



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 1 October 2017

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	73 - <i>Holy Saviour, We Adore Thee</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 130:1-8
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	138 - <i>It is Finished</i>
Hymn	TP 107:1-9
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 14:27-15:12
Hymn	351 - <i>I Lay My Sins on Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Controversy and Gospel"
*Closing Hymn	392 - <i>The Solid Rock</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

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Growing in Godliness

The Retirees' Bible Study has been studying a series entitled "Beginning and Finishing Well."

To finish well, one has to start well - to be saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

The thief on the cross started well when he trusted Christ - that's why Jesus said, *"Today, thou shalt be with me in paradise."*

However, had he lived, what would God's will have been for this saved man? Colossians 1:10 says *"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."*

He would have to grow in knowledge, godliness, and service. Last week, we saw the importance of growing in godliness.

The Obligation to Grow in Godliness

Every Christian is obligated to grow in godliness. Hebrews 5:12-14 says *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God."*

The Hebrew Christians had been Christians for such a long time, that they were obligated to teach others how to be godly. Unfortunately, they had backslidden to be like babies, who needed to be taught basic holiness.

They were once godlier, but were no longer. They had *"become such as have need of milk, and...unskilful in the word of righteousness"* (v 13).

So how does one grow in godliness? It is by exercising our moral muscle to make holy decisions. Only then will we grow in godliness.

Verse 14 - *"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*

Full grown Christians get to where they are because they have lived habitually holy lives. They have striven to be holy.

The longer we are as Christians, the godlier we should be. It's an obligation to grow in conformity to Christ.

We may grow in knowledge but if we are still argumentative, disagreeable, and always in conflict with people - we are not growing in godliness. If we serve but are always giving in to lust and temptation, we're not godly.

The Importance of the Thought Life

Being godly is not rocket science. There is no secret to becoming godly. The place to start is the mind.

To be godly, we must guard our thoughts and affections. Proverbs 4:23 says, *"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."*

The object we must keep is the heart. The word "keep" means to do the work of a watchman. It is to be done "with all diligence" - the way a guard watches a criminal.

But why are we to watch our hearts like that? Because it is the source of all life. And that's a scary thing!

The heart is the source of all evil. Matthew 15:19 says, *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."*

If we don't guard the heart, it leads us to murder, lie, and write stinking emails. And we need to guard our hearts because while we may think our motivations and judgments just, they may not actually be. Our hearts have the capacity to deceive us.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

Psychologist Dr Elinore Kinarthy says, *"The average person has more than two hundred negative thoughts a day, worries, jealousies, insecurities, cravings*

for forbidden things, etc. Depressed people have as many as six hundred."

If we don't guard our thoughts and affections, they can lead us to self-destruct or to commit vile sins against others.

The thought life is vital for godliness. We are what we think. Philippians 4:8 says, *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

If it is vital to think virtuous thoughts, how is it godly to be quick to think ill of others?

The Necessity of Putting Off and On

But godliness is practical. There will be proof of change. There will be a putting off of sin and putting on of obedience.

Ephesians 4:22,24 - *"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man...and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."*

And the proof of change is not simply that a person stops sinning, but that he starts being holy.

The proof that a liar has changed is that he starts telling the truth.

Verse 25 - *"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another."*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 171. How are they that receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to prepare themselves before they come unto it?

A. They that receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper are, before they come, to prepare themselves thereunto, by examining themselves of their being in Christ, of their sins and wants; of the truth and measure of their knowledge, faith, repentance; love to God and the brethren, charity to all men, forgiving those that have done them wrong; of their desires after Christ, and of their new obedience; and by renewing the exercise of these graces, by serious meditation, and fervent prayer.

A thief has changed not only when he stops stealing, but when he starts working and giving.

Verse 28 - *"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."*

An accuser has changed when he uses his tongue to encourage others.

Verse 29 - *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."*

Growing in godliness is very practical and an obligation. And the reason why we don't grow holy is because we choose not to. Meeting the Lord by the skin of our teeth is not God's will for us.

God Helps Us to Be Godly

But in being godly, we mustn't forget that God helps us to be godly. He doesn't leave us alone to fight our way.

The love of God is overflowing in our heart by the Spirit (Romans 5:5) - it thrills us to grow in godliness! God has given us a new heart that delights in his laws (Jeremiah 31:33-34). God will also transform us by renewing our minds to have the mind of Christ (Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:5). And he has given us all power to be godly (2 Peter 1:3-4).

We are not only saved by grace, but made godly by grace.

~ Pastor

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (1.10.17)	Next Week (8.10.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Valerie Ong
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Jansen & Eva Ng
Offering Stewards	Lye Heng Chua*, Johnny Orchard* David Lim, David Pang	Yen Fye Yap*, Rex Sriharan* Steven Lim, Chris Budiman
Ushers	Eva Ng, Jerome Ng	Josephine Austin, Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Helen Wong*, Grace Wang Jenni Budiman, Lisa Lim	Sandy Chua*, Carmel Sriharan Vincent Chiu
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ian Tay
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>6 October 2017</i>	<i>13 October 2017</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene Lim

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 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: "Solving Controversy" (Acts 15:13-21).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Jesus Is a Better Go-Between" (Hebrews 8:1-13). Speaker: John Tan.
5. **Notice of the 8th Annual General Meeting.** Date: Sunday, 8 October 2017. Time: 11:30 am sharp. Venue: 47 Davis Road, Attadale, WA 6156. Please collect your AGM papers from Jacob Woo.
6. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (October-December) are available in the foyer.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
MON 9:00 am VBS	General Fund - \$3,724.55 (*DD - \$1,300.00). Missions Fund - \$395.40 (#748 - \$100.00, #749 - \$165.40). Building Fund - \$400.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #562 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,519.95. Attendance - 132. *DD: direct deposit
TUE 9:00 am VBS	
WED 9:00 am VBS	
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:00 pm YPG	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$82,701.82
Last Week's Collection	\$400.00
Total	\$83,101.82
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$390,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$306,898.18</i>
General Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942
Missions Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950
Building Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316969

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. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682.
Jacob Woo 0421 212 206.

Controversy and Gospel

Acts 14:27-15:12

Controversy is one of the most grievous experiences in a church's and Christian's life. Some Christians love controversy, others hate it, but few will resolve conflicts biblically. But dealing with controversy is important because it affects the well-being of the church. A church can't move on unless people are willing to put themselves on the line for the gospel.

1. A Growing Controversy in the Church
 - a. There was no positive response
 - b. There was false teaching
 - c. There was controversy
2. A Rightful Escalation to a Higher Church Court
 - a. Sending the commission
 - b. Different reception to the same message
3. A Mature Deliberation by Many Counselors and Councilors
 - a. Discussion and deliberation
 - b. The doctrinal turning point
 - c. The evidential turning point

Controversy surrounding the gospel isn't merely addressed in the church courts, but it should be addressed in our hearts. There is always a pull towards legalism, a fear that our works can't win God's favor, and a desire for an assurance based on performance - herein the heart must a war be waged for the gospel of grace.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How do you react to disagreements and controversy? Is it with a fleshly heart of contention and avoidance or a loving heart of patience and resolve? What challenges are faced by a person addressing controversy biblically?
2. What Biblical recourse does this church have in addressing controversy that is unresolved by the elders?