



# 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. 44

**LORD’S DAY 31 OCTOBER 2021**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Afternoon Service – 3pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 117

Psalm 95:6-7

*Opening Prayer*

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Jonathan Kim

*Opening Hymn \**

Insert – *“We Love The Place, O God”*

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 126

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*Second Hymn*

*Psalm 126*

(to the tune of AZMON, RHC 61)

*Scriptural Text*

Jeremiah 6:16

John 7:53; 8:1

*Pastoral Prayer*

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Sermon Message*

*Returning to the Old Paths*

*A Striking Contrast*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 46 – *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

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*Benediction/3-Fold*

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Amen \**

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

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\* *Congregation Stands*

### SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 87

**Q: What is Repentance unto Life?**

*A: Repentance unto Life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner – out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ – doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, **TURN FROM IT UNTO GOD**, with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience.*

Comments:

Repentance has been called “the tear of faith”. It springs from a true view of sin, and a clear view of God’s mercy in forgiving sin. It consists of two parts: turning from sinful ways with sorrow; and turning to God with an anxious desire to love and serve him. It is called repentance *unto life*, because it leads to eternal life.

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 13:3, Luke 18:13, Isaiah 1:16-17

### MEMORY VERSE

#### Last Week

*“For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.”*

**Ecclesiastes 5:7**

#### This Week

*“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believes on me shall never thirst.”*

**John 6:35**

#### Next Week

*“... If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.”*

**John 7:37**

# **NINE PRECIOUS TRUTHS OF THE GREAT REFORMATION**

October 31 is Reformation Day, and we do well to remember what it has done for us. The need is all the more urgent because of the growing trend in religious accommodation and ecclesiastical compromise.

## **1. AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE**

### What Rome teaches

Its doctrines and so-called infallible traditions and decrees are authoritative over Scripture. Decrees made by popes past and present are to be obeyed.

### What the Reformers taught

The authority, sufficiency and inspiration of the Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16,17). They taught that the word of God is inspired of God alone and that it is the sole rule of faith and practice for the church and the Christian. It is complete and need no other additions in dreams and visions or the apocrypha or any so called gnostic gospels (Rev. 22:18,19).

## **2. LORDSHIP OF CHRIST**

### What Rome teaches

The Pope, as successor of Peter and Bishop of Rome, is the head of the whole visible Church and is the vicar of Christ on earth and that his words are infallible when he speaks ex-cathedra.

### What the Reformers taught

There is no such practice or teaching in the whole Bible for Matt. 16:18 speaks of Peter's confession of Christ as the Son of the living God and the Rock that is referred to here is Christ and not Peter. The Reformation believes in the headship of Christ alone in the Church and that no mere mortal can claim universal superiority over the people of God except the risen Saviour and Lord. (Phil. 2:9 – 10).

## **3. JUSTIFICATION OF THE SAINTS**

### What Rome teaches

Sacramental regeneration – that we are justified also by water baptism and the Mass, assisted by acceptable works.

### What the Reformers taught

Justification is by faith alone through grace alone which is God's forensic declaration that a sinner is righteous in His sight, on the basis of faith in the finished work of Christ, apart from works of men which are but filthy rags before Him (Isa. 64:6).

We are justified by faith alone and not by works or any other man-centred actions (Rom. 3:25 – 26).

The concept of papal indulgences widely practiced in the 15th and 16th centuries was a fund raising scheme through the selling of forgiveness tickets for the so-called plenary pardon of sins by the Pope. This defective practice was exposed by Martin Luther when he posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church in Germany on 31 October 1517.

The medieval Roman Church taught that the Mass (their version of the Lord's Supper) is a re-sacrificing of the body of Christ on the cross afresh and that the bread and wine are actually changed into the body and blood of the Saviour, a process known as transubstantiation.

The Reformers held that the Lord's Supper is a holy sacrament which is to be kept by believers in remembrance of the finished work of Christ at the cross on our behalf as taught by the Lord. The bread and wine are signs and symbols to believers representing Christ's body and blood.

At the Lord's Supper, believers partake of the elements of the communion which represent the death of Christ, who is spiritually present at the table by His Spirit. This is to be done with great reverence and sobriety examining our hearts till He comes (1 Cor. 11:23 – 28).

#### **4. PERSPICUITY OF SCRIPTURE**

##### What Rome teaches

The Bible cannot be properly understood by ordinary man except for the official interpretation of Rome through its cardinals, bishops and priests.

##### What the Reformers taught

The perspicuity of Scripture, ie, that the Bible is clear and simple enough so that every sincere seeker is able to understand the basic doctrine of salvation, illumined by the Holy Spirit.

#### **5. PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS**

##### What Rome teaches

Its leaders are intermediary priests between God and men. They re-offer the sacrifice of Christ at the Mass and act as mediators between men and God, thereby substituting the role of Christ.

##### What the Reformers taught

The universal priesthood of believers, that is to say, all Christians are priests, who can offer a sacrifice of praise and worship to the Lord. (1 Pet. 2:9).

There may be others who are called to be teachers and pastors and ministers of the Word. Their tasks include giving themselves to prayer, the preaching of the gospel and teaching of the word of God, and to feed, counsel and tend to care for the spiritual well-being of the flock and all of us can come directly before the throne of grace without any human priest to lead us (Heb. 4:16).

#### **6. FELLOWSHIP OF THE SAINTS**

##### What Rome teaches

The Roman Church is the one true Church through the apostolic succession of her popes and bishops and that all the Protestant Churches are not. Christians are regarded by them as 'separated brethren' who have supposedly schismatically divided the body of Christ. They alleged that Protestant pastors are not true representatives of the faith as they are supposedly not ordained according to the apostolic ministry.

##### What the Reformers taught

The Bible sees the Church not as just a formal institution, but as a group of regenerated, justified men and women who have believed on Christ as their Lord and Saviour and where the gospel is truly preached, with the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper rightly administered and where there is the expository preaching of the Word and Church discipline graciously applied.

There is no so-called apostolic succession in any person or persons but there is the commission and call of God to teach the Word of God and to preach the glorious gospel of salvation as proclaimed by the apostles in the Scripture (Matt. 28:18 – 20 and Acts 2:42 – 47).

## 7. SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

### What Rome teaches

There are seven sacraments and that these sacraments work, effectively conveying saving grace to those who receive them in a mysterious manner. They believe that water baptism regenerates and justifies the person and that participants at the Mass feed on the actual body and drink the blood of Christ.

### What the Reformers taught

John Wycliffe, a noted scholar, exposed this error in his writings in the 14th Century, saying this practice was invented by men at the 4th Lateran Council of 1215 called by Pope Innocent III.

The Word of God teaches us only two sacraments or ordinances in Scripture – baptism and the Lord's Supper as properly taught and instituted by the Lord. These are means of grace that are only effective when received by faith and that they are unable to save anyone.

## 8. LIFE AFTER DEATH

### What Rome teaches

After death, the souls of departed believers who have not made sufficient satisfaction for their sins in their lifetime go to a place called purgatory prior to going to heaven (if they make it). The living can affect the time the departed have to spend in purgatory by observing Mass, obtaining indulgences, and doing good works and penance.

### What the Reformers taught

The theory or concept of purgatory is not supported or taught in Scripture at all. On the contrary, it teaches that at death the souls of believers will depart from the body to be with Christ in heaven (see Luke 16 on Lazarus and the rich man) awaiting the resurrection to life, glory and immortality. There is no spiritual half-way house between heaven and hell.

## 9. The ROLE OF MARY

### What Rome teaches

Mary, the mother of Jesus is a “sinless perpetual mediatrix” with God and that Roman Catholics should pray to her and worship her as to God. Adherents are also encouraged to pray to the dead, especially those whom the Pope has canonised or designated as saints.

### What the Reformers taught

While honouring Mary as the human instrument and the appointed mother of our Lord, they saw her only as a good example of obedience and love to God and no more. There is no deity in Mary and we are not to pray to or worship her for she is just as sinful as we are and is in need of a Saviour too, for Mary herself in Luke 1:46 – 47 says, “My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.”

The Reformers correctly taught and maintained that there is only one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, and that, we are to be careful and vigilant against error here (1 Tim. 2:5). Prayer and worship are to be offered to Christ to God through Him only (Acts 4:12 and John 14:6).

adapted and edited from Pastor Jack Sin, *bulletin of Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church, Singapore*.  
(NB. This article first appeared in the Christian Watch magazine published in Sydney, Australia in 2011)

## 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.**

**For the time being, the 3:00pm Afternoon Worship Service will still be conducted 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.

**Worship Service Collections: 17/10/21 - £336.00**

**Church Maintenance Fund Total: £7,690.50**

## 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 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:

- 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

## **We Love The Place, O God,**

We love the place, O God,  
Wherein Thine honour dwells;  
The joy of Thine abode  
All earthly joy excels.

It is the house of prayer,  
Wherein Thy servants meet;  
And Thou, O Lord, art there  
Thy chosen flock to greet.

We love the Word of life,  
The Word that tells of peace,  
Of comfort in the strife,  
And joys that never cease.

We love to sing below  
Of mercies freely given;  
But O, we long to know  
The triumph song of Heaven.

Our first and latest love  
To Zion shall be given—  
The House of God above,  
On earth the gate of Heaven.

*vv 1, 2, 5 William Bullock, 1798-1874,  
vv 3-4 Henry Williams Baker, 1821-77*

Tune: QUAM DILECTA