



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 14 August 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	34 - <i>Immortal, Invisible</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 119:57-72
Hymn	TP 126
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Nehemiah 8:1-18
Hymn	485 - <i>Revive Us Again</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Kingdom Revival I"
*Closing Hymn	170 - <i>O Breath of Life</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

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An Example that Ministers to Others (Part V)

Fame and Shame

The Bible gives us the examples of not only famous men but the examples of lesser known men. There are names that only appear once in the Bible - and that is their claim to fame or shame.

And that's the wonder of the Bible - it tells us the bad and sinful points of a person, along side with his good points.

Paul was not only a persecutor, but after Christ, he was the Apostle of Grace. Peter was not only a denier, but after Christ, he was a promoter of Christ. John was not only a hothead, but after Christ, he was the Apostle of Love.

But sometimes the Bible only points out the bad points of a person or only his good points.

John wrote of 3 men in his last epistle (3 John) - Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius. They are only mentioned briefly in the Bible, but they are, nevertheless, examples for us.

Gaius - He Walked in Truth

Gaius was very much loved by John (v 1). In fact, John called Gaius "beloved" 4 times in his epistle (vv 1,2,5,11).

John was the Apostle of Love. He immediately felt an affinity with this lovely man whose life manifested the truth so obviously that the brethren testified of it.

Verse 3 says, *"For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."*

This means that Gaius was regularly ordering his behavior according to the Gospel truth he had received.

He was obedient. And this filled John's heart with joy. What did Gaius do? How did he walk in the truth?

He faithfully showed love to the brethren in the church and to Christians from everywhere (v 5,6). He didn't turn them away, but he received them. Gaius was a welcoming man.

And the reason why he did this was for Christ's sake (v 7), to extend Christ's kingdom (v 8).

John MacDuff, a Congregational minister in 19th century England said, *"Every believer may exercise a powerful and persuasive influence, by a daily, consistent Christian walk; by showing to all around him, brotherly kindness and love; and by manifesting in every word and action, meekness, patience, and humility."*

Diotrephes - He Was Mean and Unruly

While Gaius welcomed people, Diotrephes didn't. In fact, he loved to have the preeminence - he loved to be first. This was the initial attitude of the disciples as was this the desire of Mrs Zebedee for her sons.

Verse 9 says of him, *"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not."*

What did he do? He didn't receive John. In other words, he rejected the authority of the Apostle of Love.

Not only that, he spoke out against John. He made up empty and malicious charges against them.

Verse 10 - *"...I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."*

But he was not content with his malice and accusations. He was also guilty of

manipulating others to do evil. He made sure that others would also not receive John. And if they would, he would cast them out of the church.

He was a wicked man. He desired preeminence, refused to submit himself to spiritual leadership, spoke evil of others, and manipulated the people.

In verse 11, John told his readers - *"Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."*

In other words, Diotrephes, in all of his words and actions, showed himself to be evil - someone who really didn't know God.

Demetrius - An Example to Follow

If Diotrephes was one not to follow, whom should we follow? Whom should we mimic? Demetrius.

Verse 12 says, *"Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true."*

Demetrius had a 3 fold witness. Firstly, he had a good report of all men. This means that his own family and community gave a good report.

Secondly, he had a good report of the truth itself. In other words, the Lord Jesus Christ - who is the Truth - manifested himself through Demetrius. By his life, he showed himself a Christian.

Thirdly, he has a good report of the Apostle John and his fellow missionaries - *"we also bear record."*

There's only one line written about Demetrius. But he had a 3 fold witness of his goodness. This was a solid testimony.

Conclusion

Why does the Bible keep telling us to follow and mimic Christ and godly Christians? It is because we, as creatures, will imitate something.

Why does the Bible keep telling us to be godly examples to others? Because they will imitate us.

We are all by nature like Diotrephes. Even Gaius and Demetrius were once like him. But Christ changed them and the apostles; and he can change us. This is the promise given to us when we follow Christ.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 88. What shall immediately follow after the resurrection?

A. Immediately after the second resurrection shall follow the final judgment of men and angels, the destruction of the earth by fire, and the ushering in of the new heaven and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Q. 89. What shall be done to the wicked after their resurrection?

A. After their resurrection, the wicked shall be judged, and, upon clear evidence and full conviction of their own consciences, shall have the fearful but just sentence of condemnation pronounced against them; and thereupon shall be cast out from the favorable presence of God, and the glorious fellowship with Christ, his saints, and all his holy angels, into hell, to be punished with unspeakable torments both of body and soul, with the devil and his angels for ever.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (14.8.16)	Next Week (21.8.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Valerie Ong	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Jansen Ng & Eva Chiu	Jacob & Merilyn Woo
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler*, David Lim* Ken Chong, Vincent Chiu	Jansen Ng*, Ken Hong* Ian Read, Yen Fye Yap
Usher	Josephine Austin, Jemima Ng	Joyce Ng, Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Peggy Woo*, Jemima Ng, Sally Tan	Sandy Chua*, Helen Wong, Chris Budiman
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>19 August 2016</i>	<i>26 August 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene Lim

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: "Kingdom Revival II" (Nehemiah 9:1-38).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "God's Providence in the Affairs of Men" (Esther 6.1-7.10). Speaker - Chris Budiman.
4. Attadale Friendship Group. 9:30 am, Thursday 18 August 2016. "Plants of the Bible" by the Rev Malcolm Stuart - Vice-president of the Trinitarian Bible Society, Bible teacher, and Botanist.
5. Young People's Group. 4:30 pm, Saturday 20 August 2016 at the residence of Micah and Hannah Chiang. Topic: "Backsliding." For more information, please contact Jansen at 0411 394 815.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group THU 9:30 am Attadale Friendship Group FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF, TF, & YPG SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	<i>General Fund - \$2,565.85 (#598 - \$100.00, #599 - 200.00). Missions Fund - \$400.00 (#600 - \$120.00). Building Fund - \$1,005.00 (#386 - \$1,005.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,970.85. Attendance - 151.</i>

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$68,090.39	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$2,565.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$1,005.00	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: 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.

Kingdom Revival I
Nehemiah 8:1-18

The wall has been built - though it was difficult, it was built despite great opposition. But God was not only rebuilding the walls, he was rebuilding his people. He was in the process of reviving his people. And revival requires the Word.

1. In Revival God Gives His People a Love for the Word
 - a. The people gathered themselves together
 - b. They wanted to know the Law
 - c. They were attentive to the reading of the Law
 - d. They were prepared to hear the Law
2. Before Revival There Is Considerable Laboring in the Word
 - a. Ezra spent 14 years instructing the people with no revival
 - b. Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, John Wesley
 - c. William Tennant and Jacob Frelinghuysen
3. In Revival the People Respond to the Word of God
 - a. Reverence
 - b. Heartfelt understanding
 - c. Obedience

There is no revival apart from the Word. And only the Word gives joy.

Questions for Reflection:

1. When God revives his church sovereignly, he will give his people a love for the Word and the people will respond in obedience. What consequences does this idea have on the other times when God does not send revival?
2. Should change come immediately upon the preached Word? Does change come immediately upon the preached Word? Why?
3. Should we pray for revival? Why or why not? If the church is already growing in the knowledge of the Word and in obedience thereunto, is revival needed?