



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 25 September 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	1 - <i>O Worship the King</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Revelation 2:1-7,18-29
Hymn	TP 106:6-16
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Nehemiah 13:1-31
Hymn	242 - <i>Jesus I Come</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Continual Problems in Kingdom Building"
*Closing Hymn	188 - <i>I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!</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)

## Serving the Lord with Joy

### *Introduction*

To serve the Lord is a marvelous privilege. And to serve the Lord in the church and to serve his people should be a great joy.

Psalms 100:2 says, "Serve the LORD with gladness." It is a command to serve God with joy. Also, joy makes service all the more worthwhile.

But how do we have joy in service? Joy comes when we have right thinking, right motives, and right heart for service.

Paul was especially joyful in his service - despite the issues that cropped up in his ministry, he was joyful.

He said in Philippians 4:4 - "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice!"

### *Joyful Service - Fruit of Knowing God's Providence*

Joy comes when we understand God's providence - no matter what the circumstances - God is working. When Paul wrote those words in Philippians 4:4, there were two issues which were going on.

Firstly, Paul was imprisoned because he preached the gospel. Yet he was able to rejoice because he knew that whatever circumstances he was in, it had worked out "unto the furtherance of the gospel" (Philippians 1:12).

Because of his imprisonment, his prison guards were saved.

Secondly, there were problems in the Philippian church between 2 co-workers - Euodias and Syntyche. They were at odds (Philippians 4:2). But he was able to rejoice because this was an opportunity for the other brethren in the church to help them towards reconciliation (Philippians 4:3).

Joy in service comes not in the absence of problems; but it comes when we see God working through the problems. They become opportunities for us to live the gospel.

### *Joyful Service - Fruit of Serving Correctly*

Joy comes when we are serving with the right motives. Why did Paul serve? He served out of obedience to God. Romans 1:9 - "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit."

Paul did not serve because it was simply a good idea to serve; neither did he serve because others expected him to serve - rather, God was his motivation for service. He served with his spirit - all that was in him.

Do we serve people for people's sake alone? No. Do we serve the church for the church's sake alone? No. We serve because we are passionately serving God.

We know that Paul served God because of the fruits of his labor. In the book of Romans, he expressed his thanks to God for the Roman Christians.

Romans 1:8 - "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."

Paul had a thankful heart. And this was interesting because at the time of his writing, Paul was in Corinth where the Jews were plotting to kill him!

But he was thankful nevertheless! Unless we are thankful, we can easily dwell on the negative, and lose our joy in service.

### *Joyful Service - Supported by Prayer*

Romans 1:9 say, "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without

*ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers."*

Paul was consumed with praying for the saints. If he was serving God, and if it was God's work to advance the church, it is no surprise he resorted unceasingly to prayer!

This also shows that a God-derived burden is important. And this prayerful burden led to a result. It led to an eager spirit to serve God's people.

*Joyful Service - Proven by Love for People*

So how did Paul exhibit his joyful, thankful, prayerful service to God? He loved the saints!

Romans 1:11 - *"For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established."*

Paul wanted to see the people established. He wanted to see the people grow in grace and in the gospel (Romans 1:12).

*Joyful Service - Energized by the Gospel*

God is building his church. It will be wondrous one day. How God does that is by the gospel - that is the foundation on which Christ would build the church (Matthew 16:18).

Romans 1:15 says, *"So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."*



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 98. Wherein is the moral law summarily comprehended?

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments, which were delivered by the voice of God upon Mount Sinai, and written by him on two tables of stone, and are recorded in the twentieth chapter of Exodus: the first four commandments containing our duty to God, and the other six our duty to man.

The gospel is the power of God for the salvation - justification, sanctification, glorification - complete transformation of everyone that believes (Romans 1:16).

*Conclusion*

Why is there joy in service? Why is there hope in God for the church? Because the gospel transforms the church.

Despite Paul's imprisonment and the two quarreling women, there was an opportunity for the gospel. Joy.

We do not serve ourselves, our purposes, nor the purposes of others - we serve God with our spirit. Joy.

Because God is at work to redeem his people to himself and to transform the church, we pray and sue God for his favor. Joy.

Because we know that God is at work in people, we are eager to serve people, to see them established. Joy.

And because we know that God can change lives through the gospel, we labor even more that the gospel would be evident in us. Joy.

As we serve God, may we labor to find that joy. It can only come from informed, God-motivated, prayerful, loving, and gospel-oriented service.

~ Pastor

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (25.9.16)	Next Week (2.10.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Terence Lee	Mark Chen
Pianist	Edward Lim	Valerie Ong
Welcomers	Josephine Austin & Wendy Gong	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	Kim Leow*, David Pang* Vincent Chiu, Ken Hong	Rex Sriharan*, LH Chua* John E Tan, David Lim
Usher	Jesslyn Leow, Joyce Ng	Eva Chiu, Angela Yap
Kitchen Duties	Aliza Chiu*, Lydia Orchard, Julian Poon	Eileen Tay*, Chris Budiman, Val Withnell, Mary-Anne Chan
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>30 September 2016</i>	<i>7 October 2016</i>
Facilitator	No Prayer Meeting	Mark Chen
Pianist		Ian Tay

## Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. 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: "Empowered Witnesses for Christ" (Acts 1:1-11).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Teachers Who Help Me Change" (Colossians 1:24-29). Speaker - Jackie Hong.
5. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 27 September 2016, 10 am. Topic: "Once Saved, Always Saved." Please contact Yen Fye Yap at 0419 915 874.
6. CBI and Prayer Meeting in recess on Friday, 30 Sept 2016. You are encouraged to attend a Biblical Counseling talk "Shaped by Shame" 7:30-8:45 pm at Lifestream Christian Church, Como. For more information visit [www.bcaworkshop.org](http://www.bcaworkshop.org).
7. Combined Youth Camp. "Living as Christians in a Non-Christian World." 1-3 December at Serpentine Camping Centre. Speaker: Pastor Ron Nugent. Fee: \$55. For more information, see Eugene Lim or Jerome Ng.
8. **7th Annual General Meeting.** Today, immediately after the service. Please collect your AGM papers from Terence Lee or Ken Chong.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
TUE 10:00 am Retirees' Bible Study	<i>General Fund</i> - \$4,038.25 (#616 - \$40.00, #617 - \$200.00, #618 - \$210.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$550.00 (#619 - \$100.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$100.00 (#393 - \$100.00). <i>Total Tithes &amp; Offering</i> - \$4,688.25. Attendance - 161.
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting in Recess	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$70,615.39	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$950.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$100.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross) BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969 SWIFT: WPACAU2S
Total	\$71,660.39	
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$416,000.00	
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$344,339.61	

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.



# C O V E N A N T

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Message Forecast for October - December 2016\*

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

#### Lord's Day Worship Service:

OCT	Title and Text	Speaker
2**	Empowered Witnesses for Christ (Acts 1:1-11)	MC
9	Active Waiting for Christ's Promise (Acts 1:12-26)	MC
16	The Spirit Comes (Acts 2:1-13)	MC
23	The Spirit Preaches (Acts 2:14-36)	MC
30	The Spirit Convicts (Acts 2:37-41)	MC
NOV		
6**	A Spirit-Controlled Church Learns (Acts 2:42-47)	MC
13	A Spirit-Controlled Church Fellowships (Acts 2:42-47)	MC
20	A Spirit-Controlled Church Eats (Acts 2:42-47)	MC
27	A Spirit-Controlled Church Prays (Acts 2:42-47)	MC
DEC		
4**	From Lame to Upright (Acts 3:1-26)	MC
11	TBA	TBA
18	TBA	TBA
25	Christ Came to Save Sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)	MC

\* Subject to change

\*\* Lord's Supper

#### Adult Bible Class:

"Westminster Confession of Faith" (cont.)

Rejoicing for the Kingdom  
Nehemiah 12:27-47

After the people were revived, did they continue to remain faithful to God in all the vows that they made? No. Nehemiah was absent for many years and the people once again regressed into their old sins. When the cat's away, the mice will play. There will always be continual problems in kingdom building.

1. Our Broken Promises and Spiritual Deterioration
  - a. They broke their resolve to be separate
  - b. They broke their resolve to worship God
  - c. They broke their resolve to love Christ and His Day
  - d. They broke their resolve not to marry unbelievers
2. The Necessary Continual Correction
  - a. Reliance
  - b. Removal
  - c. Reproof
  - d. Regulation
  - e. Retribution

Why are there problems in church growth? It is because we do not listen to the Spirit. Christ may be in heaven, but his Spirit is still with his church. When we fail to heed the Spirit, there will be continual problems. But we must remember that Christ will always build his kingdom.

Questions for Reflection:

1. The Jews learn that their commitment to remain separate from pagans needs to extend beyond simply avoiding intermarriage. Have you ever repented of a sin only to find that the problem went deeper than you first thought? Why are we sometimes slow to understand the depth of our sin?
2. Nehemiah goes to dramatic lengths to restore order. What do you personally think of his actions? Are they eccentric? Extreme? Do you think he is justified in acting this way? Why or why not? If we were to see Nehemiah as a type of Christ, how would this help in your answer?
3. Why does Nehemiah keep asking God to "remember me?" How much should we fear that we may do or think sinfully in trying to do right? Why?