



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 10 July 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	485 - <i>Revive Us Again</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 51
Hymn	TP 32:1-7
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Nehemiah 1:4-11
Hymn	329 - <i>Sitting at the Feet of Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Conditions for Kingdom Growth"
*Closing Hymn	TP 80:1-19
*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

A Vibrant Church

The word vibrant means “pulsating with life, vigor, or activity.”

For a church to be vibrant, it needs to exhibit spiritual life, spiritual strength, and be teeming with spiritual activities. Now, most Christians want their churches to be vibrant.

There is a desire for soul-stirring messages, warmth and friendliness, opportunities to serve, brotherhood and accountability, and church growth – not just numerically but spiritually.

There is a desire that their church might be spiritually alive, spiritually strong, and bearing fruit by its spiritual activities.

How can a church be vibrant then? There are many components. But here are 3 things to consider:

1. Its members must be born again,
2. Its members must persevere in their faith, and
3. Its member must be loving and serving.

Genuine Conversions

In order for a church to be vibrant, it must be filled with believers.

John 5:24 says, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

If a church is filled with unbelievers, it will never be vibrant because it is filled with dead people.

But not only that, the unbelieving church member is destructive to the church.

Mary Winslow said, *“And as it respects mere professing Christians,*

we had better keep away from them, for they are as poisonous weeds in the Church, infecting, in some way or other, all around them, and must, and will be, rooted out in due time. These are the very bane of the Church! May God, in mercy, lessen the number daily!”

We must never assume that all who are baptized and admitted into church membership; and those who are brought up in church are believers.

The Bible tells us to make sure of our own salvation.

In order for a church to be vibrant, nominal or mere professing Christians must be brought to salvation.

Pursuing Holiness and Faithfulness

In order for a church to be vibrant, its members must persevere in the faith.

1 Corinthians 16:13 says, *“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”*

Here, we are told that Christians ought to be watchful (lest they become worldly or fall into temptation), to stand firmly (as Daniel did when he refused to defile himself), and to be manly (as Joseph, who sought to maintain his integrity).

James Alexander said, *“The ancients made fortitude one of the four cardinal virtues; meaning by this term, not merely the power of enduring pain—but everything that we now call courage; and they used to say, with truth, that where there was no fortitude, the other virtues were left defenseless.”*

Should we not be courageous in our faith, the church will be filled with chicken-hearted Christians.

Growing in holiness requires courage - it requires us to develop godly convictions and to stick to them. It also requires us to be tough on ourselves - to persevere in and pursue Christian virtues and character.

One of the hardest things to grow in, and requires much manliness, is the virtue of love. To be holy is to be loving.

Where would the vigor be if we weren't growing in faithfulness and holiness?

Serving One Another in Love

Lastly, in order for a church to be vibrant, its members must serve not only God, but one another in love.

Galatians 5:13 says, "*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*"

We have been made free from sin and selfishness by Christ who did the

most selfless thing - to serve us by sacrificing himself.

The church is called to follow this example. Without loving service to one another, a church will never be vibrant.

Charles Spurgeon said, "*Christ is love. Oh, you Christians, you should be loving also. Let your love and your beneficence beam out on all men! Each in your proper sphere - speak kind words, do kind actions. Live out Christ again in the "kindness of your life." Imitate Christ in your loving spirits; speak kindly, act kindly, and do kindly, that men may say of you, "He has been with Jesus."*"

Unless a church has members who are alive, members who are strong against sin, and members who love one another, it cannot be vibrant.

May the Lord help us to see this need in Covenant Church.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 80. Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?

A. Such as truly believe in Christ, and endeavor to walk in all good conscience before him, may, without extraordinary revelation, by faith grounded upon the truth of God's promises, and by the Spirit enabling them to discern in themselves those graces to which the promises of life are made, and bearing witness with their spirits that they are the children of God, be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and shall persevere therein unto salvation.

Q. 81. Are all true believers at all times assured of their present being in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved?

A. Assurance of grace and salvation not being of the essence of faith, true believers may wait long before they obtain it; and, after the enjoyment thereof, may have it weakened and intermitted, through manifold distempers, sins, temptations, and desertions; yet are they never left without such a presence and support of the Spirit of God as keeps them from sinking into utter despair.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (10.7.16)	Next Week (17.7.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Ken Chong
Pianist	Ian Tay	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Kim Leow*, Jacob Woo* Steven Lim, Vincent Chiu	Micah Chiang*, Jansen Ng* Paul Butler, David Lim
Usher	Meryllyn Woo, Jemima Ng	Josephine Austin, August Ng
Kitchen Duties	Adeline Ng*, Cheryl Nannup Vincent Chiu	Florence Orchard*, Eileen Tay Julian Poon
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>15 July 2016</i>	<i>22 July 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Ian Tay

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "God Brings About His Kingdom" (Nehemiah 2:1-9).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "When One Is Controlled by Wrath" (Esther 3:5-15). Speaker - Ken Hong.
4. Young People's Group. 4:30 pm, Saturday 16 July 2016 at the residence of Mark Chen. Topic: "Prayer and Praying for Unbelievers." For more information, please contact Jansen at 0411 394 815.
5. Ministry reports for AGM 2016 are to be completed and submitted to the clerk of session by 31 July 2016. Nominations for office bearers are also to be submitted by then.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF 4:30 pm YPG SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	<i>General Fund</i> - \$3,357.90 (#583 - \$400.00, #584 - \$50.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$680.00 (#585 - \$300.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$105.00 (#381 - \$100.00, #382 - \$5.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,142.90. Attendance - 162.

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$67,915.47
Outstanding Pledges	\$5,685.00
Last Week's Collection	\$105.00
Total	\$73,705.47
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$416,000.00
<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.

Conditions for Kingdom Growth

Nehemiah 1:4-11

What are your desires and burdens for your church? What are your concerns for her people? Do you have a godly ambition for her?

1. Prayer Moves People Through God
 - a. People had to be moved
 - b. Nothing else matters without prayer
2. Prayer Must Be Affected by the Character of God
 - a. God of Heaven
 - b. Great and terrible God
 - c. Covenant keeping God of mercy
3. Prayer Must Be from a Humble Heart
 - a. Acknowledge own sins
 - b. Acknowledge extent of sins
 - c. Acknowledge God alone is offended
4. Prayer Must Be Informed by the Promises of God
 - a. Reminded God of his covenant
 - b. Word of God and prayer always go together
5. Prayer Must Be God Dependent and God Exalting
 - a. Motivation for kingdom growth is God's glory
 - b. He asked God to change the heart of the king

The poorest attended meetings of any church are the prayer meetings. There's less desire for kingdom growth. We can't change a person's heart. Only God can.

Questions:

1. Why do you think that the poorest attended meeting of the church is the prayer meeting?
2. Why is changing the heart of man so important for kingdom growth? Why is it so difficult? Can this be done quickly or does it take time?



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Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Message Forecast for July - September 2016*

"What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

Lord's Day Worship Service:

JUL	Title and Text	Speaker
3**	Why Nehemiah? (Neh 1:1-3)	MC
10	Conditions for Kingdom Growth (Neh 1:4-11)	MC
17	God Brings About His Kingdom (Neh 2:1-9)	MC
24	The Heartaches of Leadership (Neh 2:10-20)	MC
31	Internal Issues in Kingdom Building (Neh 5:1-19)	MC
AUG		
7**	The People of Kingdom Building (Neh 3:1-32)	MC
14	Kingdom Revival I (Neh 8:1-18)	MC
21	Kingdom Revival II (Neh 9:1-38)	MC
28	TBA	TBA
SEP		
4**	Kingdom Revival III (Neh 10:1-39)	MC
11	Everyone in Ministry (Neh 11:1-12:26)	MC
18	Rejoicing for the Kingdom (Neh 12:27-47)	MC
25	Continual Problems in Kingdom Building (Neh 13:1-31)	MC

* Subject to change

** Lord's Supper

Adult Bible Class:

"Westminster Confession of Faith" (cont.)