



# C O V E N A N T

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 1 May 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 122
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Romans 5:1-11
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	218 - <i>Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary</i>
Hymn	TP 128
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology &amp; Offertory Prayer</i>	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 3:1-9
Hymn	163 - <i>Open My Eyes, That I May See</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Made Right by Christ, Not by Religion"
*Closing Hymn	Insert - <i>Not What These Hands Have Done</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	*Congregation standing

† 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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## **Formal Religion**

adapted from JC Ryle's *Practical Religion*

### *Formal Religion Is Not True Religion*

What is formal religion? When a man is a Christian in name only and not in reality; in outward things only and not in his inward feelings; in profession only and not in practice; when his Christianity is in form and does not influence his heart or life - this is "formal religion." He does not possess its substance or its power.

The religion of thousands of people seems to consist in keeping religious ceremonies and ordinances. They attend regularly on public worship. They go regularly to the Lord's table. But they never get any further.

They are not familiar with the Scriptures and take no delight in reading them. They do not separate themselves from the ways of the world. They draw no distinction between godliness and ungodliness in their friendships, or marriage alliances.

What can be said about these people? They are Christians by profession; and yet there is neither heart nor life in their Christianity. There is but one thing to be said about them: They are formal Christians - their religion is a mere form!

Paul told the Romans - "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter."

These are strong words indeed! A man might be a son of Abraham - and yet in God's sight, not be a Jew! Just so, a man may be a Christian by outward profession - and yet, in God's sight, not a Christian at all!

Beware of formality! Nothing is so dangerous to a man's own soul. Familiarity with the form of religion, while we neglect its reality has a fearfully deadening effect on the conscience. It brings up by degrees a thick crust of insensibility over the whole inner man.

### *The Heart Is the Seat of True Religion*

The true Christian is the Christian in heart. The heart is the real test of a man's character. It is not what he says or what he does, by which the man may be always known.

He may say and do things that are right from false and unworthy motives — while his heart is altogether wrong. The heart is the man! "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

The heart is the right test of a man's religion. It is not enough that a man holds a correct creed of doctrine, and maintains a proper outward form of godliness. What is his heart? That is the grand question. This is what God looks at.

The heart is the place where saving religion must begin. It is naturally irreligious, and must be renewed by the Holy Spirit. "A new heart will I give unto you."

It is naturally hard, and must be made tender and broken. "I will take away the heart of stone, and I will give you a heart of flesh."

The heart is the seat of true saving faith. With the heart man believes unto righteousness (Romans 10:10).

When the heart is wrong - all is wrong in God's sight! Many right things may be done. The forms and ordinances which God Himself has appointed may seem to be honored. But so long as the heart is at fault, God is not pleased. He will have man's heart or nothing.

There were kings of Judah and Israel who did many things that were right in God's sight and yet were never written in the list of godly and righteous men.

Rehoboam began well, and for three years walked in the way of David and Solomon (2 Chronicles 11:17). But afterwards he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord (2 Chronicles 12:14).

When the heart is right God can look over many things that are defective. There may be faults in judgment, and infirmities in practice.

There may be many deviations from the best course in the outward things of religion. But if the heart is sound in the main, God is not extreme to mark that which is amiss.

He is merciful and gracious, and will pardon much that is imperfect when He sees a true heart and a single eye.

#### *True Religion Will Never Be Popular*

Heart-religion is a religion whose praise is not of men but of God (Romans 2:29). God's truth and Scriptural Christianity are never really popular. As long as man is what man is, the majority of mankind will always like a religion of form, far better than a religion of heart.

Formal religion suits an unenlightened conscience. Formal religions does not require much nor trouble his heart much nor interfere with his sins much.

Formal religion gratifies the secret self-righteousness of man. All of us are Pharisees - we cling to the idea that our works will get us to heaven. Formalism meets us here.

Formal religion pleases the natural laziness of man. Formal religion fulfills the shell and the form. Man likes this. He hates trouble in religion.

But the religion of the heart, that's very different! It has never had the good word

of mankind. Those who have heart religion endure laughter, mockery, ridicule, scorn, hatred, persecution, imprisonment, and death. It has never had the praise of man.

Heart-religion is too humbling to be popular. It tells him that he is a guilty, lost, hell-deserving sinner, and that he must flee to Christ for salvation. The pride of man rebels against such tidings as these.

Heart-religion is too holy to be popular. It requires of him things that he hates - conversion, faith, repentance, spiritual-mindedness, prayer. It would be strange indeed if he liked it.

Was heart-religion popular? We find the prophets persecuted and ill-treated, because they preached against sin, and required men to give their hearts to God. The Pharisees could not tolerate a religion of which the first principles were humiliation and holiness of heart.

#### *Questions*

Is your religion a matter of form and not of heart?

If your heart condemns you, would you call on Jesus without delay and ask him to renew your heart?

If you heart does not condemn you, and you have confidence in God, would you consider your responsibility to praise God and watch over your spiritual life lest you fall into formality?



### **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 62. What is the visible church?

A. The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.

Q. 63. What are the special privileges of the visible church?

A. The visible church hath the privilege of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

## Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (1.5.16)	Next Week (8.5.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Ian Tay	Evelyn Lee
Welcomers	Jansen Ng & Eva Chiu	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Jacob Woo*, Ken Chong* Ian Read, Ken Hong	David Pang*, Kim Leow* Steven Lim, Yen Fye Yap
Usher	Joyce Ng, Eva Chiu	Jesslyn Leow, Angela Yap
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Adeline Ng Mary-Anne Chan, Julian Poon	Marilyn Woo*, Ken Hong Putri Harapan
Prayer Meeting	6 May 2016	13 May 2016
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Jerome Ng

### Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. Next week's message: "Experiencing Christ" (Philippians 3:10-4:1).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "He Did So Much and No More" (2 Kings 10:29-36). Speaker - John Tan.
5. Covenant Bible Institute. A new course on "Understanding the Tabernacle" will commence next Friday at 7:45 pm. Those who wish to sign up for the course, please register with Pastor.

Appointments for the Week		Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED	10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$3,578.60 (#558 - \$500.00, #559 - \$30.00, #560 - \$370.00). Missions Fund - \$400.00. Building Fund - \$805.00 (#362 - \$500.00, #364 - \$205.00, #363 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,783.60. Attendance - 136.

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$77,755.47	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$9,145.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross)
Last Week's Collection	\$805.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
Total	\$87,705.47	SWIFT: WPACAU2S
Outstanding Loan	- \$430,000.00	
Amount Still Needed	\$342,294.53	

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.

## Made Right by Christ, Not by Religion

Philippians 3:1-9

Do outward religious rites and rituals make you right in the eyes of God? Of course not. But unfortunately, we often make up our own outward requirements to be right with God.

### 1. Beware of a Legalistic Outward Religion

- a. Growing problem in the church
- b. Warning against Judaizers
- c. Their description

### 2. The Essence of True Religion Is Inward

- a. Inward religion is right religion
- b. The description of the Christian

### 3. It's Christ that Makes Me Right with God

- a. The Christian's attitude to his accomplishments
- b. Christ is the Christian's prize

### Questions for Reflection:

1. The Christian must not neglect obedience and good works. If the Christian were to do a lot of good works, why could he not take pride in having done them? What do you think of the statement - "the good works we do only plunge us into greater debt to God who ordained us to do them"?
2. Outward religious acts may satisfy the demands of formal religion without troubling the heart of man and interfering with his sins. How can doctrinal accuracy similarly take the place of outward religious acts in this?
3. What are the things that you must count as loss and dung to cling more to Christ in the inner man?