



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 2 October 2016

Theme for the Year: "What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	21 - <i>We Gather Together</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 11:1-16
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	83 - <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>
Hymn	153 - <i>What If It Were Today?</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 1:1-11
Hymn	TP 22:23-31,30
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Empowered Witnesses for Christ"
*Closing Hymn	430 - <i>O Zion, Haste</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

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The Moral Law of God - Are Christians Exempt?

Introduction

Are Christians today bound to obey God's laws and commandments?

Some say "yes" and others say "no." The answer is not so simple. It is both a "yes" and a "no."

There are some who say only "yes" like the Catholics. And there are some who say only "no" like the Antinomians.

The Catholics say only "yes" because they believe that we must keep the commandments as a covenant of works - we are bound to keep God's moral law in order to be saved.

But there are those who say "yes" for completely different reasons from the Catholic.

The Antinomians say only "no" because they believe that nothing will take away our salvation, and that Christians can live in sin, because God has shown his grace.

But there are those who say "no" for completely different reasons from the Antinomian.

What does the Bible say?

We Are Not Under the Law

Paul said in Romans 6:14 that we are "*not under the law, but under grace.*"

What does this mean? Does this mean that Christians are exempt from obeying God's commandments?

In one sense, yes.

As Christians, we are not under the Mosaic Law - all the ceremonial and civil laws, given to God's people of old such as animal sacrifices, are done away with.

As Christians, we are also not bound under the Moral Law as a way of salvation. We are saved by grace. Jesus kept the law for us. If we have Jesus, we do not need to obey the law to be saved.

Galatians 2:16 says, "*Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ,*

that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

So does this mean that Christians can break God's commandments? Can we sin willfully? Of course not!

We Are Obligated to Keep the Moral Law

Although we are not under the law to keep it for salvation, we are still obligated to keep it.

Paul himself answered the question in Romans 6:15 - "*What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*"

We are not allowed to sin! Romans 6:2 - "*How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*"

So if we aren't allowed to sin, what are we to do? Romans 6:18 says, "*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*"

We are obligated to obey the moral law of God because we are now servants of righteousness.

Since Christ has made us righteous, more so, we are to love keeping the law. And the law is good!

Romans 7:12 says that the law is righteous - "*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*"

Keeping the Moral Law is not out of trying to save ourselves (because we are not under the law) but because we love Jesus (John 14:15) who saved us and because we are called to be servants of righteousness.

The Moral Law Established in Jesus and Paul

If we are to obey the Moral Law out of gratitude and to be holy, what is it?

Jesus told his disciples that we are to keep the two greatest commandments - loving God and loving man. These summarize all the Moral Law in the Bible.

But how do we love God and man? God: By worshipping God (Rev 14:7), by not committing idolatry (Eph 5:5), by not blaspheming (1 Tim 6:1), and by keeping the Lord's Day (Heb 10:24-25).

Man: by honoring parents (Eph 6:1-3), by not murdering (Rom 13:9), by not committing adultery (Rom 13:9), by not stealing (Rom 13:9), by not bearing false witness (Rom 13:9), and by not coveting (Rom 13:9).

There is a law to be kept for Christians (Rom 8:2, 1 Cor 9:1, Gal 6:2, Jas 1:25). But the motivation for doing these things

is not legalistic. We don't obey these things as if they are a list to be kept.

We keep them because we love Christ. He has saved us. We are dead to sin. Dead men don't sin!

We are alive in Christ and have his law written on our hearts (Jer 31:33, Heb 10:16).

Because we love Christ, his commandments are very important to us. Rather than arguing against obedience to Christ, we delight in keeping Christ's Law. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 99. What rules are to be observed for the right understanding of the ten commandments?

A. For the right understanding of the ten commandments, these rules are to be observed:

1. That the law is perfect, and bindeth every one to full conformity in the whole man unto the righteousness thereof, and unto entire obedience for ever; so as to require the utmost perfection of every duty, and to forbid the least degree of every sin.

2. That it is spiritual, and so teacheth the understanding, will, affections, and all other powers of the soul; as well as words, works, and gestures.

3. That one and the same thing, in divers respects, is required or forbidden in several commandments.

4. That as, where a duty is commanded, the contrary sin is forbidden; and, where a sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded: so, where a promise is annexed, the contrary threatening is included; and, where a threatening is annexed, the contrary promise is included.

5. That what God forbids, is at no time to be done; what he commands is always our duty; and yet every particular duty is not to be done at all times.

6. That under one sin or duty, all of the same kind are forbidden or commanded; together with all the causes, means, occasions, and appearances thereof, and provocations thereunto.

7. That what is forbidden or commanded to ourselves, we are bound, according to our places, to endeavor that it may be avoided or performed by others, according to the duty of their places.

8. That in what is commanded to others, we are bound, according to our places and callings, to be helpful to them; and to take heed of partaking with others in what is forbidden them.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (2.10.16)	Next Week (9.10.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Valerie Ong	Marilyn Woo
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Jansen Ng & Eva Chiu
Offering Stewards	Rex Sriharan*, LH Chua* John E Tan, David Lim	Micah Chiang*, Chris Budiman* Steven Lim, Ken Chong
Usher	Eva Chiu, Angela Yap	August Ng, Wendy Gong
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Chris Budiman, Val Withnell, Mary-Anne Chan	Lisa Lim*, Adeline Ng, Peggy Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>7 October 2016</i>	<i>14 October 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. Next week's message: "Active Waiting for Christ's Promise" (Acts 1:12-26).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "All You Need Is Jesus" (Colossians 2:1-8). Speaker - Eugene Lim.
5. JF & TF Outing to Bells Rapid Park. Saturday 8 October 2016, 9:30 am. For more information, please contact Jackie Hong at 0403 300 181.
6. Men's Bible Study. Saturday 8 October 2016, 7:30 pm at the residence of David Pang. For more information, please contact Vincent Chiu at 0417 929 149.
7. Combined Youth Camp. "Living as Christians in a Non-Christian World." 1-3 December at Serpentine Camping Centre. Speaker: Pastor Ron Nugent. Fee: \$55. For more information, see Eugene Lim or Jerome Ng.
8. Vacation Bible School, 3-5 October 2016. Please pray for volunteers to minister the gospel to the children. Please pray for hearts ready to receive the gospel.
9. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (Oct-Dec) are available in the foyer.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
M-W 9:00 am VBS	<i>General Fund</i> - \$4,008.55 (#620 - \$550.00, #621 - \$400.00, #622 - \$100.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$450.00 (#619 - \$100.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$100.00 (#394 - \$100.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,558.55. Attendance - 146.
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 9:30 am JF & TF	
7:30 pm Men's Bible Study	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$70,715.39	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$850.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$100.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross) BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969 SWIFT: WPACAU2S
Total	\$71,660.39	
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$416,000.00	
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$344,339.61</i>	

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. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.

Empowered Witnesses for Christ

Acts 1:1-11

The church is reliant on the power of the Spirit for its work of kingdom building. You can't pray or build a church without spiritual power. The Christian is to be holy - but you can't be holy without the Holy Spirit. The Christian is to win souls - but you can't win souls without the Spirit.

1. Christ's Continuing Work in the World Is Through His Spirit
 - a. Began
 - b. Final command
2. Christ's Method for Kingdom Growth
 - a. Waiting
 - b. Witnessing
 - i. The method and subject of kingdom growth
 - ii. The extent
 - iii. The resource
3. The Priority of a Spirit-Empowered Witness
 - a. Christ's glorious ascension speaks of his glorious coming
 - b. Christ's glorious coming demands obedience to his command

We can focus much on the wrong things. We can focus so much on eschatology or our own lives; in fact, all things instead of God's kingdom, all things instead of our sanctification and other's salvation. But this is the way God's kingdom will grow.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Why do we find it so hard to wait when it comes to kingdom building? What is good about this relative to our zeal for Christ's kingdom, and what is bad about this relative to our understanding of God's timing?
2. What proportionate relation does personal sanctification and devotion have to us preaching the gospel? And how does your personal sanctification or lack affect your witness or the effectiveness of the church?
3. Are we doing poorly spiritually if we are not boldly preaching to others? How many people have you been led by the Spirit to minister to? How can we commit to relying on the Spirit for help, boldness, and opportunity to minister the gospel?