



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 21 February 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	Acts 2:11-26
Hymn	TP 32:1-11
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Jonah 1:7-2:10
Hymn	459 - <i>He Lifted Me</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"It Is Hard for You to Kick Against the Pricks"
*Closing Hymn	17 - <i>Come, Thou Fount</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

Christian Fellowship – A Response

Apart from our regular Lord's Day worship service and the accompanying Adult Bible and Sunday School classes, a couple of things took place last Sunday:

1. The bulletin article highlighting the importance of Christian fellowship – the concluding questions: Are you meeting frequently with the people of God? Are you meeting with the intention to fellowship?
2. The chairman and our deacon, Ken, shared his and fellow deacon Lye Heng's burden of making full use of the Lord's Day for Christian fellowship.
3. A group of parents gathered in the sanctuary from 12 noon to listen and discuss plans for a new approach to our Junior & Teens' Fellowship.

I'm reminded of Demas, whom the Apostle Paul described, in rather haunting terms, as having "forsaken him" and the ministry because he "loved this present world" (2 Tim 4:10).

Whether Demas had abandoned Christ altogether, we do not know. What is clear is that the brief reference to Demas was a warning for us to pursue Christ and church much more seriously.

One reason why we are not interested in deeper fellowship is because we love this world more. Does this describe you?

Last Sunday's Parents' Meeting

I was 'appointed' the spokesperson at last Sunday's parents' gathering. As I prepared what to share, the hymn "Have You Counted the Cost?" came to mind, which we sang.

The hymn calls us to evaluate our actual commitment to God. How much time do we spend with God and God's people

versus time spent on ourselves and our pleasurable pursuits?

The writer describes our pursuit as one of "hurry[ing] along with the pleasure-mad throng".

Make no mistake: even our hard slogs at work to earn a living for our and our children's pursuits are 'pleasure-seeking'. As King Solomon calls it, they are vanity (Ps 127:2).

What Is Our Greatest Fear for Our Children?

There would be full consensus on the answer. The answer would have to be: "that they reject Christ and do not get to spend eternity with us in heaven".

But the follow-up question would be: "What are we doing to ensure that the fear isn't realized?" This is where it gets tricky.

Can our regular shuttling of our kids (to sports, tuition, music, etc.) to the exclusion of fellowship with God's people be potentially nudging them closer to hell?

I do not mean to cause offense but I do mean to cause alarm if this may indeed be the case.

I would challenge us to think how we could be complicit in "barter[ing] our hope of eternity's morn for a moment of joy at the most", as the hymn-writer notes. Many of us, sadly, may be doing just that.

When we emphasize earthly pursuits, to our children, by giving significantly more time and effort to them, we invariably neglect time with God's people. It is a zero sum outcome.

Let us not rationalize the lack of focus on the things of God. Remember that

God is not mocked and the consequences are severe.

How can we do good to those in the household of faith (Gal 6:10) when we don't even spend time in fellowship, serving with and beside our brethren?

Value of Time

Everyone complains they only have 24 hours a day. This isn't really true.

Yes, much of our time is taken up by duties, obligations, and problems that we cannot shirk from. This is simply our lot in life, and we are kept very busy.

However, the majority of us have 'discretionary time' - time which we can use in almost any way we please.

This valuable time is often squandered away deriving pleasure for ourselves in recreation, extended rest, or shopping.

But the time ought to be spent in spiritual matters - prayer, Scripture, witnessing, works of mercy, Christian service and fellowship.

As a matter of fact, this is what the early Christians did as recorded in Acts 2:44-47 so that we may emulate.

Do we as parents make bad decisions on how we spend our discretionary time? Do we pass on the same to our children? We do this on weekdays, but it extends even to the Lord's Day, a day set apart for worship and fellowship.

Are we ever ready to skip church because other activities take precedence? What message does this send to our children? Is God disposable that we can worship him according to our timing? We are dicing with eternal death!

Fellowship and Let Your Children Fellowship

Our church is pressing on to revitalize our fellowship groups, starting with the teens and then working our way down to the younger children.

There was also a call for us all to remain behind for fellowship.

Last week's meeting was intended for all of us to listen to some proposals for new Teens' and Junior Fellowship structure.

We ought to think seriously about drawing a line in the sand (a metaphor from the hymn) from this year onwards.

Let us do what we can - while we still can - to imbue in us and our children a deep sense of love for the Lord and His church.

Let us grab every opportunity we can to learn, to worship and to fellowship because the cost is too great otherwise.

As the final stanza of the hymn pleads:

"Won't you come and be healed, won't you whisper, I yield - I have counted, I have counted the cost." ~ Terence Lee



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 45. How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in calling out of the world a people to himself, and giving them officers, laws, and censures, by which he visibly governs them; in bestowing saving grace upon his elect, rewarding their obedience, and correcting them for their sins, preserving and supporting them under all their temptations and sufferings, restraining and overcoming all their enemies, and powerfully ordering all things for his own glory, and their good; and also in taking vengeance on the rest, who know not God, and obey not the gospel.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (21.2.16)	Next Week (28.2.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Terence Lee
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Evelyn Lee
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler*, David Ong*, John E Tan, Micah Chiang	Ken Hong*, David Pang*, David Lim, Vincent Chiu
Usher	Josephine Austin, Jesslyn Leow	Eva Chiu, Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Angela Yap*, Mary Loh, Vincent Chiu	Adeline Ng*, Marilyn Woo, Mary-Anne Chan
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>26 February 2016</i>	<i>4 March 2016</i>
Speaker	Jimmy Orchard	Terence Lee
Chairperson	Ken Hong	Jansen Ng
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Ian Tay

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 Anatomy of Repentance I" (Jonah 3:1-4).
3. Celebration of Life Service - Amy Gay. Monday, 22 February 2016, 10:30 am at 47 Davis Road, Attadale.
4. Ladies' Bible Study - Saturday, 20 February 2016, 7:30 pm at the residence of Sandy Chua. For more information, please contact Evelyn Lee at 0404 504 186.
5. Membership Covenant at the end of March. Those wishing to be baptized, transfer their membership, or reaffirm their faith, please approach an elder.
6. Pastor will be in Sydney for a conference this week and will be meeting with fellow Bible-Presbyterian pastors from Adelaide and Melbourne to explore potential formal fraternal relations.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	<i>General Fund</i> - \$2,933.10 (#535 - \$22.30). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$430.00 (#536 - \$100.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$705.00 (#338 - \$500.00, #339 - \$105.00, #340 - \$100.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,068.10. Attendance - 160.
FRI 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting & JF	
SAT 7:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study	
SUN 9:00 am Adult Bible Class	
10:00 am Worship & Sunday School	

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$65,995.60	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$20,849.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$705.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross)
Total	\$87,549.60	
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$342,450.00	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.

It Is Hard for You to Kick Against the Pricks

Jonah 1:17-2:10

Ancient farmers used an ox prick to steer the ox. The ox would rebel and kick the prick, hurting itself. Defiance doesn't pay. As Christians, God steers lovingly. But when we rebel, he will use all means to restore us. Jonah defied, God used all means to restore him.

1. God Brought About Jonah's Desperation.
 - a. God is sovereign and powerful.
 - b. His means can be very extreme.
 - c. God used chastisement to bring forth desperation.
2. God Brought About Jonah's Contrition.
 - a. Jonah's contrition was marked by repentance.
 - b. Jonah's contrition was marked by faith.
 - c. Jonah's contrition was marked by a desire to worship.
3. God Brought About Jonah's Salvation.
 - a. God is in charge of salvation.
 - b. God alone is in charge of salvation.

Christ saved sinners by dying so that we can be rescued from our defiance. He faced despair to rescue us from ours. He went into the tomb, that we can be saved from ours. He went through extreme despair for us.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How defiant are you against God?
2. How defiant should you be against God as a Christian who has been rescued from defiance? Could your defiance be a result of desiring to pursue your own happiness apart from God?
3. How will your defiance end?