



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 3 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	TP 65:1-5,11-13
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 John 4:7-21
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	222 - <i>There Is a Fountain</i>
Hymn	218 - <i>Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 13:4
Hymn	257 - <i>'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	Life Under the New Covenant III: Keep Marriage and Sex Pure
*Closing Hymn	523 - <i>Happy the Home When God Is There</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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What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?

Our Theme for 2015

This past year, we have focused on the theme: "Out of Myself and Into the Savior." This is what Dr Tedd Tripp spoke about at our Bible Conference.

The conference highlighted the idols of our hearts and the need to see Christ as more beautiful than anything else. Only then can we truly focus on our Savior instead of ourselves.

We have also considered the theme by studying the book of Hebrews. It has taken us 34 messages to get to where we are today, with just a few more to go.

This book has considered the plight of the Hebrew Christians, particularly in Rome.

They were tempted to deny Christ and follow their heart idols. Naturally, theirs seemed more legitimate - their heart idol was to stay alive.

But Jesus himself said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

This is what we are to do throughout our entire lifetime. We will also continue in this theme on the study of Jonah until our Bible Conference in April.

Our Theme for 2016

This year we will consider the theme "What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?"

Pastor Mathews Abraham will kick off the theme by considering the churches of Revelation, and what Jesus said about them.

We will consider the theme by studying thereafter, God-willing, books of the Bible that deal with building of the church - such as Ephesians and Nehemiah.

Why This Theme?

It is without a doubt that we all have ideas about how a church should be run

and ministries conducted. We are people skilled in management ideas.

The Church of Jesus Christ today has many people skilled in management and program planning. There are scores of books on what a church needs to have in order to grow numerically and spiritually.

In one sense, this is a good thing. It is good because it shows concern and desire for the body. As the Apostle Paul said, "Let all things be done decently and in order."

However, it is not always a good thing either. It can be a very bad thing. Because we come from different backgrounds and persuasions (yea, even training), we may have different preferences and convictions.

Promotion of methodology may be destructive because methods are not always transplantable (or applicable).

On the other hand, promotion of the principles of church growth and church planning is vital.

It keeps the important things important. And it helps us to evaluate methods and see them as merely circumstances and not saviors.

The Need for This Theme

While there are many secular ideas flooding the church, we need to realize that the Bible has much to say about this.

Peter Masters says, "*What are our aims for the shaping of our church fellowship, and for its growth? Do we have an agenda or framework of desired objectives?*"

"*The apostle Paul had a very definite policy, and called it his "purpose", using a Greek word which means - a plan or strategy displayed for all to see.*"

The Bible is wholly sufficient for us in building up a church. Often, we become dissatisfied and resort to secular means

because churches don't follow what is already laid out for them in Scripture.

How are we as a church adhering to and following God's "policy" for his church? Well, we aren't all there.

Definitely, we as a corporate body can be involved more in the spreading of God's Word, not just in the mission field, but locally in Western Australia.

Definitely, as a body, we can focus more on prayer. Leonard Ravenhill said, *"No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere."*

Perhaps the lack of growth in many churches is not because there is a lack of programs or organization, but a simple lack of prayer. But prayer was high on Paul's church policy.

Definitely, as a body, we can focus more on fellowship and mutual edification.

There are many things we need to build on. As we hear from the conference speaker and as we hear from the Head

of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ, through His Word, may all alike - pastor, elder, deacons, members, and worshipers, be taught by Him, to know how He is leading us corporately.

Christ's thinking about the church has not changed from what was originally written in Scripture.

Therefore, if any church is to regain the glory that God intended for her, *"it must be through radical transformation by taking the church back to the basics as outlined in Scripture"* (Richard Mayhue).

And having done that, we must engage in the hard work of aligning the church to those Biblical policies and restore the church to her original beauty according to the biblical blueprint.

Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St Paul's Cathedral in London, once inquired of three workmen at the construction site - "What are you doing?" The first replied - "I'm earning a meager living to support my family." The second said he was merely constructing another building. The third had a grander view - "I'm part of a magnificent project to build the world's most beautiful cathedral to the glory of God."

Unless we have the third worker's perspective, sooner or later we will lose our zeal for Christ's first love - the church. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 33. Was the covenant of grace always administered after one and the same manner?

A. The covenant of grace was not always administered after the same manner, but the administrations of it under the Old Testament were different from those under the New.

Q. 34. How was the covenant of grace administered under the Old Testament?

A. The covenant of grace was administered under the Old Testament, by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the passover, and other types and ordinances, which did all fore-signify Christ then to come, and were for that time sufficient to build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they then had full remission of sin, and eternal salvation.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (3.1.15)	Next Week (3.8.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Marilyn Woo
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Yen Fye Yap*, Jansen Ng*	Vincent Chiu*, Rex Sriharan*
Usher	Jerome Ng	Jesslyn Leow
Kitchen Duties	Aliza Chiu*, Nancy Lim, Sarah Siew, Helen Wong, Cheryl Nannup	Peggy Woo*, Hui Min Chen, Val Withnell, Chris Budiman
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>8 January 2016</i>	<i>15 January 2016</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Micah Chiang	Eugene Lim
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Jerome Ng

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: "Life Under the New Covenant IV" (Hebrews 13:1-19).
3. Sunday School teachers for the month of January are: Stephanie Lim, Jenni Budiman, Aliza Chiu, Lisa Lim, Sandy Chua, Eileen Tay; Dorcas Pang, Evelyn Lee; Joyce Ng; Mary-Anne Chan; Eugene Lim; Ken Chong. Singspiration Leader: Joyce and Jemima Ng. Pianist: Jerome Ng.
4. 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.
5. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior for this quarter are available in the foyer.
6. Corrigendum. Last week's bulletin recorded that the children will move into the orphanage by March 2017. The date should read March 2016.
7. "Brilliant Design in Creation". Talk by Prof Andy McIntosh (Uni. of Leeds). Saturday, 9 January 2015, 2:30-5 pm at Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>FRI 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Adult Bible Class</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10:00 am Worship & Sunday School</p>	<p><i>General Fund</i> - \$2,489.45 (#517 - \$654.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$680.00 (#518 - \$100.00, #519 - \$200.00, #520 - \$100.00. <i>Building Fund</i> - \$1,592.00 (#321 - \$587.00, #322 - \$1,000.00, #323 - \$5.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,761.45. Attendance - 115.</p>

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$52,141.03	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$28,275.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$230.00	
Total	\$80,646.03	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$349,353.97	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
		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. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.

Life Under the New Covenant III - Keep Marriage and Sex Pure
Hebrews 13:4

To live under the New Covenant, there is an obligation to obey the officers of the church, to love one another (especially the brethren), and to keep marriage and sex pure. It was hard enough to pursue after Christ, it was harder to do so in the Roman (and modern) culture of sensuality which has a low view of marriage.

1. Hold Marriage in the Highest Honor.
 - a. It is a command
 - b. God honors it
 - c. The purpose of marriage
 - d. Who shall Christians marry?
2. Keep Sex Pure.
 - a. Sex between spouses is good
 - b. Unbiblical views of sex
 - c. Sex only in marriage
3. God's Displeasure on Those Who Do Contrary.
 - a. God punishes sovereignly
 - b. God punishes ecclesiastically

Questions for Reflection:

1. Is sexual sin worse than other sins? Is it more scandalous? What makes forgiveness for sexual sin difficult in a church concerned more about respectability rather than repentance?
2. Does a Christian absolutely have to marry a Christian if he is to marry? Who says so?