



# 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. 25 No. 17

**LORD’S DAY 25 APRIL 2021**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 69:30-36	Isaiah 25:1
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	RHC 15 – “How Shall I Sing That Majesty”	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 109	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Acts 8:1-8	Zechariah 3:1-5
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>The Dispersion of the Church</i>	<i>The Elements of Justification</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	RHC 236 – “Revive thy works, O Lord”	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong

### SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 60

**Q: How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?**

*A: The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy RESTING all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God’s worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of NECESSITY and MERCY.*

Comments:

This answer teaches us that the proper way of observing the Sabbath is by: 1. Resting from all secular work; 2. Ceasing from amusement; 3. Engaging in public worship; 4. Engaging in private worship. The only kinds of work allowable on the Sabbath are works of *necessity* – that is, such as cannot be done on the Saturday, nor left over till the Monday; and works of *mercy* – that is, such as it would be cruel to omit.

Scriptural Reference:

Leviticus 23:3; Psalm 92:1; Matthew 12:11-12

### MEMORY VERSE

#### Last Week

*“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”*

**Acts 5:31**

#### This Week

*“For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.”*

**Zechariah 2:5**

#### Next Week

*“But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.”*

**Acts 7:55**

# ESSENTIALS FOR THE BODY LIFE OF A LOCAL CHURCH (PART 1)

## INTRODUCTION

The word church (ekklesia in Greek) according to the Scripture is not a building, a denomination or activity but the redeemed of God. Sometimes it is referred to the invisible church which is the church universal comprising all the redeemed of God (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:25-27), but often, it is used to refer to the local church which is the gathering of a group of believers at a certain geographical locality (Matt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 1:2). The latter meaning is more prevalent in the New Testament. In simple terms, a church is an assembly of saints gather for the purpose of mutual edification, in worship, fellowship, the receiving of the sacraments and hearing of the Word and prayer. What are the essential elements of the body life of the church? I would like to enumerate this under an acronym WIFE which stands for Worship, Instruction, Fellowship and Evangelism.

## WORSHIP

Our word “worship” is derived from the old Anglo-Saxon word ‘worthship’ and this is useful in helping us to appreciate its basic meaning. Worship is essentially acknowledging the precious, unique worth of an object and person of honour or respect. So Biblical words like honour, respect, awe, adoration, praise, reverence and glorifying are synonyms with the word, ‘worship.’ The object of worship for all believers is of course to the Almighty Jehovah, our Lord Jesus Christ. God requires us to be involved in personal, corporate worship as a way of life and to worship together with other believers. *Psa. 95:6, 7 say, “O Come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice.”* The participants in true worship actively respond to God with their whole being. Worship is essentially spiritual and not physical. Jesus said to the woman at the well in John 4:23-24, *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

A person can be shouting, waving and swaying his body vigorously and may not worship God at all compared to others who sit and meditate on the Word and pray silently and truly worship God from the heart. It is important to emphasise here also that our God is a God of order and decency, not of confusion and anarchy (1 Cor. 14:40). True worship must reflect this decorum and propriety in the worship service. The quality of our worship on the Lord’s day is determined by our preparation for worship during the six days of the week. We must worship God privately during the week if we are to worship Him rightly on the Lord’s day. In fact, it has been observed that those who participate profitably and joyfully in public worship are those who have frequent and vibrant personal times of devotion with the Lord during the week. Get in tune with God before the concert of the day begins. Their worship on Sunday is an overflow of the vital and vibrant relationship they have with God during the week. Consider the words of Charles Spurgeon here:

There should be some preparation of the heart in coming to the worship of God. Consider who He is in whose name we gather, and surely we cannot rush together without thought. Consider whom we profess to worship, and we shall not hurry into His presence as men run to a fire. Moses, the man of God, was warned to put off his shoes from his feet when God only revealed Himself in a bush. How should we prepare ourselves when we come to Him who reveals Himself in Christ Jesus, His dear Son? There should be no stumbling into the place of worship half asleep, no roaming here as if it were no more than going to a playhouse. We cannot expect to profit much if we bring with us a swarm of idle thoughts

and a heart crammed with vanity. If we are full of folly, we may shut out the truth of God from our minds.

Worship involves praying, singing and listening to God's Word and giving of our substance to honour the Lord. Paul says in Col. 3:16, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom: teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."* Singing has a role to play in vibrant and God-centred worship. It provides challenge to the people for praise, consecration and petition to God and also a source of comfort and engagement as they appeal to the Lord in the sacrifice of their lips. Corporate prayer has an important element in Old Testament worship gathering (1 Kg. 18:26; 2 Chr. 7:17; Isa. 56:7) and the early church continued in that tradition (Acts. 2:42). We pray before, during and after services for one another, for the growth of the church and for ourselves - all our needs. Prayer is defined by **John Bunyan** to be: "Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to his Word, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God." Prayer is the power house of the church. Let the whole church march onward on her knees.

## **INSTRUCTION**

The Word of God is to be pre-eminent in the life of the church and the individual Christian. The centrality of Biblical teaching in corporate worship is often emphasised in the New Testament. The members of the early church were continually devoting themselves to the Apostles teaching (Acts 2:42; 5:42). Paul exhorts Timothy in 1 Tim. 4:13-15 - The preaching of sound doctrine will build up the faith of the believers and fortifying them against every wind of false doctrine and heresies. Christians are to desire both the milk and meat of the Word - their growth towards maturity and godliness (1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:13, 14).

Honouring the Word of God properly is a scriptural responsibility that many Christians do not realise that they have (Matt. 13:9). Wayne Mack gives ten suggestions in his latest book "Life in the Father's House," p.103 to help us to be better listeners and learners of God's holy Word. They are:

1. *"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith"* (2 Cor. 13:5). Only those who have been saved from sin by grace through faith in Christ can truly understand the truth of God's Word (1 Cor. 2:14).
2. Confess and forsake your sin continually (1 John 1:9), because 1 Pet. 2:1-9 says that we must be putting aside "all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander" so that we may, "like newborn babes, long of the pure milk of the word."
3. Prepare yourself for the message the night before by praying and getting to bed on time, and also by rising early enough to have plenty of time to get ready in the morning.
4. Through prayer and disciplined thought, adjust your attitude prior to the service so that you expect to hear exciting and life-changing truths from God (Psa. 119:18, 40, 95, 125, 162).
5. Eliminate any potential distractions that might hinder your attentiveness during the message (Rom. 13:14).
6. Make a concerted effort during the service to understand and retain as much as you can from the teaching, perhaps by taking notes and writing down in your own words the primary lessons you learn, and the questions raised in your mind (cf. Psa. 119:11; Jas. 1:25).

7. Practice and develop your skills of discernment by examining the teaching carefully, but remember to maintain a humble, teachable spirit (Act. 17:11; 1 These. 5:21-22).
8. Discuss the message with other Christians after the service, asking them questions and sharing the encouragement and challenges you received (cf. Rom. 15:14; Heb. 10:24).
9. Study the passage or topic together by discussing it with the teacher or further discussing it with other knowledgeable Christians, and by referring to commentaries and other helpful books.
10. Purpose in your heart to make any changes necessary as a result of what you have learned, prayed about those changes, practice them daily (Ja. 1:22-25).

The church must excel in the proper indoctrination of the Word of God to its members, from the preaching of the pulpit every Lord's day, to the Sunday class, the Bible studies, in the fellowships and prayers and home-based Bible study. The believers must be grounded and rooted in the principles, doctrines and practices of Christian living. Doctrine determines demeanour, creed affect conduct and precept precedes practice. The maturity of faith is characterised by a profound intellectual and experiential understanding of the Scriptures that will manifest itself in proper Christian attitude and behaviour. Paul writing to Timothy tells him of the importance of the Word in equipping the saints in 2 Tim 3:16, 17, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

— article adapted and edited from Rev. Jack Sin, *Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church, Singapore*

<b>NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>For the time being, the 3:00pm Afternoon Worship Service will still be conducted online.</b></p> <p>If you require the link to our online zoom services, or have any questions or require further clarity, please call the church manse, or email us at admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk.</p> <p><b>Tithes &amp; Offerings</b> – There will be an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Worship Service Collections: 04/04/21 - £1640</b></p>
<b>Church Maintenance Fund Total: £6,760.50</b>

## **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

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. Please bring your own Bible and remember to take it away with you after worship service.
- 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 socialising with anyone outside of your household or support bubble within the Church premises.
- No socialising outside the Church premises.
- 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

## RHC15 - How Shall I Sing That Majesty

How shall I sing that majesty  
Which angels do admire?  
Let dust in dust and silence lie;  
Sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.  
Thousands of thousands stand around  
Thy throne, O God most high;  
Ten thousand times ten thousand sound  
Thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,  
Whilst I Thy footsteps trace;  
A sound of God comes to my ears,  
But they behold Thy face.  
They sing because Thou art their Sun;  
Lord, send a beam on me;  
For where heaven is but once begun  
There Hallelujahs be.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,  
Inflame it with love's fire;  
Then shall I sing and bear a part  
With that celestial choir.  
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,  
With all my fire and light;  
Yet when Thou dost accept their gold,  
Lord, treasure up my mite.

How great a being, Lord, is Thine,  
Which doth all beings keep!  
Thy knowledge is the only line  
To sound so vast a deep.  
Thou art a sea without a shore,  
A sun without a sphere;  
Thy time is now and evermore,  
Thy place is everywhere.

*John Mason*

## RHC236 Revive Thy Work, O Lord

Revive Thy work, O Lord:  
Thy mighty arm make bare;  
Speak with the voice that wakes the dead,  
And make Thy people hear!

Chorus:  
Revive Thy work, O Lord!  
While here to Thee we bow;  
Descend, O gracious Lord, descend.  
O come and bless us now.

Revive Thy work, O Lord:  
Dispel this sleep of death;  
Revive the slumb'ring members now  
By Thy Almighty breath!  
[Chorus]

Revive Thy work, O Lord:  
Create soul thirst for Thee;  
And hung'ring for the Bread of Life,  
O may our spirits be!  
[Chorus]

Revive Thy work, O Lord:  
O fill Thy church with pwo'r;  
With cloven tongues on us descend.  
Equip us for this hour!  
[Chorus].

*A. Midlane*