



# NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: [newlifeplondon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newlifeplondon@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: [www.newlifebpc.org.uk](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)

Supervisory Pastor: Rev Lim Chee Boon

Email: [pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk](mailto:pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk)

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

Vol. 22 No. 04

**LORD’S DAY 28 JANUARY 2018**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 100:1-2	Psalm 118:27-29
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 17 – “Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme”	RHC 77 – “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 100	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 100 Second Version</i> (to the tune of Evan, RHC 342)	---
<i>Announcements &amp; Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings &amp; Doxology *</i>	RHC 91 – “The Lily of the Valley”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	1 Samuel 11	Psalm 42
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson <i>The Godly Person’s Challenge, Concern and Confidence</i>
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Why the Christian needs their God?</i>	RHC 38 – “As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams”
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 355 – “Day By Day”	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	---

\* 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.

### DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen, 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.

# CHRISTIAN AMBITIONS

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 21st January 2018

## Introduction

Most, if not all, of us have some kind of ambition in life (and for our children). It is not necessarily wrong to have ambitions or desires in our career advancement but it has to be consistent with God's will for us. Work is a blessing given in the Garden of Eden in a time of perfection in Adam and Eve before the fall (Genesis 2:16). Adam was tasked to take care of the garden and to dress it. After the fall of man, there are certain consequences as man has to work from the sweat of his brows and there will be thorns and thistles and death. **Work is not a necessary evil as some would say but it is still a blessing from God and we can and must do it right.** Colossians 3:22-24, *'Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.'*

**Work is an ordinance that God gave to men to glorify Him and occupy himself meaningfully in the employment of his gifts and talents, for the sustenance of himself and his family (1 Timothy 5:8),** for the economic good of society and for His kingdom's sake. Laziness is a curse as Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 3:11-13, *'For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.'* Work is to be fruitfully done six days a week with one day of rest on the Sabbath with the worship of God (Exodus 20:8-10). There is to be productive and edifying work that supplies mankind with fruitful goods and services as in the cultivation of crops for food or the making of industrial goods for the consumption by man. We are not designed for evil nor for a wicked end in immoral or unethical occupations (prostitutes, thieves, loan sharks, running gambling facilities etc.) killing one another or making objects of harm and being a danger to mankind (selling drugs, stealing, robbers, pirates or terrorists etc.).

Work should be honourably and diligently done with our minds and hands and the talents and gifts that God has bestowed upon us to provide for the family and to be gainfully employed and productive in society and to glorify God. Indolence or slothfulness is condemned by Solomon in Proverbs 6:6-110 but diligence and hardwork is encouraged. **Our example is the industrious ant and not the lazy pig.** Believers are to be diligent and by their good testimony in honest hard work, they are to be effective witnesses to the glory of God. Matthew 5:16 says, *'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven'* and in Titus 2:14, we are told to be zealous of good works, which is one of the evidences of our true regeneration by the Holy Spirit as well.

## Examples in Old Testament and New Testament

Work entails responsible and edifying cooperative relationships with others in the workplace. In a healthy working environment, we should have the ability to work competently and to relate effectively to both superiors and subordinates so that we can be good testimonies to reach out for Christ. Daniel had a desire to honour God first in his life and he was promoted to the top civil service position in both the Babylon and Persian Empire. His right aims rendered him effective and he became a dignified high ranking officer in both the kingdom of God and man (Daniel 1:8-12). Joseph met the same end when he put God first before his career and he was duly rewarded to be the Prime Minister next to Pharaoh (Genesis 39-40). Nehemiah had the ambition to build the walls of Jerusalem and God answered his requests and used him mightily to complete the task and revive the people for his own glory (Nehemiah 1, 2).

In the building of the temple or the Tabernacle in the Old Testament under Moses as commanded of God, there are various gifted people who work on the Tabernacle with skilled labour in Exodus 35 and 36 and they were greatly used of God. There are supervisors and those sensible ladies who do the curtains with fine needlework and craft like the masons, silver smiths, gold smiths, the weavers and other weaving work by the ladies as well. This was seen also in the New Testament church as Dorcas sewed clothes for the old ladies in winter with her needle work in Act 18 and Lydia was a seller of purple in Act 16 which is a kind of an entrepreneur in those days. Paul, Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers and there are others who do work in the other industries in agriculture and in the fields as shepherds. John and James are fishermen and Matthew was a tax collector. There are also those who are doing some businesses and yet others are professional soldiers like Cornelius the Centurion who was converted in Acts 10. It is not wrong to have ambition in life but we need to ask what is the purpose of it ultimately. What do you want to achieve in your life? Is it for selfish gain, power, fame, prestige and self-glory or it is for the glory of God and to be a witness for Christ and a good testimony for His kingdom's sake?

If any of our children want to be a doctor or lawyer, that is considered laudable. What if our children do not want to be an architect or banker but felt called to be a missionary or preacher of the gospel of Christ to save souls as the Lord wills? Will you approve of it? Some of our ambitions may not be met in the end as it is not God's will for us. For example, King David wanted to build God a temple but his son, Solomon was chosen instead. In all things we willingly submit to the sovereign will of God as his will is always the best for us.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, *'Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.'* Does your work consume you everyday and leaves you with no time for God and family? I know some of our Chinese workers work an average of over 80 hours a week when the norm is 44 hours. Over time work means more pay for them even if it means working on Sunday to get the extra cash but is it right before God and is it the best for us physically and spiritually? Is the Sabbath day of worship commanded of God important to us? We need to pray and think carefully that we do not break the Sabbath to the detriment of both our bodies and the well-being of our souls.

Paul brought up the important factor of employing time wisely when he says in Ephesians 5:15-16, *'See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.'* We have limited time on earth and **we need to use it prudently for the Lord before our time is up and eternity begins.** Psalm 90:12 says, *'So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.'*

We need to pray and read His word and serve Him and humbly seek the will of God first and wait upon Him patiently to give us in His sovereign good time.

**Our duty or ambition in life is to fear God and keep His commandments** (Ecclesiastes 12:13), to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Be a good testimony for Christ, for we are accountable to Him and to make our lives count for eternity as a result of our God-honouring ambitions.

Paul in 1 Timothy 6:6-10 say, *'But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.'* **Beware also of covetousness and a greedy quest for secular interests only without a heavenly purpose.** For example, a person who works hard every day just to increase his / her net worth materially by accumulating wealth in money-making for himself or herself rather than serve God with our talents, time and substance have missed the eternal blessing.

## Right or Wrong Purposes

There was a show on our local TV some years ago and it was entitled *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* Some took part with a desire to be a millionaire. Others may desire to be a CEO or a General which is not wrong in itself but we ask the question, 'What is the purpose for these craving for these high positions? Is it alright if it is the will of God for you to lead a simple life and to take a reasonably paid job and have ample time for God, family, service, mission, worship and the fellowship with God's people?'

Jeremiah 45:5, '*And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.*'

We know of some pastors, evangelists and missionaries who have given up their promising careers to serve the Lord and to study in a theological college and are serving God full time faithfully though they can be successful in the secular world. We wondered what John Calvin and Luther, Tyndale, Cranmer, Knox and Zwingli would be doing if they had not given up their all to serve their God? **God is sovereign and blesses is the man and woman that submits to His will.** There is no greater joy in this life than serving the King of kings.

Paul had fought well and won and completed the race of life (2 Timothy 4:6-8). He fulfilled a meaningful calling and a purposeful life for God that will last for eternity. There are eternal rewards in store for them who serve the Lord faithfully. Revelation 14:13 says, '*And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*' Paul in Galatians 6:9 says, '*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*' and 2 John 8 says, '*Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.*' Matthew 6:21, '*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also* and Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*' **We have to soberly examine the basis for our ambitions and motives in life and ask if we are living for Christ and eternity or just for self or the world.** Will you do it today before God?

## Conclusion

Ambition is to be guided by the Word of the Lord. Our vocation is a calling from God and let us work for His glory while there is breath in our nostrils. **Know that one day Christ is coming again soon to rule and judge us and what will become of us one day when He returns?** Let us make our lives count for eternity and examine ourselves first and let our lives a ready willing vessel of honour to serve God first (2 Timothy 2:20-21). This is the greatest joy and ambition; i.e. not just to be great on earth but in eternity in heaven by being a faithful steward and servant of the most High God till He comes. This is the highest honour and duty for any soul in this temporal life. Something to pray and think about as we evaluate our lives in the light of eternity.

- Rev Jack Sin

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 3.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK		WELCOME
Weds 31st January	<b>No Mid-Week Outreach Bible Study</b>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Sat 3rd February	<b>No Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b>	

<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Mr Marco Reale	Mr Marco Reale	<b>TODAY: 28/01/2018</b>
<b>Message</b>	TBC	TBC	<b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan
<b>Text</b>	TBC	TBC	<b>Organist:</b> Michael
			<b>Pianist:</b> Anthony
			<b>Ushers:</b> John / Margaret
			<b>Lunch:</b> John & Sharon
			<b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers
			<b>PA Crew:</b> Scott / Venise

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	NEXT WEEK: 04/02/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Sunday School today.</b></li> <li>• <b>Ladies Fellowship:</b> This will be held after lunch this Lord's Day in the manse.</li> <li>• <b>Church Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister.</li> <li>• <b>Changes to Church Activities from January 2018:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Evening worship will be brought forward to 3pm.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>No Pre-lunch Bible Study.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Funeral service for the late Mr Richard King:</b> Wednesday 31st January 2018, 11:15am. West London Crematorium, Kensal Green Cemetery, Harrow Road, London W10 5JS</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 04/02/2018</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> John</p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Anthony</p> <p><b>Pianist:</b> Anthony</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Jonathan / Daniel</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Maureen</p> <p><b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers</p> <p><b>PA Crew:</b> Scott / Jonathan</p>

<b>Worship Service Collections</b> - Last Sunday: £673.00; Lunch: £41.20; General Mission Fund: £50.00 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 29 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 14 (A) 3 (C)	<b>Church Maintenance Fund</b> <b>Total: £3,960.50</b>
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## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 103

**Q: What do we pray for in the Third Petition?**

*A: In the Third Petition – (which is, THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN) – we pray, That God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.*

Comments:

God's *will* means what he wishes to be done. This will is obeyed perfectly in heaven, and in this petition we pray that it may be obeyed as perfectly on earth. This can never be done in our own strength, and therefore we ask that God would help us to know perfectly what his will is, and having learned it, to do and suffer it.

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 119:34, Matthew 26:39

## MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
“For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.” <b>Psalm 96:4</b>	“Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.” <b>Psalm 97:10</b>	“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.” <b>John 15:9</b>