



# 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. 48

LORD'S DAY 28 NOVEMBER 2021

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

Psalm 98:1-3

*Opening Prayer*

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 29 – “*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*”

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 130

*Second Hymn*

*Psalm 130*  
(to the tune of MARTYRDOM, RHC 38)

*Scriptural Text*

Ecclesiastes 12:1

*Pastoral Prayer*

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Sermon Message*

*Preparation for Eternity*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 533 – “*The Sands of Time are Sinking*”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

#### *Afternoon Service – 2pm*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

Psalm 118:19-24

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

RHC 9 – “*Sun of My Soul*”

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John 13:34-35

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Christ's New Commandment*

RHC 376 – “*O to be Like Thee!*”

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

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### **SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 91**

**Q: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?**

*A: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation - not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them - but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.*

Comments:

We are here taught the proper way of using the sacraments. We must pray for the blessing of Christ on them. It was he who appointed them and it is he alone who can make them of benefit to our souls. In themselves the sacraments are of no value, nor can the minister (notwithstanding what the Roman Catholic Church says) give them any power whatever apart from Christ.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 11:29, 1 Corinthians 3:7

### **MEMORY VERSE**

#### **Last Week**

*“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*

**John 10:10**

#### **This Week**

*“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”*

**John 11:25**

#### **Next Week**

*“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”*

**Ecclesiastes 12:13**

# **THE GRAVE DANGER OF AVARICE IN THE BELIEVERS' WALK**

## **Introduction**

We live in a seductive world of attractive gains in the commercial, financial, property and secular business. The Christian is often tempted to acquire wealth and to amass physical possessions in the earthly sojourn. Avarice is the love of money and excessive greed for gain, the opposite of Christian contentment stated by Paul in 1 Tim 6:6 which is great gain (with godliness). It is a sinful and inordinate quest for more, a clear violation of the 10th Commandment that dishonours God and undermines the testimony of the believer before others. Jesus says in Luke 12:15, "*And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*"

## **Contentment in God**

The author of Hebrews speaks of the Christian contentment where the provision and presence of Christ alone are sufficient for us (Heb 13:5). The Psalmist in Ps 23:1 speaks of total contentment when he says, "*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*" Greed in the Bible is often linked to all forms of idolatry, strife and immorality. Because of greed, this can lead to spiritual and moral compromise in the workplace and the displacement of God by our uncanny and selfish friendship with the world. Jas 4:4 says, "*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*"

The Apostle John admonishes believers in 1 John 2:15,16, "*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. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*" The fallacy of avarice lies in the fact that we live in a temporal and fleeting world that tangible things acquired do not last us forever and cannot satisfy. On the contrary, it can rob us of our joy and contentment as God alone can truly satisfy and fill our souls with all spiritual blessings from above. Many have been ensnared with a burning quest for riches and are drowned in sinful perdition with dire consequences. Beware of the devil's lure and diabolical traps that has seduced many today. We only need 3 Cs; namely (1 John 2:15-17), the contempt of the world, our consecration to Christ and contentment in God.

## **Craving for Heaven**

Our true view of wealth is the setting up of our affections in the heavens and not on the world (Col 3:1) and temporal wealth can give a man a false assurance of his well being when he is actually spiritually bankrupt and poor before the Lord Almighty. Our spiritual wealth lies in our pardon from sin wrought by Christ, our righteousness imputed on us by Christ who died for us (2 Cor 5:21). Our heavenly inheritance is not of this world and for the justified sinner, it is in heaven which fades not away. Avarice has its dire consequences but godliness with contentment is great gain. If God ever blesses us with material wealth and much possessions, we thank God for it and also remember Paul's prudent advice in 1 Tim 6:10, "*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.*"

One of the cures for covetousness is selfless giving. Let us learn to be altruistic and be willing to share our resources with others (missions and Church outreach) and give our substance to the glory of God and the extension of his kingdom, for the saving of souls and enrichment of the saints (Prov 3:9,10). To have wealth and material blessings are not wrong in itself. David, Daniel, Job, Abraham and Joseph were richly endowed but were not caught in the spirit of covetousness but used their position and possessions for the advancement of God's name and His spiritual well-being of His people. It was said that William Burns, the 19<sup>th</sup> century Scottish Presbyterian missionary to China, was left with just a few coins before he died, where he truly gave his all to God. That was the testimony of total sacrifice and surrender of a disciple of Christ for our emulation today (Luke 9:23).

### **Christ our Supreme Example**

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself is a supreme example for us to emulate. Though Christ is God Himself, He gave up the glories of heaven, even humbly to the cruel and excruciating death at the cross, dying for sinful man in this depraved world. He has no earthly crown but a crown of thorns, no throne but a cross of painful, particular atoning death on behalf of His people. Yet today we knew He is the victorious ascended Lord on the Throne with God, the Father and the Judge of the world today. Let us follow the Saviour's model and be a meek and lowly pilgrim in this worldly sojourn; look and yearn forward to that great spiritual and incorruptible wealth that is laid for the saints in heaven one day (Tit 2:14-15).

### **Conclusion**

The world beckons us with its attractive allurements as in Vanity Fair that Bunyan depicted in "Pilgrim's Progress". Let us learn to be content and not covetous in our demeanour and testimony and walk wisely and circumspectly (to the glory of God) redeeming the time, for the days are evil (Eph 5:15,16).

*adapted and edited from Ps. Jack Sin, Church bulletin of Sovereign Hope BPC, Singapore*

### **NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dear Worshippers, as the Church Premises reopens for both Worship Services 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.**

**For those unable to attend Church in person, we will continue to stream our services online.**

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.

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

**The Lord's Supper** will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Please come with hearts prepared.

**Worship Service Collections:** 14/11/21 - £612.00

**Church Maintenance Fund Total:** £7,840.50

## **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 both worship services in the Church premise on Sunday.

The church activities will take place as follows:

- Sunday Morning Worship Service, 11am – Church Premises & Online
- Sunday Afternoon Worship Service, 2pm – Church Premises & Online

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:

- No offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- 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).
- After Morning Worship Service, you may gather for fellowship inside or outside of the Church premises, but please adhere to social distancing.
- 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