



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 1 November 2015

Theme for the Year: "Out of Myself and into the Savior" (Ezekiel 14:4-6)

Choir	<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	70 - <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Romans 6:1-14
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	114 - <i>There Is a Green Hill Far Away</i>
Hymn	TP 23
Tithes & Offering	
**†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 11:20-31
Hymn	TP 119:41-45
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Faith of the Fathers"
*Closing Hymn	397 - <i>I Have Decided to Follow Jesus</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	<i>*Congregation standing</i>

† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

†† Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au

Email: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Class Distinctions, Marriage, and the Church of Jesus Christ

Class Distinctions in Different Cultures and Marriage

Class distinctions occur everywhere and in various forms. Different cultures have different ways of defining superiority.

Caste

In India, it exists because of religion. The Hindu religion established the the ancient caste system.

The caste system, among other things, dictates the type of occupations a person can pursue and the social interactions that he may have.

The highest class is the religious class of priests. Thus, you will hardly ever see Hindus of different castes marrying each other.

Race

In America, it exists because of race. Race-based distinctions and discrimination are traced to the slave trade.

African peoples were enslaved and made to work for their mostly British masters.

Even when slavery was abolished, discrimination was perpetuated through the Jim Crow laws - where blacks were considered "equal" but had separate facilities and schools.

Thus, mixed marriages between races were very uncommon for a very long time. And it continues to be isolated.

Wealth

In Britain, it exists because of wealth. Interestingly, race plays a far less significant role.

It is not uncommon for there to be mixed marriages among people of the same socio-economic status.

In feudal and imperial Europe, it existed because of landownership and therefore nobility and wealth.

This is no where better highlighted than in Jane Austen's novels.

Marriageable people had to navigate the complex culture of courtship, class, and money to secure a good and worthy

match. The idea of "good families" was bandied around.

Education

In Confucian societies, it exists because of education. In ancient China, the highest class of people were the scholars.

Business was merely a means to education. Education was the means to secure coveted employment in the advanced political bureaucracy.

This ideal continues today in many Confucian cultures. A person's socio-economic background and education are of serious consideration in marriage.

And invariably, in each case of perceived class superiority, the cultural mores, tastes, and behavior of the upper class are considered superior.

Australia and Class Distinctions

A recent study by the Australian National University was published about class distinctions in Australia.

The authors were curious to find out if the long-held belief was true that Australia is a classless society.

The study revealed that 92% of respondents identified themselves with the middle (52%) or working class (40%).

The authors further divided these into 5 subdivisions - established working class, established middle class, mobile middle class, emerging affluent class, and established affluent class.

They found that while income, education, and occupational prestige do play a part, there was a great deal of social mobility.

They found that social hierarchy was less rigid and important in Australia and that the social classes are more inclusive than elsewhere.

While the study didn't consider marriage, it is assumed that since there is inclusiveness, a large degree of social mobility, and a lack of rigidity; the requirements for marriage would follow

suit. If this is truly the case, this is a very good thing.

Marriage, Class, and the Church of Jesus Christ

In Christ, every barrier has been broken. Race, socio-economic status, education, etc.

In Christ, every cultural and racial barrier has been broken – “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:28-29).

If race was an issue, God would never have saved the Gentiles. In Christ, that racial wall has been broken down. Whether Jew or Gentile, all Christians are members of the same body.

Christ was himself the product of marriages of different races of people. Among his ancestors were Rahab and Ruth - Gentiles.

If education was an issue, God would never have used the foolishness of God to counter the wisdom of the world.

Many in the Corinthian church were not noble, or mighty, or educated. God saved them.

If wealth and social status were issues, Boaz should never have married Ruth - she had nothing to offer to him.

Christ himself was born into a family of working class people. Although they had royal connections of centuries past, Joseph, his mother’s husband, was a carpenter, not a king.

If (former) occupation and background were issues, God would never have rescued Rahab.

She was a prostitute and a Gentile. And she could never have gotten married in many churches today.

Folks, there is no such thing as a good family background. We are all sinners. All families are bad families. This is especially so because we are descended from Adam. In him are all families cursed.

But in Christ are families in him blessed. And there is no middle class in Christianity. We are all slaves and servants.

But there is such a thing as a godly heritage. Timothy was a product of a godly heritage, being taught by his mother and grandmother. And a godly heritage includes biblical and scriptural thinking. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 20. What was the providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created?

A. The providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created, was the placing him in paradise, appointing him to dress it, giving him liberty to eat of the fruit of the earth; putting the creatures under his dominion, and ordaining marriage for his help; affording him communion with himself; instituting the sabbath; entering into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience, of which the tree of life was a pledge; and forbidding to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.

Q. 21. Did man continue in that estate wherein God at first created him?

A. Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, through the temptation of Satan, transgressed the commandment of God in eating the forbidden fruit; and thereby fell from the estate of innocency wherein they were created.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (1.11.15)	Next Week (8.11.15)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Micah & Hannah Chiang	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Ian Read*, Jansen Ng*, Paul Butler, Ken Hong	David Pang*, LH Chua*, Vincent Chiu, David Lim
Usher	Joyce Ng	Angela Yap
Kitchen Duties	May Poon*, Aliza Chiu, Nancy Lim, Putri Harapan	Angela Yap*, August Ng, Lisa Lim
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>6 November 2015</i>	<i>13 November 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	David Pang	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Eugene Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "What Faith Can Accomplish" (Hebrews 11:32-40).
3. Sunday School teachers for the month of November are: Stephanie Lim, Jenni Budiman, Sandy Chua, Eileen Tay, Aliza Chiu, Lisa Lim; Evelyn Lee, Dorcas Pang, Carmel Sriharan; Grace Lee; Christine Butler; Valerie Ong; Paul Butler; David Pang. Singspiration Leader: David Ong. Pianist: Evelyn Lee.
4. Sunday School meeting on 15 Nov after service. All Sunday School teachers and song leaders are requested to be present.
5. **Special Meetings.** Speakers: Dr Bob Jones III and Rev David McIlveen. Time: 7 pm. Venue and Dates: Perth Free Presbyterian Church (9-10 November 2015) and Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (11 November 2015).

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Attadale Craft Group FRI 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting and JF SUN 9:00 am Adult Bible Class & Catechism 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School	<i>General Fund</i> - \$3,891.10 (#496 - \$100.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$700.00 (#497 - \$260.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$1,500.00 (#300 - \$1,500.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$6,091.10. Attendance - 161.

Building Fund to Date	
Starting Fund	\$54,185.68
Pledges Collected	\$257,820.00
Non-Pledged Gifts	\$292,771.83
Loans Received	\$430,000.00
<i>Subtotal Building Fund</i>	<i>\$1,034,777.51</i>
<i>Payment</i>	<i>\$1,001,735.85</i>
<i>Outstanding Pledges</i>	<i>\$33,900.00</i>
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>\$66,941.66</i>
Building Fund Account:	
Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church	
(Westpac Bank, Applecross)	
BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969	
SWIFT: WPACAU25	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
 Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.