



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 15 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	70 - <i>O for a Heart to Praise My God</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Hymn	TP 106:36-40, 47-48
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 15:22-35
Hymn	312 - <i>Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Disseminating the Resolution"
*Closing Hymn	177 - <i>Before the Throne of God Above</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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Life Sprints By And It Is Depressing Without God

To many young people, they think they have a whole life ahead of them. They have plans and aspirations. And their parents have aspirations for them too.

But life is unpredictable. It will never be smooth sailing. Life is actually burdensome.

We hear from the words of Job - a man sobered by circumstances in life to think realistically about life. It is burdensome, and short with bad seasons. Job was not being pessimistic - only realistic.

There Is an Appointed Time

Job 7:1a - *"Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth?"*

There is a set time we will live and die. As Christians, we are not fatalists. We believe that God blesses us with life that we may live it to the fullest for his glory. But the time that we live is appointed. None of us can live a second more or less than what's appointed.

It Is One Unending Cycle of Hard Work

While there are joyful and sad times, life is characterized by unending labor.

Job 7:1b - *"are not his days also like the days of an hireling?"* Children go to school - do homework, take exams, and do projects. Why? So that they can go to university. There, they do homework, take exams, and have projects. Why? So they can get a good job - where they work, are evaluated, and have projects. Why? So they can have an income to raise a family - so they can make their children go to school, do homework, take exams, and do projects.

And the work is hard. It's like a servant wanting rest from the sun and a worker who can't stop because if he stops, he won't get paid (v 2).

When will enough be enough? When will we be satisfied with our career progression, salary, position, and legacy?

There Will Be Bad Seasons in Life

Verse 3 says, *"So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me."*

Life will have its fair share of trouble. There will be seasons of vanity or meaninglessness. And these will be wearisome. They don't seem to end.

It's like a bad night where you lie down and wish for sleep so the morning will come quickly, but you can't sleep - you toss around. 5 minutes seems like an eternity (v 4). Tough times in life seem to linger on and on.

Life Passes By Quickly

Despite life having an appointed end, despite it being characterized by unending labor, difficulties, and bad seasons; life will pass us by quickly.

Job 7:6a - *"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle..."*

A weaver - a clothes spinner - works hard - and the shuttle goes back and forth with great speed. Once the cloth is spun, the weaver stops.

Our life has a time limit, just like the cloth has a predetermined size. The shuttle stops when the cloth is finished. Our life stops when our time is up.

For some, they don't make it to their teen years. For others, they make it to 70 or 80 - and their years, as the Bible tells us, are labor and sorrow.

Even despite the slow and difficult times - the elderly look back and exclaim how quickly life went by.

Old age comes quickly. Even death comes quickly and it's not pretty. Job 7:5 - *"My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome."*

Those who age gracefully and well, will still meet death. That's the fact of life.

Job is not being negative. He's being realistic. And his most realistic word is seen in Job 7:6 - *"My days are swifter*

than a weaver's shuttle and are spent without hope."

We get a job, have family, have our ups and downs in life. Then what? We still go to the grave. If this is only what life is about, then there is no hope.

But Job Hoped in God

Job was realistic about life. But he had hope and comfort in God. And the source of his comfort was in God's Word. Job 6:10 ESV - *"This would be my comfort; I would even exult in pain unsparring, for I have not denied the words of the Holy One."*

What would get him through his suffering? It was the fact that he believed God and God's promises.

Life can be tremendously sweet, even though there's suffering. Life can be abundantly full even though it may be short. Life can be filled with hope because the end of our life, is not the end of life.

God has promised joy even in the midst of suffering. So whatever he has appointed in life, the Christian can face it with joy. Romans 5:3-5 - *"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."*

God has promised abundant life in Christ. So even though life may be short, painful, long, or simple - it is abundant. John 10:10 - *"I am come that*

they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

And while death ends it in this life time, the end of our life is not the end of life. John 11:26 - *"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."*

Young But Wise

There were those in church history that lived for God despite having a short life. And there was evidence in their words that they suffered in life.

Yet their lives were abundantly lived with meaning, because they were lived for God. Here are 2 examples of men who died at 29 years old.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne was a Free Church of Scotland pastor. He was frequently sick but had a singular vision - to live and die for God. And it brought him joy.

On his 23rd birthday he said, *"I have lived 23 years. How few sufferings I have had in the past year, except in my own body. Give me strength for a suffering and dying hour!"*

David Brainerd was a missionary. He lived in constant danger. But he never shied from it. On his 23rd birthday he longed *"to be wholly God's, to be always devoted to his service."* At 24, he said, *"...I hardly longed to live for God and to be devoted to Him; I want to wear out my life in his service and glory..."*

Life is fast, hard, and work is unending. But there is rest, joy, fulness, and eternal life in Christ. And a life that is lived for him will always be full of meaning. For whom and what are our young people living? ~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 173. May any who profess the faith, and desire to come to the Lord's Supper, be kept from it?

A. Such as are found to be ignorant or scandalous, notwithstanding their profession of the faith, and desire to come to the Lord's Supper, may and ought to be kept from that Sacrament, by the power which Christ hath left in his Church, until they receive instruction, and manifest their reformation.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (15.10.17)</i>	<i>Next Week (22.10.17)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Chris Budiman
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Vincent Chiu*, Ian Read* John Tan, Micah Chiang	David Pang*, Jansen Ng* Ken Hong, Kim Leow
Ushers	August Ng, Putri Harapan	Jesslyn Leow, Rebecca Lee
Kitchen Duties	Nancy Lim*, Mary-Anne Chan Eva Ng	Florence Orchard*, Jemima Ng Val Withnell
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Joel Chua
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>20 October 2017</i>	<i>27 October 2017</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy 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: "Confirming and Establishing" (Acts 15:36-16:5).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Why Jesus Had to Come to Die" (Hebrews 9:15-28). Speaker: Vincent Chiu.
4. Presentation by Creation Ministries International this Friday, 20 October 2017, at 7.30pm. Rod Walsh will speak on "Noah's Ark - Deluge of Evidence".
5. We thank God for the election of Vincent Chiu to be deacon last Lord's Day. We thank Ken Chong and Lye Heng Chua for their service to God in the diaconate.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$4,994.20
FRI 7:30 pm CMI Presentation	(*DD - \$1,200.00, #752 - \$200.00).
SAT 4:00 pm YPG	Missions Fund - \$210.00.
4:30 pm JF & TF	Building Fund - \$300.00 (*DD- \$300.00).
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,504.20.
10:00 am Worship Service	Attendance - 137.
	<i>*DD: direct deposit</i>

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund	\$83,701.82
Last Week's Collection	\$300.00
Total	\$84,001.82
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$390,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$305,998.18</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: **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.

Disseminating the Resolution
Acts 15:22-35

One of the greatest scares is misinformation. It leads us to doubt what we believe to be true. It's like the food industry and saturated fat. Once it was considered ok, then it was considered bad. Misinformation leads to distress, but right information leads to peace. Similarly in the church false teaching brings distress but right teaching brings peace. And the Jerusalem presbytery set the misinformation right.

1. An Authoritative Resolution for the Whole Church
 - a. It was a resolution from the elders
 - b. It was a resolution by the Holy Spirit
 - c. It was done with the church in mind
2. It Was for the Comfort of the Church
 - a. Trusted men with letters were sent
 - b. To comfort saints confused by misled men
3. The Authoritative Resolution
 - a. No burden
 - b. Burden
 - c. Comfort

We all have an idol factory and a little Pharisee in us. And we often place burdens on ourselves and others. Jesus died to make us righteous. Nothing can add to that or take away from that. When we doubt or fail or lack in holiness, we must tell ourselves that Jesus will strengthen us, he had made us holy, and he loves us.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What are the wrong things you have believed over the years that have taken away from the exclusivity of Christ? Has there been any thing that added to your assurance apart from Christ that you are saved? Do you crave the assurance that what you do helps you in your salvation or sanctification?
2. What burdens have you placed on other people?
3. How has love for Christ motivated you to live for him and how has the gospel relieved and fanned your hearts in times of sin and coldness?