



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 7 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	137 - <i>Christ the Lord Is Risen Today</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Peter 4:1-11
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	126 - <i>Rock of Ages</i>
Hymn	175 - <i>Standing on the Promises</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Nehemiah 3:1-32
Hymn	TP 147:1-4,12-15,19-20
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"The People of Kingdom Building"
*Closing Hymn	417 - <i>In Christ There Is No East or West</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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Contact: [pastor@covenantbpc.org.au](mailto:pastor@covenantbpc.org.au)

## **An Example that Ministers to Others (Part IV)**

### *Jesus Transformed His Disciples*

From someone who abandoned his Lord, Peter was changed to one who fed the sheep.

From someone who wanted to be greatest, James served the flock by being the first Apostle to be martyred.

From a young hothead - wanting to burn up the Samaritans - John became the Apostle of Love.

Jesus was a master teacher and exemplar. But no where is this seen clearer than in the life of the Apostle Paul.

He told the Corinthians in 1 Cor 11:1 - *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."* He followed Christ and was an example to others.

### *The Apostle of Grace*

If John was the Apostle of Love, Paul was the Apostle of Grace.

In Acts 20:24, he revealed that his ministry from Christ was *"to testify the gospel of the grace of God."*

While this was the ministry given to all the Apostles, Paul writes about it most. In his epistles, the word "grace" is mentioned 144 times - more often than all the rest of the Bible together and nearly twice as often as the whole OT and 4 Gospels put together.

This, however, was not how he began.

Paul's early life was marked by religious zeal, brutal violence, and the relentless persecution of the early church.

### *A Man of the Law*

In Philippians 3, Paul described what he was like before Christ. He was a true blue Jew - circumcised on the eighth day according to the Law; he was a Pharisee - a teacher of the Law; he was very precise in keeping the Law - he

was blameless; and he persecuted those who did not conform to the Law.

He was born in Tarsus (present day Turkey) to Benjamite parents who were Pharisees.

In his early teens, he sent to study under Rabbi Gamaliel - one of the chief rabbis. Paul was trained in the Law and became part of the ruling council of the Jews - the Sanhedrin. He was zealous in quashing Christians - those who would live by grace.

In Acts 5, when Peter preached to the Sanhedrin about Jesus, Paul was there. Had it not been for Gamaliel, who calmed the council, Paul may well have started stoning Peter.

He was there at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58). And he wreaked havoc upon the Christians - Acts 8:3 - *"As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."*

### *A Man Who Encountered Christ*

Paul's life completely changed when he encountered Christ. He was on his way to Damascus, where he intended to drag Christians back to Jerusalem to stand trial.

There on the road, a bright light shone on him, blinding him. Christ asked Paul - *"why persecutest thou me?"*

From this moment, Paul's life turned upside down. He immediately went into the synagogues to preach that Christ was the Son of God.

This boldness to identify with God's true people was proof that he had indeed been born again.

His ministry took him all around. Ironically, the Christians that were driven out of Jerusalem and Judea as a

result of Paul's former persecution, were the very Christians he ministered to and preached to after he was converted.

### *Paul as Example*

Paul was an example of a changed person. If Paul can be changed, anyone can be changed. He was a persecutor of Christians and then he became a Christian. His life was changed by God's saving grace through Jesus Christ.

He had done terrible things; and all these things he did under the impression he was doing it for God. But God saved him and showed him the truth.

Paul was an example of a humble servant. Moses was called the meekest man on earth. Despite the opposition he experienced on several occasions, it was the Lord who vindicated him.

Perhaps the equivalent of Moses in the New Testament was Paul. Acts 20:19 tells us that Paul served *"the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell [him] by the lying in wait of the Jews."*

He was a testimony of humble service despite the many oppositions he experienced.

But make no mistake, despite his meekness, Paul was also bold. He was an example of a bold witness.

It was said of him in Acts 28:31 that he was *"preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him."*

He was not afraid to tell others of what Christ had done in his life - changing him from what he was to the Apostle of Grace.

Paul was an example of complete surrender. When Paul wrote the book of Philippians, he was in prison. But he saw even this turn of events as something that God would use to further the kingdom (Phil 1:12).

Whether he lived or died, it didn't matter. *"For to me to live is Christ, to die is gain"* (Phil 1:21).

### *Our Example*

Paul told his readers to follow his example, even as he followed Christ's example.

Are we able to call upon others to follow after our example? Has there been change in our lives? Following Paul, is there change, humility, boldness in witnessing, and surrender?

May the Lord be pleased to work in us as we surrender to him.

*~ Pastor*



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 87. What are we to believe concerning the resurrection?

A. We are to believe that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust: when Jesus Christ returns the just that are then found alive shall in a moment be changed; and the self-same bodies of the dead in Christ which are laid in the grave, being then again united to their souls forever, shall be raised up by the power of Christ. The bodies of the just, by the Spirit of Christ, and by virtue of his resurrection as their head shall be raised in power, spiritual, and incorruptible, and made like to his glorious body in the first resurrection. The bodies of the wicked shall, after a thousand years, be raised up in dishonor by him as an offended judge in the second resurrection.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (7.8.16)	Next Week (14.8.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Valerie Ong
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Jansen Ng & Eva Chiu
Offering Stewards	Vincent Chiu*, Terence Lee* Micah Chiang, Jacob Woo	Paul Butler*, David Lim* Ken Chong, Vincent Chiu
Usher	Merylyn Woo, August Ng	Josephine Austin, Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Mary Loh*, Hui Min Chen, Nancy Lim, Jesslyn Leow	Peggy Woo*, Jemima Ng, Sally Tan
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>12 August 2016</i>	<i>19 August 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. 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: "Kingdom Revival I" (Nehemiah 8:1-18).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "God Rewards Us in His Time" (Esther 2.21-23, 6.1-4). Speaker - Merylyn Woo.
5. Men's Bible Study. 7:30 pm, Saturday 13 August 2016 at the residence of Rex Sriharan. For more information, please contact Vincent Chiu at 0417 929 149.
6. Covenant Bible Institute has started a 12 part video course this past Friday on the "Farewell Discourses of Jesus (John 13-17)" by Dr Sinclair Ferguson. Please register with Pastor to have access to the online lectures and notes.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	<i>General Fund</i> - \$3,151.50 (#593 - \$50.00, #594 - 420.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$830.00 (#595 - \$360.00, #596 - \$110.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$605.00 (#385 - \$605.00). <i>Total Tithes &amp; Offering</i> - \$4,586.50. Attendance - 161.
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
7:30 pm Men's Bible Study	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$67,485.39	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$3,570.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$605.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Total	\$71,660.39	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$416,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$344,339.61	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 People of Kingdom Building  
Nehemiah 3:1-32

Sin and disunity often disrupt kingdom building. But a lack of workers also affects kingdom building. Building God's kingdom, requires people. The work is not going to get done unless we do it. We need leaders like Nehemiah, but we also need workers.

1. God's Kingdom Is Built When God's People Work Communally
  - a. The people had a heart to build
  - b. Diversity of people involved
  - c. Nehemiah was building more than the wall
2. God's Kingdom Is Built When God's People Work in Humility
  - a. Some didn't work
  - b. Others worked twice as hard
  - c. Press on
- c. God's Kingdom Is Built When God's People Rely on God for Strength
  - a. They were strengthened by God
  - b. God rewarded them

God has a part for us to play. It may be in a role that is behind the scenes or a supporting role. When we play our part well, there will be a commendation from God.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What well-known building project is described in Genesis 11:1-9? Contrast the motives of its builders with those in Nehemiah 3. How many names and details about the builders of the tower of Babel are recorded? What lesson can we draw from this?
2. Nehemiah employs workers from all walks of life – those who would have been suited for heavy labor and those who would have not. Have you ever been tempted to avoid a necessary but unpleasant ministry task with the excuse, "That's not really my area of gifting."? Is such an excuse valid?
3. What kind of a builder are you? Do you build your life to make a name for yourself or to make much of the name of God? How should the way believers handle money, relationships and time reflect their desire to build God's kingdom rather than their own?