



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 29 November 2015

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

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	254 - <i>Come to the Savior</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 135
Hymn	TP 135:1-7
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 12:12-17
Hymn	101 - <i>Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Don't Resist God's Grace"
*Closing Hymn	TP 63:1-6
*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](http://www.covenantbpc.org.au)

Contact: [pastor@covenantbpc.org.au](mailto:pastor@covenantbpc.org.au)

## Forgiving and Forgetting

*"I Can Forgive But I Can't Forget"*

That's a common enough phrase we have all used before. But is it really true that you can forgive and not forget? People seem to think so.

But without forgetting, there can be no forgiveness. That's the biblical view.

*What Is Expected of Us in Forgiveness?*

Forgiveness is not putting a person's sins on his account anymore. So when a person seeks forgiveness, he is asking you to release him from his debt.

He is asking that you would not hold it against him. He is asking for a clear account.

We Must Forgive Like God Forgives Us

In Matthew 18, Peter asked Christ how many times he should forgive his brother. Jesus told him that forgiveness should be limitless.

Not 3 times as the Pharisees taught; not 7 times as Peter proposed, but limitless. He told the parable of the unforgiving servant to illustrate this.

A servant owed the king 10,000 talents. It was more than the revenue of a small country. The servant could not pay, and so the penalty was to sell him and his whole family into slavery.

But the servant pleaded for patience - he had remorse. There was seeking of forgiveness and an offer of recompense.

The king was gracious - because the amount of unpayable. It would take 150,000 years for the man to repay that amount. So the king forgave him of the debt.

Likewise, this is how God forgives. When we seek forgiveness from him, no matter the debt, he will forgive.

And this is the way that we are to forgive one another. When a person who has wronged us seeks forgiveness and offers recompense (which is a definite fruit of repentance), we must forgive.

We Must Be Willing to Forgive As God Is Willing to Forgive

Not only does God forgive, but he is willing to forgive even when sinners have yet to repent.

We are told in Romans 5:8 that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. God was willing to provide the means of redemption while we were in our sins.

That is why, according to Colossians 3:13, we must forbear one another and forgive one another, even as Christ forgave.

Now, it is true that there is no forgiveness unless there is repentance, but there must be a willingness to forgive.

Just as we are not forgiven of our sins unless we repent, a brother who doesn't repent doesn't experience forgiveness. But on our parts, we must be willing to forgive, and until then, we forbear with that brother.

Unforgiveness Is Displeasing to God

When a brother seeks for forgiveness, not to give it is displeasing to God.

The forgiven servant refused to forgive someone who owed him 100 pence. This amount could be repaid in 6 months.

The servant was petty unlike the king who was generous. Hence, the servant was placing himself above the king.

By not forgiving a brother who repents, we show forth a mean spirit, and not the spirit of God.

And this shows that we don't understand forgiveness and repentance. Unforgiveness means unforgiven. If we are forgiven by God, we have the ability to forgive each other.

*How Can We Practice Active Forgetfulness?*

Forgiveness involves forgetting. In one sense, it is impossible to truly forget sins that have been committed against us.

We can't simply delete them from our memory. In like manner, God knows that we sin. He is omniscient. He can't forget anything.

### Forgetting Is Not Remembering

But we're told that God does not remember our wickedness anymore (Hebrews 8:12).

In other words, when we seek forgiveness from God, he deliberately treats us as if the sin has not been committed by us.

The Bible uses the term "forget" in the sense of "escaping notice." Like Paul in Philippians 3:13-14 - *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

Obviously, Paul could remember his earlier sins and accomplishments, but he chose not to take notice of them - they were behind him.

So when God forgets, he does not mention or to bring it to mind or notice them anymore. It means that he does not keep score or an account, when we seek forgiveness.

When someone seeks forgiveness, we must forgive them and act as if that sin had never occurred.

There is no true forgiveness when a person cannot forget, cannot actively treat the other person as if the sin never occurred

### Forgetting Takes Place in the Heart

Proverbs 4:23 says, *"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."*

We are to guard the heart. It is like a criminal - that's why we guard it with all diligence.

The heart is deceitful (Jer 17:9). And if we do not guard the heart, evil will proceed out of it (Matt 15:18-19).

We are always looking for a reason to hold people to their sins, even though they have repented of them.

In fact, our hearts are always looking to stir up bitterness in us. If that is the case, that is unforgiveness because it is not forgetting the sin.

Therefore, forgetting requires putting on new thoughts. Philippians 4:8 says, *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

If you fill your mind with bitterness and anger, chances are, you will be a bitter and angry person.

If you fill your mind with thoughts of the person's sin, you will feel grieved all over again.

So when a person has sought forgiveness, we are to forgive him and to forget his sin. We are to resist all bitter and sinful thoughts. This is forgiving and forgetting. ~ Pastor



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 28. What are the punishments of sin in this world?

A. The punishments of sin in this world are either inward, as blindness of mind, a reprobate sense, strong delusions, hardness of heart, horror of conscience, and vile affections; or outward, as the curse of God upon the creatures of our sakes, and all other evils that befall us in our bodies, names, estates, relations, and employments; together with death itself.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (29.11.15)	Next Week (6.12.15)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Terence Lee	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Elizabeth Huang
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler*, Ken Hong*, David Pang, LH Chua	David Lim*, Vincent Chiu*, Yen Fye Yap, Jansen Ng
Usher	August Ng	Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Carmel Sriharan*, Julian Poon, Eva Chiu	Eileen Tay*, Jesslyn Leow, Jemima Ng, Vincent Chiu
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>4 December 2015</i>	<i>11 December 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Raymond Woo	Jansen Ng
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Jerome Ng

## Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Responsibilities Under the New Covenant" (Hebrews 12:18-29).
3. We will be celebrating Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship lunch.
4. Sunday School teachers for the month of December are: Sandy Chua, Eileen Tay, Aliza Chiu, Lisa Lim; Dorcas Pang, Carmel Sriharan; Jerome Ng; Sandra Tan; David Lim; John Tan. Singspiration Leader: Jansen Ng. Pianist: Wendy Gong.
5. Bible Conference. Speaker: Mathews Abraham (Pastor, Ebenezer B-P Church, Melbourne). Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort, Busselton. Date: 19-22 April 2016. Please register with Rex and Carmel Sriharan.

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 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School	<i>General Fund</i> - \$3,546.25 (#505 - \$140.00) <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$500.00 (#504 - \$100.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$175.00 (#310 - \$105.00, #311 - \$70.00). <i>Total Tithes &amp; Offering</i> - \$4,221.25. Attendance - 149.

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$46,265.41
Outstanding Pledges	\$29,210.00
Last Week's Collection	\$175.00
Total	\$75,650.41
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$354,349.59
Building Fund Account:	
Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross)	
BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969	
SWIFT: WPACAU2S	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 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.

## Don't Resist God's Grace

Hebrews 12:12-17

All Christians will struggle with their faith. Sometimes we want to give it up. We're to press on. But we're also supposed to help one another press on in the faith, that we would all surrender to God.

1. We Must Help Others to Press On (vv 12-14).
  - a. We are to teach one another (v 12).
  - b. We are to rescue one another from sin (v 13).
  - c. The motivation for doing so (v 14)
2. We Must Help Them Not to Resist God's Grace (v 15).
  - a. God's grace
  - b. What does it mean to resist God's grace?
  - c. Our duty is to watch out for one another
3. The Deadly Consequences of Resisting God's Grace (vv 15-17).
  - a. The bitter root is a false believer (Deut 29:18).
  - b. False believers will defile the church

### Questions for Reflection:

1. If I see a believer sinning, what is my duty to him? Why is it that I fail to admonish him?
2. What will happen to a church when no discipline is carried out on sinning believers or false believers in a church?
3. What are the hindrances to receiving God's grace readily?