



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 29 May 2016

Theme for the Year: "What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

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| Prelude | <i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i> |
| Call to Worship | |
| *Opening Hymn | 19 - <i>The God of Abraham Praise</i> |
| *Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i> | |
| Scripture Reading | Jeremiah 17:1-10 |
| Hymn | TP 1 |
| Tithes & Offering | |
| **† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer | |
| Scripture Reading | Luke 14:24-35 |
| Hymn | 374 - <i>Jesus Calls Us</i> |
| Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer | |
| Sermon | "The Cost of Discipleship" |
| *Closing Hymn | 438 - <i>Footsteps of Jesus</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

The Glory of the Church

The Westminster Confession says - *"The purest Churches under heaven are subject both to mixture and error; and some have so degenerated, as to become no Churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan. Nevertheless, there shall be always a Church on earth to worship God according to His will."*

There is no perfect church in the world. The only perfect church is in heaven. No matter how glorious the church on earth is, it is never glorious enough.

And frequently, man judges the church in terms of glory by man's standards and not by God's. "The church is too small; the church is not growing, the church would be more effective in reaching out if, etc." We are not glorious now, but one day we will be.

Glory Comes from Self-Negation

Christ has always laid down very difficult conditions for his disciples. In Mark 8:34-35, Jesus said, *"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."*

Christianity is about self-negation and Christ-exaltation. We triumph when we are humble. The church triumphs when she is weak.

It is at her weakest that she grew the most. It is when she is persecuted that she had most influence.

Consider the words of Christ in Mark 8:38 to those who would be ashamed of self-negation - *"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

Glory Comes When Christ Comes

6 days after Jesus spoke those words to his disciples, he took 3 of them up to the

Mount of Transfiguration. There, his clothes suddenly shone with an intense bright light. It was so white that no other thing on earth was as white.

No bleach, no detergent, nothing could get it as white. His clothes were shimmering. His face also changed.

This reminds us of the face and clothes of Moses, after he had come down from Mount Sinai - they reflected the glory of Christ whom he had seen.

This was merely a preview of the true glory of Christ. And if this was a preview, then Christ would come in greater glory. Christ's coming would be dazzling. He would come in the glory of his father with the holy angels.

But the second coming of Christ not only speaks of his glory, but the glory of the church. 1 Thessalonians 3:13 says that he will come with all of his saints. The church will descend on earth at the second coming - full of glory.

We are now the church militant - struggling and suffering, but we shall be the church triumphant - full of glory. This happens only at his coming.

Glory Is Preceded by Suffering

At the Mount of Transfiguration, Christ spoke to Elijah and Moses.

What in the world were they talking about?

Luke 9:30-31 tells us - *"And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: who appeared in glory, and spoke of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem."*

They were speaking about his death. Moses wrote about the sacrifices - the burnt, peace, sin, and trespass offerings. Elijah was a prophet. The prophets wrote about Christ's coming and suffering. So it's no surprise that these men were discussing his death.

Before Christ comes in power and glory, he had to suffer. This is the role of the

church here on earth. We are not powerful or glorious.

Our influence comes not by ruling; but by serving. Our power comes by prayer, not by self-reliance. And God's will is for the church now to suffer.

Philippians 1:29 - *"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake."*

This has been the experience of the church down the ages.

The Old Testament church suffered in Egypt. She suffered under the Philistines. She suffered in Babylon. She suffered under the Greeks. She suffered under the Romans.

The New Testament church suffered under the Romans, under the Muslims, under the communists, under the atheists, etc.

Hebrews 10:36-38 tells us that many were mocked and beaten, imprisoned, stoned, cut in half; they wandered around in tormented and afflicted.

But here's the assurance. 2 Timothy 2:12 says, *"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us."*

The suffering of Christ was a necessity before his glory. The suffering of the Church is a necessity before its glory.

Christ Is Glorified by Our Obedience

When the disciples saw Jesus in his glory; a cloud descended from heaven and surrounded them. Then they heard a voice which said, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."*

The voice from heaven didn't say - "listen to me." God said, "listen to him."

Christ is most glorified when we obey him. Luke 6:46 - *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"*

The glory of the church is future. But a foretaste of glory for the church can be achieved through obedience to Christ in holy living.

Want the church to grow and be glorious? Live a holy life. Speak holy words. Let your Christ-likeness be evident. Reach out to others and let them see your good works and character, that they may glorify Christ. Minister the gospel to them. Men will hate you; you will suffer. That is the glory of the church today. ~ Pastor

Morning devotion preached at Bible Conference 2016.



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 69. What is the communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?

A. The communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ, is their partaking of the virtue of his mediation, in their justification, adoption, sanctification, and whatever else, in this life, manifests their union with him.

Q. 70. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners, in which he pardoneth all their sins, accepteth and accounteth their persons righteous in his sight; not for any thing wrought in them, or done by them, but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to them, and received by faith alone.

Worship Service Roster

| Service | This Week (29.5.16) | Next Week (5.6.16) |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Speaker | Mark Chen | Mark Chen |
| Worship Leader | Ken Chong | Mark Chen |
| Pianist | Nancy Lim | Valerie Ong |
| Welcomers | Ian & Merrill Read | John & Adeline Ng |
| Offering Stewards | LH Chua*, Ken Hong* Chris Budiman, David Pang | Yen Fye Yap*, Steven Lim* Jacob Woo, Rex Sriharan |
| Usher | Eva Chiu, Marilyn Woo | Jemima Ng, Angela Yap |
| Kitchen Duties | Peggy Woo*, Lisa Lim Carmel Sriharan | Helen Wong*, Nancy Lim Chris Budiman, Jemima Ng |
| <i>Prayer Meeting</i> | <i>3 June 2016</i> | <i>10 June 2016</i> |
| Facilitator | Mark Chen | Jimmy Orchard |
| 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 will be celebrating Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship lunch.
3. Next week's message: "The People of Discipleship" (2 Timothy 2:2).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "There's Redemption for Sinners" (Matthew 1:1-17). Speaker - Ken Chong.
5. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 31 May 2016, 10 am. Topic: "What Does the Bible Say About Growing Old?" For more information please contact Kim Leow at 0405 407 838.
6. Church Busy Bee. Saturday, 4 June 2016, 2 pm. Please come to lend a hand in cleaning the church and tidying the grounds before winter.

| Appointments for the Week | Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance |
|------------------------------------|--|
| TUE 10:00 am Retirees' Bible Study | <i>General Fund</i> - \$3,674.75 (#571 - \$124.40). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$410.00. <i>Building Fund</i> - \$250.00 (#370 - \$100.00, #371 - \$50.00, #372 - \$100.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,334.75. Attendance - 143. |
| WED 10:00 am Craft Group | |
| FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting | |
| SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF | |
| SUN 9:00 am Sunday School | |
| 10:00 am Worship | |

| Building Fund to Date | |
|--|----------------|
| Available Building Fund | \$79,470.47 |
| Outstanding Pledges | \$7,985.00 |
| Last Week's Collection | \$250.00 |
| Total | \$87,705.47 |
| <i>Outstanding Loan</i> | - \$430,000.00 |
| <i>Amount Still Needed</i> | \$342,294.53 |
| Building Fund Account: | |
| Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross) | |
| 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.

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:24-35

1. The Folly of Not Counting the Cost
 - a. The Folly of Herod
 - b. The Folly of Pilate
 - c. The Folly of Others
2. The Costliness of True Discipleship
 - a. Christ Is Paramount
 - b. Love and Hate
 - c. Forsake
3. How to Count the Cost
 - a. What We Love More than Christ
 - b. Radical Amputation
 - c. Compare Gains and Losses

Questions for Reflection:

1. Many of us become disappointed as Christians because we haven't counted the cost when we became Christians. Our disappointment may be with other people or with God himself when we don't receive the blessings promised. What are some things that Christians fail to count the cost of when they began with Christ?
2. Do you think the modern evangelical church makes it a bit too easy for people to become Christians today? How so?
3. What do you think of this statement – "Christians who live life failing to count the cost rob themselves of experiencing abundant life and true joy."?