



# 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. 24 No. 40

LORD'S DAY 04 OCTOBER 2020

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### **Morning Service – 11am**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 134

**Opening Prayer** Pr Mok Chee Cheong

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 80

**Scriptural Text** 2 John 7-11

**Pastoral Prayer** Pr Mok Chee Cheong

**Sermon Message** *Guarding the Truth*

**Benediction** Pr Mok Chee Cheong

#### **Afternoon Service – 3pm**

Psalm 31:23-24

Jonathan Kim

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3 John 1-8

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

**Commendation for Truth Bearers**

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

### NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Dear Worshippers, as the Church Premises reopens for Morning Worship Service please note that there will be strict social distancing measures put in place. Face coverings must be worn in the church at all times out of consideration for all worshippers.**

**Tithes & Offerings** – There will be an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.

**Weekly Prayer Meeting** will be held online every Friday, 7pm. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

**Worship Service Collections:** 20/09/20 - £1257.11

### SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 31

#### **Q: What is effectual calling?**

*A: Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the Gospel.*

#### Comments:

There are two ways by which God calls or invites men to be saved – the *outward* call of his Word or his Providence, and the *inward* call of his Spirit. The former of these is often ineffectual through the evil of our hearts; the latter is always effectual. The steps or stages of the *inward, effectual* call of the Spirit are four: 1. *Conviction*, or making us feel our sin; 2. *Enlightenment*, or making the way of salvation plain to us; 3. *Renewal*, or inclining us anew to the love and practice of what is good and right; and 4. As the fruit of these, *Faith*, or enabling us to trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

#### Scriptural Reference:

John 16:8, Ephesians 1:17, Romans 8:5, John 6:44-45

### MEMORY VERSE

#### **Last Week**

*"These thing have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*

**1 John 5:13**

#### **This Week**

*"And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."*

**2 John 6**

#### **Next Week**

*"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."*

**2 John 9**

# **CREATION AND GOD'S GLORY**

## **Introduction**

Whether it is in the beauty, power, or complexity of creation, a taste of God's wonder is engraved on all things as an unmistakable testament of His incomprehensible glory. The glory of God has been disclosed in the whole workmanship of the universe: *'The heavens declare the glory of God'* (Ps. 19:1) and *'the whole earth is full of his glory'* (Isa. 6:3).

## **The Glory of God in Creation**

There are two helpful ways to express the presentation of God's glory in creation. *First*, His glory is like a brilliant light shed abroad - even to the darkest reaches of the earth. This flashing light penetrates all men's minds (Rom. 1:19–20). It radiates richly throughout all the heavens, where the Lord's majesty is shed forth (Ps. 104:2). There is no place where the sparks of His glory cannot be discerned. *Second*, the glory of God is revealed in creation like an image in a mirror. The glory of the invisible God is reflected visibly by His creation (Heb. 11:3). This allows all to gaze upon the invisible nature of God, as portrayed in His creation. Whether God's glory appears like a light or like an image in a mirror, truly men cannot open their eyes without being compelled to see Him.

Though God's whole creation displays His glory, it is man himself, as the pinnacle of creation, who reveals God's glory most explicitly. He is a rare spectacle of God's power, goodness, and wisdom. Infants have tongues so eloquent to preach God's glory that there is no need at all for other orators (cf. Ps. 8:2). The human body - from its mouth and eyes to its very toenails - exhibits exquisite workmanship. Man's soul, in intelligence, imagination, memory, and even in dreaming, speaks of his Creator. The image of God has been so fully stamped upon men that, as all are adorned with an air of His glory, God readily testifies that He is the Father of all (Acts 17:28). God has made man His masterpiece, surpassing all else in creation. Further, as the church is conformed to the express image of the invisible God, Jesus Christ (Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3), the glory of God becomes more distinct.

## **The Glory of God in Creation Indisputable**

For the unbeliever, the expression of God in creation cannot be missed, even if the darkness of his mind causes the image to appear clouded. For him, the glory of God displayed in creation is a testimony against unbelief (Rom. 1:19–20). In addition to the inward witness of the heart, God has provided innumerable evidences in the world of His existence and of man's duty to submit to his Creator (cf. Acts 14:16–17).

The glory of God is inscribed in creation with bold letters, yet the unbeliever has exchanged the glory of the incorruptible for images of corruptible things (Rom. 1:23). This confusion of the creation with the Creator supplants the true God with a shadow deity, depriving God of His right as Creator and denying creation's proper place as an announcement of the glories of its Maker. Though God sweetly attracts men with semblances of His glory, man's rashness and superficiality, joined with ignorance and darkness, have led to disdain for creation's testimony and, ultimately, to a rejection of the Creator Himself.

For the believer, the beauty of creation speaks of the majestic beauty of his God. With Scripture's revelation and the Spirit's work, the believer is able rightly to understand and appreciate the glory of God displayed in creation. He hears God's awesome voice upon the waters, breaking the cedars, shaking the wilderness, and causing new birth; thus, the believer worships the Lord in the beauty of holiness (Ps. 29).

## **Conclusion**

Examining creation brings the believers to praise and submit to his sovereign Creator - who sustains the mass of heaven and earth by His Word. God's nod alone shakes the heavens with thunderbolts; kindles the air with flashes; disturbs the earth with storms, and then silences them; and compels the sea to hang as though in midair, only to make it calm again. All of this incites reverential awe and adoration in the heart of every believer for the glorious God heralded by creation.

*PM - adapted from John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, 1.5.1–3, 13–14; 1.6.14*

## **CHURCH NOTICE**

Dear fellow worshippers and friends,

We are pleased to inform the worshippers and visitors of New Life Bible Presbyterian Church that the church will resume holding worship services in the Church premise on Sunday mornings.

The church activities will take place as follows:

- Sunday Morning Worship Service, 11am – Church Premises & Online
- Sunday Afternoon Worship Service, 3pm – Online only
- Friday Fortnightly Bible Study, 7pm – Online only

Provided that there is no worsening of the pandemic in London, we hope to start holding the Afternoon Worship Service and Fortnightly Bible Study within the church premises in the coming months.

### **Changes introduced to the Worship Services held at the church premises**

In compliance with the current Government guidelines, the following changes have been introduced:

- Worship services will be limited to 60 minutes duration.
- No singing and offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- All Bibles and hymn books will be kept and unavailable for use.
- Adopt a 2-metre social distancing seating arrangement (household members may sit with each other).
- Face coverings to be worn in the church **at all times** out of consideration for all worshippers. For young children under the age of 11, the use of face covering is optional.  
**Please ensure you bring your own face covering.**
- No food and drinks will be made available (Fellowship Lunch has been temporarily suspended).
- No access to non-essential areas of the church – this includes the Fellowship Hall and kitchen.
- New movement arrangements to be adopted (please follow directions).
- Temperature measurements will be taken for every worshipper and visitor.
- Worshippers and visitors are required to complete the contact details slip for the NHS Test & Trace service. These details will be kept securely in church for 21 days and then destroyed. They will only be submitted to Test & Trace if a Covid-19 case occurs.
- Alternatively, please download the NHS COVID-19 Mobile App and scan one of the QR codes in the Church entrance to check-in.

To join our online services or to obtain further updates, please visit the church website ([www.newlifebpc.org.uk](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim  
Task Force Members