



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 24 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	40 - <i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	John 11:47-12:19
Hymn	TP 2
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Nehemiah 2:10-20
Hymn	392 - <i>Oh Jesus I Have Promised</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"The Heartaches of Leadership"
*Closing Hymn	414 - <i>Am I a Soldier of the Cross?</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

An Example that Ministers to Others (Part II)

The Little Pharisee in Us

Yes, there is a little Pharisee in each of us. Christ told his disciples to follow the Pharisees' teachings (where biblical), but not to live like them.

The Pharisees frequently found fault with others for not keeping their convictions. In fact, they burdened others with these convictions, but didn't help them to understand them.

What was ironic was the Pharisees, in keeping these standards, forgot the more important heart standards of God - mercy, faith, and justice.

As such, they prevented people from seeing Christ and his perfect liberty. We can be very much like this.

The Little Christ in Us

However, the Christian is to manifest Christ. The label "Christian" means "little Christ." We are to be little Christs.

While we are not to follow the Pharisees' example, we are to follow the example of Christ and other Christians.

Whose and What Example?

Paul told the Corinthian church to be followers of him and Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1 says, "*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*" The word "follower" means to ape - to imitate.

Therefore, whatever character and action Christ exemplified, whatever the Apostle exemplified, we are to mimic.

But Christians aren't only to follow the example of Christ and his apostles, but we are to imitate any godly Christian.

Philippians 3:17 says, "*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*"

Not only do we imitate, but we must exemplify. This is an obligation. We are to be good examples to others.

Paul told Timothy to be an example to the believers. 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "*but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*"

The Works of Christ Proved His Words

Christ preached. But it was more than his preaching that proved him. His works proved his words. He told Philip to believe his works.

John 14:10,11 say, "*Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*"

Unlike the Pharisees, Christ could point to his works, and not just his words. What are the works of Christ we as Christians should imitate?

A Compassionate Spirit

The Pharisees had a fault-finding spirit. Christ had a compassionate spirit. He was compassionate to unbelievers.

Toward the rich young ruler who came proclaiming with certainty and self-assurance that he had kept all the law to be saved, Jesus didn't castigate him.

But we are told in Mark 10:21 that Jesus looked at him and loved him; and spoke words aimed at convicting him of his sins.

Toward the woman who was taken in adultery, Jesus would not stone her because she was framed. Instead, by his writing on the ground, he shamed away her accusers. Thereafter, he simply told her to go and sin no more.

Jesus was also compassionate to weak believers.

After Peter denied him 3 times, Jesus restored him. The restoration was embarrassing for Peter, but at least it was restorative. Jesus didn't condemn Peter.

When his disciples had a hissy fit over who would be greatest in the kingdom, Jesus wrapped a loin cloth around his waist and washed his disciples' feet.

Jesus was masterful in his ministry to people. He helped them.

An Assertive Spirit

Despite his compassion towards unbelievers and the weak, Jesus was fierce to those resolutely impenitent. Jesus knew the sheep from the goats.

He wasn't most kind to the Pharisees. He called them hypocrites, white-washed tombs, and a brood of vipers. These are not kind words.

When he entered the temple and found it a marketplace, he made a whip out of cords and chased out the people and overturned the tables. Zeal for God's house consumed him.

There are times when we should imitate Christ in his indignation for his kingdom.

We must rebuke and admonish. But let us remember that while Christ was sinless in his anger - we are not always.

And we must remember the meekness of Christ. Even Christ, who was assertive, laid down his life for his enemies. Yes, we must imitate Christ by feeling indignation against sin, but we should imitate his meekness.

Your Example

The Pharisees shut the kingdom of heaven from the people by their example. Christ's example led people to the kingdom.

He was compassionate, fiercely reactive toward sin, but meekly laying down his life for his detractors.

What an impossible combination. Yet, we are told to be followers - imitators - of Christ.

Robert Murray M'cheyne said, "*I feel there are two things it is impossible to desire with sufficient ardor - personal holiness, and the honor of Christ in the salvation of souls.*"

What is your example? The world is longing to see a Christ revealing life.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 84. Shall all men die?

A. Death being threatened as the wages of sin, it is appointed unto all men once to die; for that all have sinned. However, believers in Christ who are alive on the earth at his return will not die, but will be caught up to meet him in the air.

Q. 85. Death, being the wages of sin, why are not the righteous delivered from death, seeing all their sins are forgiven in Christ?

A. The righteous shall be delivered from death itself at the return of Christ, and even in death are delivered from the sting and curse of it; so that, although they die, yet it is out of God's love, to free them perfectly from sin and misery, and to make them capable of further communion with Christ in glory, which they then enter upon.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (24.7.16)	Next Week (31.7.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Terence Lee	Ken Chong
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Josephine Austin & Cheryl Nannup
Offering Stewards	David Pang*, Yen Fye Yap* LH Chua, Chris Budiman	Ken Hong*, Ian Read* John E Tan, Rex Sriharan
Usher	Jesslyn Leow, Jerome Ng	Joyce Ng, Eva Chiu
Kitchen Duties	Mary-Anne Chan*, Aliza Chiu Val Withnell	Carmel Sriharan*, Lisa Lim Sarah Siew
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>29 July 2016</i>	<i>5 August 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
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: "Internal Issues in Kingdom Building" (Neh 5:1-19).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "How to Make an Effective Appeal" (Esther 4.15-5.8; 7.1-6). Speaker - LH Chua.
4. Retirees' Bible Study. 10 am, Tuesday 26 July 2016. Topic: "Spiritual Warfare." For more information, please contact Kim Leow at 0405 407 838.
5. JF and TF are in recess this Saturday.
6. Mukti Missions needs \$1,500 to buy a cow as they work toward being self-sufficient. Those wishing to give toward this may designate their offering.
7. Volunteers needed to collect bread on Saturday afternoons. Contact Ken Chong.
8. 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.
9. Creation Ministries International. 7:30 pm, Friday, 29 July 2016.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>TUE 10:00 am RBS</p> <p>WED 10:00 am Craft Group</p> <p>FRI 7:30 pm Creation Ministries Int'l</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p><i>General Fund - \$3,295.50. Missions Fund - \$1,310.00 (#587 - \$40.00, #588 - \$500.00, #589 - \$400.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,606.50. Attendance - 153.</i></p>

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$67,285.39	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$4,375.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$0.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Total	\$71,660.39	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$416,000.00</i>	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$344,339.61</i>	SWIFT: WPCA02S

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 Heartaches of Leadership
Nehemiah 2:10-20

God answered Nehemiah's prayer to return to Jerusalem. But it was not smooth sailing. He experienced a lot of opposition. Opposition comes not only from unbelievers but also from believers. Satan is active in the church. Opposition does not mean God is not building his kingdom.

1. Opposition Comes Quickly
 - a. Animosity
 - b. Harassment
 - c. Rebuke
2. Opposition and Discouragement Intensifies When the Work Expands
 - a. Conspiracy
 - b. Whining
 - c. Mobilized the people
3. The Methods of the Opposition Can Be Deadly
 - a. Isolate him
 - b. Discredit him
 - c. Betray him
 - d. Commit opposition to God

Jesus faced much heartache. Kingdom building is tough business. There will be plenty of discouragement. But we can stay the course because Christ will strengthen us and God is building his kingdom.

Questions:

1. Why are discouragement and interpersonal division such powerful and effective tools in Satan's arsenal? Do you agree that they are deadlier than moral scandal or doctrinal division? If so, why?
2. Have you ever found yourself discouraged in ministry? Does it involve disappointment with others? How did you deal with it? Was your solution something Nehemiah would have chosen?
3. Were you ever guilty of being a whiner or gossip in God's work? Must you support every endeavor of the church? How can you be discerning without being divisive? Must unity always be preserved?