



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 4 January 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	10 - <i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 92
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	116 - <i>O Sacred Head, Now Wounded</i>
Hymn	Insert - <i>It's Good to Thank The LORD</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Esther 3:1-6
Hymn	489 - <i>Glory to His Name</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"When a Proud Man Picks a Fight With a Vindictive Man"
*Closing Hymn	Insert - <i>Have No Disturbing Thoughts</i>
*Benediction & † <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i>
Announcements	† <i>Inside cover of hymnal</i>

**Congregation standing*

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 3:00 pm
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia
Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au
Email: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Out of Myself, and into the Savior

Ezekiel 14:4-6 - *"Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; that I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations."*

We All Have Idols

Each of us have invented and worshipped false gods and saviors that fail.

Some of the things we elevate to become god-like are sensuality, entertainment, comfort, approval, success, image, or control. We believe that if we have these things, our lives would be a lot better.

John Calvin once said, *"The human heart is an idol factory...every one of us from our mothers womb is an expert in inventing idols."*

But when these created things subvert our worship of the Creator we have a huge worship problem. Idols don't satisfy and God is angered.

Idols Never Satisfy

Since idols are not God, they can never truly satisfy us. This was something that the Israelites would not accept. They thought they could heap idols to themselves.

This behavior is found in all sorts of religions - there's a god or an idol or a

saint for every situation. For rain, the Hindus prayed to Indra; for fertility, the Greeks prayed to Artemis; for travel safety, the Catholics (used) to pray to St Christopher; for protection of the household, the Chinese would pray to the Kitchen God. There's a plethora of gods for every situation.

Modern idols like entertainment, success, money, comfort, etc are amassed, with more fervor each year. This is evidence that these idols do not satisfy.

Despite the proliferation of idols, we still have problems. No matter how much we have, we are still jealous. No matter how successful we are, we still get angry.

This is because every problem in our life is an issue of worship. Anger is a worship issue. Pride is a worship issue. Anxiety is a worship issue. Fear is a worship issue. Jealousy is a worship issue.

Because we do not seek the only living and true God alone, the one alone who satisfies, we are left unsatisfied.

Christopher Wright, an evangelical Anglican wrote, *"The very gods the Israelites looked to for rocklike strength and shelter have left them weak and defenseless. Such is always the way of idolatry in human society, ancient and modern. False gods never fail to fail. Sadly, we never fail to forget."*

All of us have issues with heart idolatry. And sadly, we fail to forget that these idols don't satisfy.

Seeking God and Cherishing Idols

We believers often seek God and yet keep our idols. In Ezekiel 14, certain elders came to Ezekiel (v 1). They had

come to Ezekiel to seek God's direction (v 3). But God revealed to Ezekiel that since these "elders" had set up idols in their hearts, how could God lead them (v 3)?

They didn't want to be led. They had their own idols already in their hearts. This is the same with many of us - we pay lip service to God - we want him to guide us, but at the same time, we have an idea of how we want him to guide us. We have an idea of how we want to be satisfied in our lives. This is serving God and mammon.

While we may not have worshiped physical idols, we certainly have idols in our hearts.

God has a stern warning to those who practice idolatry.

A Stern Warning from God

These men had come to Ezekiel as if he were a fortune teller; they had no plan to submit their lives to the Lord in true faith. They did not want their covenant God to speak to them his truth. They simply wanted an answer to a question

they had and they intended to go back to the very lives they had been living up to this point.

That is why God had a very stern warning to them. Those that are part of God's people, who seek him as well as idols, are to repent of their idolatry.

There is no other response that God can give. The only response to those who want to seek God but to seek him on their own terms; and to seek God but not intend to hear his voice - is for them to repent of this kind of behavior.

For all of us who come to church, but desire not to seek God's will - the response of God is always the same - repent!

This year, as a church, we want to submit to the Word and to God, as well as to each other as we process the idols of our hearts.

We want to root out and destroy the idolatrous tendencies of our hearts so that we are more able to fully enjoy our Savior and to be better witnesses in this world for him. ~ Pastor



Westminster Confession of Faith XX - Of Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience

2. God alone is Lord of the conscience,¹ and has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in any thing, contrary to His Word; or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship.² So that, to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience;³ and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.⁴
3. They who, upon pretence of Christian liberty, do practice any sin, or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end of Christian liberty, which is, that being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life.⁵

1. James 4:12; Romans 14:4.

2. Acts 4:19; 5:29; 1 Corinthians 7:23; Matthew 23:8-10; 2 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 15:9.

3. Colossians 2:20, 22-23; Galatians 1:10; 2:4-5; 5:1.

4. Romans 10:17; 14:23; Isaiah 8:20; Acts 17:11; John 4:22; Hoses 5:11; Revelation 13:12, 16-17; Jeremiah 8:9.

5. Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 2:16; 2 Peter 2:19; John 8:34; Luke 1:74-75.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (4.1.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (11.1.15)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Ken Chong	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Edward Lim	Evelyn Lee
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Jonathan & Esther Ong
Offering Stewards	Jacob Woo, LH Chua	David Lim, David Ong
Usher	Merilyn Woo	Esther Ong
Kitchen Duties	Jenni Budiman*, Helen Wong Eileen Tay, Eva Chiu	Angela Yap*, Sandy Chua Chris Budiman
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>7 January 2015</i>	<i>14 January 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Jonathan Ong	LH Chua
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Jerome Ng

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: "When One is Overtaken by Wrath" (Esther 3:5-15).
3. Sunday School teachers for the month of January are: Sandy Chua, Aliza Chiu, Dorcas Pang, Eileen Tay; Evelyn Lee, Carmel Sriharan; Christine Butler; Mary-Anne, Sandra Tan; Eugene Lim; Ken Chong. Singspiration Leader: Jonathan Ong. Pianist: Jerome Ng.
4. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (January-March 2015) are available in the foyer. Please collect your copy.
5. Session and Church Retreat. Monday, 26 January 2015. Please keep this day free as we come together to discuss matters pertaining to the church. The day retreat concludes with dinner and watching of the fireworks.
6. Bible Conference 2015. Theme: "Out of Myself and into the Savior" Speaker: Dr Tedd Tripp. Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort, Busselton. Dates: 7-10 April 2015. Registration forms are in the foyer. Please register with Ken and Jackie Hong.

Appointments for the Week

WED	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting - Psalm 93
SUN	3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$1,972.00. *Missions Fund* - \$230.00. *Other Offering* - S\$100.00.
Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,202.00 + S\$100.00. *Attendance* - 92.

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. **SK Loh** 9386 1660.