



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 17 January 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	3 - <i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 37:29-40
Hymn	TP 37:29-39
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 13:1-19
Hymn	178 - <i>The Bible Stands</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	Life Under the New Covenant V: Be Content, Not Covetous
*Closing Hymn	268 - <i>How Firm a Foundation</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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## Mark, You Mentioned Calvinism in Last Week's Bulletin; Could You Elaborate More?

**Answer:** Calvinism is a system of doctrine that is named after John Calvin.

Calvin and his colleagues - John Farel, John Knox, Ulrich Zwingli, Thomas Cranmer, generally believed in the same interpretation of the Bible.

It is called Calvinism because he was the most prolific spokesman for the movement and theology.

### *The Reformation*

The Reformation was characterized by 3 major movements: The Lutherans, the Calvinists, and the Anabaptists.

The Lutherans followed the teachings of Martin Luther. It exists predominantly in Germany & Scandinavia, & its diaspora. The Anabaptists are represented today by the Amish and the Mennonites.

Calvinism was the predominant movement. On the continent, it existed as the French (Huguenots), German, Helvetic (Swiss), Hungarian, Dutch, Italian (Waldensian), the Bohemian, and other national Reformed Churches.

And in Britain, as the Anglicans, the Scottish and English Presbyterians, the Congregationalists, and the Reformed Baptists.

### *Calvinism or the Bible?*

Now, we shouldn't uphold a theology just because it came from a famous man. Nor should we cling to a "system" of doctrine if there are errors. Rather, we should draw doctrine only from the Bible.

So why are Reformed Christians so happy to identify with Calvinism as a system of doctrine? We do so because we believe it *is* biblical and drawn from the Scriptures.

Charles Spurgeon, the great Calvinistic Baptist preacher and evangelist, said - *"It is no novelty, then, that I am preaching; no new doctrine. I love to proclaim these strong old doctrines, that are called by nickname Calvinism, but which are surely and verily the revealed truth of God as it is in Christ Jesus..."*

*Calvinism is the gospel, and nothing else."*

### *Main Teaching of Calvinism*

As Spurgeon said, Calvinism is the gospel. We know that the gospel is for everyone who believes. Christ died for sinners that he might bring them to God.

But what does Calvinism teach concerning the gospel?

Firstly, it teaches that no one can come to God by himself and no one wants to. He is unable because his heart is sinful.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

In fact, he loves sin more than God. John 3:19 says, *"men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."*

So while man has a will, it is bound to his sinful affections. Because sinful man hates God, he can't and won't seek God.

Romans 3:11 says *"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."*

Yet God has commanded sinful man to come and repent (Acts 17:30). God requires something that man is incapable of doing. Inability doesn't reduce responsibility!

So how can anyone be saved if they won't go to God? God has to bring man to himself. God could choose to save no one (and he'd be just). But God chose to show mercy. He could choose to save all; or he could choose to save some.

Secondly, Calvinism teaches us that God chose to save some. Some would quip - "This is unfair!" Yes, it is. If God were fair, all would perish & Christ would live!

But thank God he is merciful! Who are we to demand that God be fair in dispensing his mercy (Rom 9:18-23)?

The Bible teaches us that Christ does elect - *"You have not chosen me, I have chosen you"* (John 15:16). And only

those who are ordained to eternal life will believe (Acts 13:48).

In short, if God doesn't elect, no one can be saved, because no one will go to God to be saved.

Spurgeon said, *"Whatever may be said about election, it is written in the Word of God as with an iron pen, and there is no getting rid of it."*

Thirdly, Calvinism teaches us that Christ died to save sinners. It doesn't teach that Christ died only to make man savable but he died to secure salvation.

Everyone that Christ died for will be saved. He died for the sins of his people (Matt 1:21). He offered a sacrifice for his people (Heb 7:27). He gave his life for his sheep (John 10:11). And he is able also to save them fully that come unto God by him (Heb 7:25).

Fourthly, because Jesus intends to save sinners who don't want to come to him, he must first give them a new heart and a new spirit (Eze 11:19, John 3:3,5).

When the heart is changed, the will also is changed. This enables a person to believe the gospel and desire to come to Christ, where once he didn't want to.

No man can come to Christ unless God draws him to Christ (John 6:44).

#### *Paradox Answered*

How can we understand the paradox that God chooses whom he will save and his universal command to all sinners to believe and repent? It is simple. We acknowledge all that the Bible teaches.



### **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 36. Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?

A. The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fulness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Q. 37. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ the Son of God became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.

All who hear the gospel and believe will be saved. There's not a single case in the history of man where a repentant believer was refused salvation.

And we acknowledge that since we are dead in trespasses and sin, no one will believe and respond in faith unless God first makes alive those who are dead in their sins (Eph 2:1-5).

The Bible teaches that "whosoever believes" will have eternal life and then explains why some believe and some don't.

It is said that Calvinism stifles the gospel preaching. In fact, true Calvinism should lead to more fervent preaching.

Charles Spurgeon, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Adoniram Judson, and Martin Lloyd Jones were all Calvinists, holding to the sovereignty of God in election, but preached and offered the gospel freely.

They knew that God will save all his people. Not even one will be lost (John 6:39). Thus, we command all to believe.

And we are zealous to preach because the gospel is the power of God unto salvation of everyone who believes.

Therefore, we are unafraid of the full gospel message - not just about the love of God but the wrath of God to sinners - for it is this preaching of the gospel that will save.

Keep your questions coming. ~ Pastor

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (17.1.16)	Next Week (24.1.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Edward Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Jansen Ng & Eva Chiu	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	LH Chua*, John E Tan*, Ken Chong, David Ong	Chris Budiman*, Ian Read*, David Ong, Paul Butler
Usher	August Ng	Marilyn Woo
Kitchen Duties	Lisa Lim*, Carmel Sriharan, Rosemary Fitzpatrick	Jenni Budiman*, Jackie Hong, Victor Poon
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>22 January 2016</i>	<i>29 January 2016</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Ken Chong	Terence Lee
Pianist	Ian Tay	Nancy Liim

## 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: "Jesus Christ Keeps His Sheep" (Hebrews 13:20-25).
3. Bible Conference. Speaker: Mathews Abraham. Theme: What Would Jesus Say About Your Church? Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort, Busselton. Date: 19-22 April 2016. Register with Rex & Carmel Sriharan.
4. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 19 January 2016, 10 am. Topic: A Historical Sketch of the Westminster Assembly and Confession.
5. Ladies' Bible Study. Saturday, 23 January 2016, 7:30 pm. For more information please contact Evelyn Lee (0403 504 186).

### Appointments for the Week

TUE	10:00 am	Retirees' Bible Study
FRI	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting
SAT	7:30 pm	Ladies' Bible Study
SUN	9:00 am	Adult Bible Class
	10:00 am	Worship & Sunday School

### Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

*General Fund* - \$3,766.20 (#522 - \$200.00, #523 - \$100.00). *Missions Fund* - \$420.00. *Building Fund* - \$300.00 (#328 - \$240.00, #329 - \$60.00). *Total Tithes & Offering* - \$4,486.20. Attendance - 134.

### Building Fund to Date

Available Building Fund	\$56,885.47	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$24,305.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$300.00	
Total	\$81,490.47	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$348,509.53	SWIFT: WPCA02S

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.

## Life Under the New Covenant V - Be Content, Not Covetous

### Hebrews 13:5-6

Covetousness is one of the most respectable sins. It is often defended as legitimate ambition, shrewdness, and prudence. It is so common that people do not know when they are covetous.

1. Don't Be Covetous.
  - a. God commands us not to be covetous
  - b. Covetousness is obvious
  - c. It can be seen in spending
  - d. It can be seen in getting wealth illegitimately
  - e. It can be seen in stinginess
  - f. There is judgment for covetousness
2. Be Content.
  - a. Contentment is having the mind of Christ
  - b. Contentment may be obtained through work
  - c. Contentment is obtained through right beliefs
3. Christ Is With Us.
  - a. Christ assures us of his presence
  - b. Unbelief leads to covetousness
  - c. Belief leads to bold confession and contentment

Are we covetous? Yes. Are we content? No. It is because we do not believe as we should. But we will. Be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. Are you always hungering after a good deal? What does this say about yourself? What can you do to be prudent but also to pay adequately for something?
2. What can you do to encourage yourself and your family to live without covetousness? Is it to spend less? Could it be to spend more?
3. How can giving to God be a cure for covetousness? Why do many people feel uncomfortable when the church calls them to give more offering?