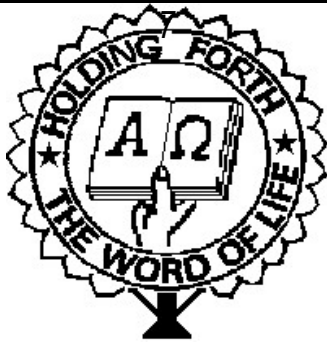




NEW LIFE

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. 35

LORD'S DAY 30 AUGUST 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Isaiah 25:1–9

Opening Hymn *

RHC 21 – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Opening Prayer

Dn Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading

Psalm 67

Second Hymn *

Psalm 67:1–7

(To the tune of St Thomas, RHC 19)

Scriptural Text

Genesis 45:16–28

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message

“God provides”

Closing Hymn *

RHC 353 – “God Will Take Care of You”

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 20

Q: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A: God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a REDEEMER.

Comments:

Man did not obey God's law, and so he was condemned to death, both of body and of soul. But it was not the will of God that the world should perish, and so there was another covenant made, but this time with Christ, called the Covenant of Grace, by which God undertook to deliver those who should believe in his Son, and give them everlasting life. This is the Gospel, or Good News of God to men; and it is called the Covenant of Grace, because it proceeded from God's free mercy, and not from our deservings.

Scriptural Reference:

Genesis 3:15, 2 Timothy 1:9

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

Pleasure also is vanity (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11)

What is pleasure? The dictionary defines it as a feeling of happiness or satisfaction derived from experiences or activities that one enjoys. We get pleasure from holiday experiences by visiting scenic places and eating nice food. Pleasure is derived also from playing games and enjoying a hobby. In a certain church, a group of sisters finds pleasure in floral arrangement. They come on Saturday to prepare the beautiful bouquets of flowers for the Worship Service.

But there is also illegitimate pleasure. A drug addict finds pleasure in the consumption of opiate substances. Some people still think that taking cannabis in whatever forms is pleasurable, despite knowing its negative impact. Some people find the act of voyeurism fun. They give pleasure that ultimately is destructive. These acts are criminal, and the Bible does not condone these practices.

Can we seek for pleasure? Some people view God's commands in Scripture as a way of life that opposes pleasure. The passage they quoted is from Colossians 3:2, *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* However, God created humans and provides them with the ability to enjoy life and its pleasures. He is not opposed to pleasure; He is opposed to sinning to experience pleasure.

In Ecclesiastes chapter 2, King Solomon talks about wealth and pleasure. The tone of his message is very melancholic. He says in verse 1, *"I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity."* Pleasure also is vanity. He is saying that legitimate pleasure is also empty. He makes this assumption based on his personal experiences.

First, pleasure from indulgences is vain (2:1-3)

¹ I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity. ² I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it? ³ I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

The word "mirth" (*śimḥâ*, v. 1) means pleasure. Solomon indulges in laughter (probably referring to sports like dancing and games, or banqueting), wine, and wisdom (through studies). Solomon put these indulgences to a test ("I will prove thee with mirth") to determine if pleasures give significance to life under the sun. He concluded that they are also vanity (empty, meaninglessness). Pleasure alone does not bring lasting satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment. Why? Because living for pleasure only results in a decrease in enjoyment and necessitates an increase in intensity to bring the desired results. The more people drink, the more they need to drink...the more people are involved in drug use, the more often they need drugs and stronger ones in order to achieve the desired level of euphoria. Pleasure alone can never bring true satisfaction because it appeals only to the flesh.

When people seek sinful pleasures, they become selfish, and selfishness destroys true joy. They also exploit others to get what they want. Very often, these pleasure-seekers end up with broken relationships. Therefore, pleasures do not make people feel satisfied or have a sense of fulfillment.

The joy of pleasure is temporal. When the temporal sense of pleasure is over, people crave for more. This often leads to over-indulgence. There is nothing wrong with innocent, wholesome fun, but the people who build their lives only on seeking pleasure are bound to be disappointed in life.

Second, pleasure from achievements is vain (2:4-6)

⁴ I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: ⁵ I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: ⁶ I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

Next, Solomon wanted to know if accomplishment in life brings satisfaction and happiness. So he built houses, planted vineyards, gardens, orchards, and all kinds of trees, and constructed a water system to service them. He personally oversaw the construction of the temple, one of the greatest buildings of the ancient world. Yet, he said, *“I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.”*

People who sought happiness in accomplishment are often trapped in a phenomenon known as “hedonic treadmill.” When they reach a dream job title (for example, a CEO) or buy a fancy car, the happiness spike might feel euphoric, but it’s temporary. Soon, they will feel that the dream job is “just a job,” and the dreamed car is “just a car.” Over time, the novelty fades.

Many people who had made great discoveries and enjoyed the world’s acclaim for their accomplishments, but still found no happiness, had a desire for a deeper sense of contentment that remained elusive.

Third, pleasure from wealth and fame is vain (2:7-9)

⁷ I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: ⁸ I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. ⁹ So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

In these verses, Solomon talked about his material possessions. He had men and women singers, entertaining him with all kinds of musical instruments. He was very wise. His wisdom is known in far away countries. The queen of Sheba went to Jerusalem to prove his wisdom (1 Kings 10:1-13 and 2 Chronicles 9:1-12). According to Josephus (Ant. 8:165–173), the queen of Sheba was the queen of Egypt and Ethiopia. Solomon’s fame has spread very far and wide.

Just like accomplishment, wealth, and fame are transitory. We do not quite remember those who were once wealthy and famous. These people are irrelevant today. They are overshadowed by the rich and famous in contemporary times. So, one generation passed, and another arises.

Wealth and fame do not give lasting happiness. The reality is that many wealthy and famous people are unhappy. Sadly, some of them chose to end their lives prematurely. There is nothing wrong with being rich and famous. The problem is that, without God in their lives, they find emptiness and meaninglessness (vanity) in wealth and fame.

Continued on page 4...

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 – Please join us for lunch fellowship after the morning worship service – this week, sis Mui Leng will again be providing lunch.

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

"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

Last Week

"And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi."

Exodus 17:15

Conclusion (2:10-11)

¹⁰ And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. ¹¹ Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

When Solomon reflected on his life experiences, he made this conclusion: *"behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."* (v. 11) Something of great significance is missing. When the Creator is taken out of our lives, we cannot find true happiness. Therefore, Solomon exhorts all people with these words in his book of Ecclesiastes — *"¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (12:13-14)*

David teaches us to find happiness in God—*"Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."* (Psalm 37:4) We have been created to find our greatest pleasure in God Himself. When we walk closely with the Lord, we find the most pleasure, not the least pleasure. God is not opposed to pleasure. He instead knows that the best for us is found in our complete devotion to Him.