



# 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. 17

**LORD’S DAY 26 APRIL 2020**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Morning Service – 11am**

**Afternoon Service – 2pm**

**Opening Prayer**

John Poh

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**Responsive Reading**

Psalm 57

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**Scriptural Text**

James 1:1

Malachi 1:1-5

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

**Sermon Message**

***The Spiritual Blessings Derived from the Letter of James***

***Insensitivity to Grace***

**Benediction**

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

### **NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please note that due to instructions from the government with regards to the ongoing Corona Virus epidemic, we will be suspending our Activities and Sunday Worship Services in the Church premises with immediate effect.

Instead we will be streaming the sermons via a video conferencing facility each Sunday.

Please email admin 'at' [newlifebpc.org.uk](mailto:newlifebpc.org.uk) for more information.

**Tithes & Offerings** – these can be by cheque made payable to: New Life Bible Presbyterian Church.

For direct bank transfer to the church account, please contact the treasurer, Mr Tom Tan.

### **SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 8**

**Q: How doth God execute his decrees?**

*A: God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.*

Comments:

We have been told what God *is*; we now begin to learn what he *has done*. We are here told that he created all things, and still sustains them, and that in creation and providence we see God executing his own decrees.

Scriptural Reference:

Revelation 4:11, Daniel 4:35

### **MEMORY VERSE**

**Last Week**

*“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”*

**2 Corinthians 12:10**

**This Week**

*“For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.”*

**Isaiah 54:10**

**Next Week**

*“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)”*

**Hebrews 10:23**

# SELF-DENIAL

## Introduction

Self-denial is one of the defining elements of the followers of Christ. The Lord Jesus states in Luke 9:23, “*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*” Self-denial is an absolute requirement: if there is no self-denial, there is no following Christ. Since self-denial is so important, it is vital we know what it really is and how to practice it.

## What is Christian self-denial?

Christ demands denying anything in our lives that opposes full faith in and obedience to His Word. As Thomas Watson points out, there are times when a Christian must deny his appetites, his ease, his finances, even his life. Yet what is the core of self-denial? The great Scottish preachers Ebenezer Erskine and James Fisher give a simple and accurate description of self-denial in their *Assembly’s Shorter Catechism Explained*. They describe self-denial as giving up three things in particular.

The *first* thing to be given up is self-wisdom. We give up self-wisdom “when we are made to see our own depraved reason to be but folly, when compared with the wisdom of God revealed in his word (1 Cor. 3:19).”

The *second* thing to be given up is self-will. Self-will is given up “when God’s will of precept becomes the sole rule of our heart and life (Ps. 119:105) and His will of providence is cheerfully acquiesced in as the best for us (Rom. 8:28).”

The *third* thing to be given up is self-righteousness. In giving up self-righteousness, “we submit to the righteousness of God, or found our plea for eternal life wholly and entirely upon the meritorious obedience and satisfaction of Christ, as our surety, in our room and stead (Phil. 3:8-9).”

## How do we practice self-denial?

Three truths are helpful to remember as we strive by God’s grace to deny ourselves, giving up self-wisdom, self-will, and self-righteousness.

*First*, we find help when we remember we only deny ourselves by the Spirit’s power. By His regenerating power, the Spirit shows us the foolishness of our own wisdom and lack of righteousness (Rom. 8:7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Col 3:10). He reveals our wisdom to be in the person and work of Christ Jesus (Job. 33; 1 Cor.1:24; Heb.1:1-3). He works in us the desire to deny ourselves (Phil.2:13) and applies the righteousness of Christ to us (Rom. 3:21-26; Gal.5:5). When we are tempted to despair at our failure to deny ourselves, we have the sure strength of the Spirit of Christ to encourage us.

*Second*, we find help in prayer. Prayer demands we give up self-wisdom, self-will, and self-righteousness. Praying to “*our Father which art in heaven,*” confessing His name to be “*hallowed,*” and asking Him to “*lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*” requires that we set aside our wisdom and trust His. Further, there is no room for self-will when we ask “*forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*” (Matt. 6:9-13). When you are struggling with self-denial, particularly with a sin you struggle with habitually, pray; God will answer your prayer and you will be strengthened by His wisdom, His will, and His righteousness.

*Third*, if we would deny ourselves, we must focus on Christ. It is hard to do any difficult task if we forget the reason why we are doing it. The same principle is true for self-denial. We will have no strength if we are not “*looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*” (Heb. 12:2). Further, our Lord says in John 15:4, “*Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me,*” and in John 15:5, “*without me ye can do nothing.*” We must never forget that Jesus calls us to deny ourselves in the context of following Him: “*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself*” (Luke 9:23).  
- PM (Adapted)