



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 24 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	42 - <i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 140
Hymn	TP 23
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 13:20-25
Hymn	190 - <i>We Bless the Name of Christ, the Lord</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Jesus Christ Keeps His Sheep"
*Closing Hymn	294 - <i>Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</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

Time Is Short, Life Is Unpredictable

Time Is Short

In 1 Corinthians 7:29, Paul says, "But this I say, brethren, the time is short."

By this, Paul means that the time man has on earth is short. The Scripture frequently stresses the brevity of man's life. Psalm 89:47 - "Remember how short my time is." Psalm 39:5 - "Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth."

How Is Time Short?

It is short in terms of uncertainty. We may die at any time. Even if we have our health, we may be struck down by a vehicle. Hezekiah had a lease of 15 years (Isaiah 38:5) - but we have no such lease - death may come suddenly.

Time is short in terms of quality. We don't always spend our time well. We spend a great amount of time on sleep, eating, and drinking. We also spend much time in idleness. Thomas Watson said, "Time misemployed is not time lived, but time lost."

Time is short compared with eternity. Consider Francis Chan's illustration. Our life is represented by a long white rope. Our earthly life only consists of 2 inches on one end of the rope. But we live for those 2 inches and neglect the rest of the rope. We live for the world rather than for eternity.

Advantage of Knowing the Shortness of Time

Knowing how short life is cools our affections for the world. If life is short, why should we overly love that which we cannot keep (1 Cor 7:31).

Knowing how short life is should humble us. We can't extend it. And while we strive to accomplish much in life, it can be taken from us unexpectedly. We are not in control of our life and destiny.

Knowing how short life is should hasten our repentance. Repentance is necessary for heaven. It is natural to delay repentance - we think there's always

another day (Haggai 1:2). But time is short.

Knowing how short life is should be an antidote against temptation. Because Achan loved money and not his God, he stole from God. But knowing our eternal home should cause us to live for it.

Knowing how short life is should cause us to highly value grace. Life on this earth ends. Life in heaven continues. Life in heaven is only accessible by God's grace. And he has been gracious to us. Value it.

Knowing how short life is, let us spend it profitably. Many of us don't. Judges 10:4 speaks of Jair the Judge - he had thirty sons who rode around in thirty donkeys. That's how they spent their lives!

Knowing how short life is, let us spend it in holy pursuits. We must redeem the time for the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16). We must examine ourselves (1 Cor 13:5). We will give an account of our lives to God.

Knowing how short life is, let us improve it by communion with God and service to him - to be zealous for God and to labor more abundantly (1 Cor 15:10).

Knowing how short life is, let us rejoice. The godly truly can't stand to live in a godless world. Even creation itself groans (Rom 7:24).

God is very gracious to us to help us to remember the shortness of life. Consider, below, the testimony of our brother Steven Lim.

Consider his gratitude not only for added years and God's amazing rescue, but also for a greater understanding of the shortness and unpredictability of life. ~ Pastor

Life Is Unpredictable

On the first official day of summer on 1st Dec, it began and seemed to be ending like any other weekday.

After a relatively long day at work I was driving home southbound on the Kwinana Freeway looking forward to a quick

dinner with my wife Stephanie and two boys before heading off for my coaching duties.

I was actually looking forward to the end of a long, challenging and tiring year. Little did I realise that in any second, my outlook in life would be changed over an event at the freeway itself.

I was driving at the left lane which was to merge to one lane from two. A prime mover was also merging towards the same lane from the right, but that vehicle was well behind me.

Having the right of way, I continued with the flow of traffic in terms of speed and space between myself and another vehicle in front of me. During the merging process, I was shocked that the prime mover, which only 10 seconds ago was well behind me, was just at my right and displayed no intention of slowing down. As a matter of fact, he picked up speed.

Having no option of taking any evasive measure – I could not speed up due to the vehicle in front of me, I could not stop nor could I veer to the emergency lane as there was none due to the freeway extension construction- I had to allow the collision that eventually took place.

Following impact, the company issued car I was driving was spun to a 90-degree position and I was further dragged forward for at least 40 meters. The force of impact caused my head to hit the right side of the car. And no, the side impact air bag did not deploy.

I blacked out for a few seconds and when I regained consciousness, I noticed a few

good Samaritans trying to assist me and made sure I was ok. One of them is a qualified first aider himself. He called my company a couple of days following the accident to check if I was ok.

It turned out that the driver of the truck did not see me merging in and was most likely distracted or fatigued prior to the crash.

Moments later, the paramedics arrived and after 30 minutes of assessment, I was given a green light to be sent home. The paramedics themselves, having seen enough senseless tragedies on our roads, were amazed that I was physically well enough to go home instead of to the hospital with injuries, or worse. This I believe was nothing short of a miracle and God's mercy.

Things could have turned out very differently. While the car was badly damaged, by God's Grace I had no physical injuries despite being in a state of shock.

If it had been a collision at a different speed, or even a slightly different angle, the outcome could have been much more serious.

I believe I have made a full recovery, the sight of trucks still makes me tense when I see them on our roads today. Eventually this will pass.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all brothers and sisters who prayed for me in thanksgiving and for my recovery.

I have learnt that life is unpredictable and we never know what may be thrown at us. ~ Steven Lim



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 38. Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God?

A. It was requisite that the Mediator should be God, that he might sustain and keep the human nature from sinking under the infinite wrath of God, and the power of death, give worth and efficacy to his sufferings, obedience, and intercession; and to satisfy God's justice, procure his favor, purchase a peculiar people, give his Spirit to them, conquer all their enemies, and bring them to everlasting salvation.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (24.1.16)</i>	<i>Next Week (31.1.16)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jabez Huang
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Josephine Austin & Cheryl Nannup
Offering Stewards	Chris Budiman*, Ian Read*, David Ong, Paul Butler	David Pang*, Vincent Chiu*, Micah Chiang, Ken Hong
Usher	Marilyn Woo	Marilyn Woo
Kitchen Duties	Jenni Budiman*, Jackie Hong, Victor Poon	Sandy Chua*, Eva Chiu, Jemima Ng
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>29 January 2016</i>	<i>5 February 2016</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Terence Lee	David Pang
Pianist	Nancy Liim	Valerie Ong

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 Prodigal Prophet" (Jonah 1:1).
3. Bible Conference. Speaker: Mathews Abraham. Theme: What Would Jesus Say About Your Church? Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort, Busselton.
4. Friday, 5 February 2016, 7:45 pm. Myanmar Mission Trip Presentation. Please come with your family and friends to hear about what God is doing in Myanmar, to watch a video and picture presentation of the mission trip, and to hear testimonies from the people who went.

Appointments for the Week

FRI 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting
 SUN 9:00 am Adult Bible Class
 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2,424.70 (#525 - \$20.00).
Missions Fund - \$480.00 (#524 - \$200.00).
Building Fund - \$605.00 (#330 - \$605.00).
Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,509.70.
 Attendance - 143.

Building Fund to Date

Available Building Fund	\$58,185.47	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$22,700.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$605.00	
Total	\$81,490.47	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$348,509.53	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
		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.

Jesus Christ Keeps His Sheep

Hebrews 13:20-25

Christ must be our most important pursuit, but often is not. We are covetous, sinful, self-centered, and apathetic toward God. But God helps us to live for him. We're powerless, but he gives power.

1. God Will Equip His People to Live the Christian Life (vv 20-21).
 - a. He fixes us
 - b. He is for us
 - c. He is powerful to change us
 - d. He has given us a guide
 - e. The extent to which he equips us
2. God's People Are Called to Submit Themselves to God's Word (v 22).
 - a. Submit to the Word
 - b. He was gentle and affectionate toward them

Are we making Christ and the Christian life our chief pursuits? We must submit to the Word and to God who is equipping us to live the Christian life.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Are you making Christ and the Christian life your chief pursuit?
2. How long do you have on earth? How are you making the best of the short time here in preparation for eternity?
3. What have been the challenges for you in these series of messages?