



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 13 November 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	32 - <i>Blessed Be the Name</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Hymn	TP 112
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 2:42-47
Hymn	171 - <i>Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"The Spirit-Controlled Church Fellowships"
*Closing Hymn	187 - <i>Blest Be the Tie that Binds</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

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Mark, What Are Your Thoughts on the Recent US Elections?

This question has been posed to me by a number of persons - from friends in Asia and Australia, friends in the US, worshipers of Covenant Church, and even my wife.

Everyone is talking about it. And that's no surprise - what happens in the USA usually has global repercussions on political security and economic prosperity.

So what are my thoughts on the recent US elections? What are my thoughts on Donald Trump winning the election?

Obviously, as a minister, my thoughts should be shaped by biblical principles. Yet, I realize that different ministers have different convictions. Here are mine; they may not be yours.

God Is Sovereign

Donald Trump is now the president-elect, after winning a landslide victory. Because it has happened, it shows that this was God's sovereign decree, even before the foundation of the world.

God's decrees are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for His own glory, he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass (WSC 7).

This is especially true of politics. Acts 17:26 says, "*And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.*"

God made every nation on earth. He has determined their powers and borders. God has also determined who their rulers would be. Daniel 2:21 - "*...he removeth kings, and setteth up kings...*"

So if either Trump, Hillary, Johnson, Stein, McMullin, or Castle won, it would be the sovereign will of God.

There is always reason to rejoice in the sovereign will of God. Given that God is sovereign over who leads a particular

nation, a candidate who wins only wins because God permitted it.

God is ultimately working towards his eternal kingdom and will dispose his holy will however he sees fit.

Therefore, the one who wins is the one through whom God will advance his plan for the USA and world - whether for the prosperity or demise of the nation.

So in the very end, while the person chosen fulfills God's will, yet he is, in the greater scheme of things, insignificant compared to the sovereign God.

Voting Trump Is Not Voting for Christianity or Christian Principles

Because of his policies & promises, many Christians have endorsed Trump. Due to his party's opposition to same-sex marriage & abortion, and its conservative federal fiscal spending, Christians believe they must endorse him.

But Trump's victory is not a victory for Christian principles. He is suspect as a Christian and morally reprehensible. And his party is also a mixed bag.

Proverbs 23:7 says, "*For as [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he...*" Matthew 12:34 - "*...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*" He is what he thinks; and what he says is how he thinks. He is a very scary person.

Christians must realize that voting Trump does not equate to promoting Christian dominance and influence. Politics is part of the world's system. Christian influence is not spread that way.

Yet, there is a place for political duty. Jeremiah 29:7 says, "*And seek the peace (or prosperity) of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.*"

Christians are instructed to promote prosperity of the country they are in, whether it be Babylon or the USA - and the difference is only in degree.

But voting Republican or for Trump was not the only available choice to promote Christian principles and prosperity. There were also other candidates and parties.

How Dare We Vote for the Lesser of Two Evils?

Some would say that other candidates would hardly have had a fighting chance of winning. By voting for Trump, some prosperity may be achieved. And in comparison, he would be the lesser evil compared to Clinton.

But having Trump is not a victory for Christians and having Clinton would not have been a loss for Christians.

And why would we vote for any evil? "Lesser of two evils" implies both candidates would be harmful for the common good.

WCF XXIII:3 states that the role of the civil magistrate is to protect the Church of our Lord and not to hinder the work of the ministry.

As responsible citizens, we are to elect the government that would do this - a clear biblical choice, rather than the lesser of two evils.

How can such a glorious view of civil government subjected to the gospel be confessed as an article of faith and then be ignored in favor of pragmatism?

Biblical Political Philosophy

The Bible does teach a political philosophy. We may disagree on some of the applications, but we all agree that all nations and rulers are called to "*kiss the Son lest they perish*" (Psa 2:12). This is the message to rulers like Trump.

But how will rulers take the gospel command seriously if their place in power was secured by Christians who saw them as saviors?

And how can the church hope to prosper when those who hate God and the true religion are rulers of the nation?

But we remember that God is still on the throne. The kingdom of God is already here and will one day be consummated (Luke 11:20, 17:21, Phil 2:10).

Not even the gates of hell and the presidency can prevail against it.

These are my views. They may not necessarily be yours. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 107. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Q. 108. What are the duties required in the second commandment?

A. The duties required in the second commandment are, the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his Word; particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ; the reading, preaching, and hearing of the Word; the administration and receiving of the Sacraments; Church government and discipline; the ministry and maintenance thereof; religious fasting; swearing by the name of God, and vowing unto him: as also the disapproving, detesting, opposing, all false worship; and, according to each one's place and calling, removing it, and all monuments of idolatry.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (13.11.16)	Next Week (20.11.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Josephine Austin, Wendy Gong
Offering Stewards	Steven Lim*, Chris Budiman* Ken Chong, Kim Leow	Paul Butler*, Ken Hong* Jansen Ng, Yen Fye Yap
Usher	Eva Ng, Josephine Austin	Jerome Ng, August Ng
Kitchen Duties	Jackie Hong*, August Ng, Angela Yap	Florence Orchard*, Victor Poon Rosemary Fitzpatrick
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>18 November 2016</i>	<i>25 November 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Nancy 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. Next week's message: "The Spirit-Controlled Church Eats" (Acts 2:42-47).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Mums and Dads" (Colossians 3:18-19). Speaker - David Lim.
4. Retirees' Bible Study Outing to Gingin and New Norcia Monastery. Thursday 17 November 2016. Transport departs church at 9 am. Tour and talk on Catholicism, Catholic art and architecture, and monasticism led by Pastor. For more information, please contact Yen Fye Yap at 0419 915 874.
5. Young People's Group. Saturday 19 November 2016, 4:30 pm at the residence of Mark Chen. For more information, please contact Jerome Ng at 0451 124 799.
6. CBI has started a new 10 lesson course on "Luther and the Reformation" by Dr RC Sproul on Friday, 11 November 2016. Please contact Pastor to register.
7. Bible Conference 2017. Dates: 18-21 April 2017. Speaker: Dr Bob Jones III. Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort. Please register with Ken and Jackie Hong.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	<i>General Fund</i> - \$4,389.55 (#635 - \$200.00, #636 - \$520.00, #637 - \$100.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$240.00. <i>Building Fund</i> - \$400.00 (#400 - \$300.00, #401 - \$100.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$5,029.55. Attendance - 147.
THU 9:00 am Retirees' Bible Study Outing	
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
4:30 pm YPG	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$78,973.93	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$0.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$400.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Total	\$79,373.93	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$416,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$336,626.07	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. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.

The Spirit-Controlled Church Fellowships

Acts 2:42-47

How do you feel about your church and about the people? The church is a community. We are a city on a hill - the ultimate expression of human community. God is interested in community because he is a Trinitarian community. One day we will be with him and one another. What we do today must be a picture of what we shall do forever.

1. The True Biblical Meaning of Fellowship
 - a. Corruption of "fellowship"
 - b. Share in
 - c. Share with
2. The Proof of Authentic Fellowship
 - a. Involves time and effort
 - b. Involves sharing
3. The Costliness of Authentic Fellowship
 - a. It is costly being in a family
 - b. The need to wrestle with conscience
 - c. The costliness of selfishness

The Spirit-controlled church fellowships; it shares in God, it shares with others. It is a giving that costs the giver something. To mature, we need to go beyond easy questions with easy answers. We can't spend extravagantly without thinking about how that will affect others and the church.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What does a person's frequent or infrequent involvement with the people of the church say about his spirituality and love for the people?
2. Why is it so difficult for people to give financially to the work of the Lord with greater liberality than they do now?
3. Are you rich? Are all your commitments necessary?