach the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture.
3. To encourage the young (cf. 1 Tim 4:12) and timid (cf. 2 Tim. 1:7) Timothy, who was facing persecution from evil men (2 Tim. 3:12-13), to continue in the same Scriptures that revealed salvation to him (vv. 14-15), realizing that God's Word is able to equip him to do every good work (vv. 16-17).

The basis for a biblical counseling ministry is the sufficiency of Scripture. God's Word is pure and powerful (Heb. 4:12); plus the effectual working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians, biblical counseling will bring about the desired results in the lives of the counselee.



SOME OBJECTIONS TO BIBLICAL COUNSELING

Life's problems can be classified into two categories: physical (medical) and spiritual. We do not see a third category. But secular counselors insist on a third category - psychological. They claimed that the three categories are dealt with by different professionals - physical (medical) by the healthcare professionals such as doctors and nurses, spiritual by the religious teachers and psychological by the psychotherapists. We view psychological problems such as worries, anxiety, fear, bad habits, and inappropriate behavior as spiritual, and these issues can be addressed biblically.

The Bible does talk about the physical and medical issues faced by men in this fallen state. Regarding health issues, the Lord Himself says, *"They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick"* (Luke 5:31). Luke himself was a physician (Col. 4:14). Here are some common questions for biblical counselors:

1. The Bible is not a science book, and therefore it cannot provide scientific solutions to men's problems.

Answer: God is the author of creation and also the author of science. The Bible is God's Word. Therefore, science and the words of the Bible are true. Though the Bible does not use scientific language, scientific truth is taught in a language that all men could understand. We affirmatively say that the truth of God's Word (the Bible) is sufficient in providing solutions to men's problems holistically.

2. Neurosis and psychosis are two very serious health issues. Neurosis is a mental disorder that is generally characterized by anxiety, depression, and feelings of unhappiness or stress. Psychosis is a medical symptom that affects the mind. A psychotic person has trouble knowing what's real and what's not. He loses his touch with reality. Bible counselors are incapable of helping people with these serious mental conditions.

Answer: We agree that these are serious medical issues. And we say that these issues should be attended to and addressed by the trained doctors, namely the psychiatrists. They are the people who will diagnose the patients' condition and prescribe the appropriate medications for them. However, these patients' conditions affect their relationships with family members, friends, and the church. They could not hold down a job for a sustained period of time; they experience rejection and sometimes fear. These issues exacerbate their existing conditions and further affect their general well-being. We believe the Bible does address these issues and provides a holistic solution to the problems of the people with these mental conditions.

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.

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, 1:30pm – Rev Lim will continue the study from 1 John.

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

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;"

1 Peter 1:15

Last Week

"And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance."

Genesis 45:7

The Believer's Daily Remembrancer – 6th September

(written by Rev James Smith)

"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him."
Hosea 14:4

THE Lord loves His people naturally, as parents love their children; freely, without any cause whatever in them. He looks for nothing in them to move Him to love; nor will He allow anything in them to prevent His love. He loves them as vessels of mercy; disciples of Jesus; as bearing His image, His name, and His nature. His love to them is infinite, fruitful, and unchangeable. He will love them, though they deserve hatred, merit wrath, and may be justly sentence to perdition. Beloved, let us never look into ourselves to find out the cause of God's love; it is in Him, not in us; but let us believe Him when He says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Let us plead with Him, encouraged by the words of Jesus, "The Father Himself loveth you." Let us rejoice before Him, and praise Him for distinguishing grace. If He will love, who shall forbid Him? If He will love us, who shall dispute with Him? If He loves us, as His word testifies He does, who shall estimate the honor, the advantage, or the happiness, which will eternally flow from His love? All glory to free grace.

*O Jesus, full of truth and grace,
More full of grace than I of sin;
Yet once again I seek Thy face;
Open thine arms and take me in:
And freely my backslidings heal,
And love the faithless sinner still.*