



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. 32

LORD’S DAY 09 AUGUST 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

| | <i>Morning Service – 11am</i> | <i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i> |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Call to Worship</i> | Psalm 116:12-19 | Revelation 22:16-21 |
| <i>Opening Prayer</i> | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | Jonathan Kim |
| <i>Responsive Reading</i> | Psalm 72 | --- |
| <i>Scriptural Text</i> | Habakkuk 1:12-17 | 1 John 2:28-3:3 |
| <i>Pastoral Prayer</i> | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | Pr Mok Chee Cheong |
| <i>Sermon Message</i> | <i>Is there Contradiction with God?</i> | <i>The Promise of Christ’s Return for His Church</i> |
| <i>Benediction</i> | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | 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.

Bi-Weekly Bible Study will next be held online on Friday 21st August, 7pm. Please speak with Pr Mok for more information.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 23

Q: What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A: Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Comments:

In the last three questions we were taught the great truth that sinners may be saved. In the following six questions we are taught the way in which our Redeemer works out salvation to his people. He does so, we are told, by discharging the duties of a prophet, a priest, and a king, and thereby delivering us from our threefold misery of ignorance, guilt, and bondage. He performed these duties while he was here on earth, and he still continues to perform them in heaven.

Scriptural Reference:

Acts 3:22, Hebrews 5:6, Psalm 2:6

MEMORY VERSE

| Last Week | This Week | Next Week |
|---|---|--|
| <p>“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”</p> <p>1 John 2:15</p> | <p>“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”</p> <p>Habakkuk 1:13</p> | <p>“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”</p> <p>1 John 3:2</p> |

SERVING GOD AT WORK

Introduction

The Ten Commandments teach us, *“Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work... For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth”* (Ex.20:9). Our daily work reflects who we are: image-bearers of a God who spends His days working. *“The works of the Lord are great,”* writes the psalmist. They are *“honourable...glorious...made...to be remembered”* (Ps. 111:3-4). His infinity limits the comparisons between His work and ours. Still, His self-revelation in Scripture shows Him busy with creation, providence, and redemption. God is not passive, simply receiving the praise and accolades that His work deserves; that has its place, but not at the expense of the work He does and expects of His creatures.

The Two Ditches

The Christian road to work has two ditches. The “work is a necessary evil” ditch contains elements of truth. Work is necessary. *“If any would not work, neither shall he eat”* (2 Thess. 3:10). It also has been warped by the fall. *“Cursed is the ground for thy sake,”* God told Adam in Eden, *“in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread”* (Gen. 3:17, 19). Thorns and thistles that accompany work are not only physical ones but include workplace politics, the unjust selfishness that takes advantage of others, and the tedium that is part of every job.

The “worship is more important than work” ditch also is based on truth. To minimise “the necessary evil,” some spend as little time as possible working, preferring more spiritual activities. The monastic impulse is expressed not only in historical religious orders but also in current attitudes. Here, work has no spiritual value and is valued only for its completion. Yet there is some truth here. *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you”* (Matt. 6:33) establishes a clear priority that in our day is often forgotten. Our six days of labour, if not understood in the context of the seventh day of rest in which God is worshipped for His goodness and what He has made, inevitably leads to idolatry.

The Value of Work

In these ditches, work is devalued, but the Christian road to work puts it in its God-ordained place. A Christian works in the context of the hopeful groaning of Romans 8. As we carry out our God-given vocations, stewarding the unique gifts He has provided us in the context where His providence has placed us, we experience the “bondage of corruption.” However, we also recognise that it is through carrying out our calling that we participate in the great story of history which leads from the garden of Genesis 2 to the great city of Revelation 21, in which nations and kings will walk (v.24). The Christian hope will have physical expression when in our redeemed bodies (Rom. 8:23) we will carry out our vocations perfectly.

Solomon captures something of this “now but not yet” perspective of work, noting that man should *“enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God”* (Eccl. 3:13). We receive this gift in a context of life’s vanity, recognising that our calling is to *“fear God and keep his commandments”* (also the commandment to work) and acknowledging that *“God shall bring every work into judgement”* (Eccl. 12:13-14).

Conclusion

Those who have been crucified with Christ live in the flesh, Christ living in them (Gal. 2:20). Here is comfort, also for our work. It is Christ's perfect obedience, earned in part in His father's carpenter shop but also in His ministry vocation, that is the evidence that will be considered. Christ's obedience will be judged as being perfect. His blood will cover the penalty for our imperfections, also our workplace sins. And so, the Christian goes to work with joy, knowing that he serves and worships a God who also works.

- *How does your work utilise the gifts you have been given as an image-bearer of God?*
- *What are the particular idolatries you are tempted to in your specific work context?*
- *How does living in the flesh but with Christ in us come to expression in our work?*
- *How might thinking about the work we will do in the new earth inspire us for calling today?*

- PM (adapted)

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 (details to follow).
- 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.

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

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim
Task Force Members