



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 3 December 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	TP 47:1-9
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	138 - <i>It Is Finished</i>
Hymn	439 - <i>Now I Belong to Jesus</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 17:22-34
Hymn	TP 2:1-12
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Too Smart for Our Own Good"
*Closing Hymn	347 - <i>Not What These Hands Have Done</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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Dying Well and Dying Gainfully

This past Tuesday, we finished our 5 part series on "Finishing Well" at the Retirees' Bible Study with the concluding message on "Dying Well."

It was especially timely as one in our midst will soon be meeting the Lord.

It is the blessed duty of every believer to be ready to die. Like the Apostle Paul, we should be able to say, 2 Timothy 4:6-7 - *"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

And we cannot finish well unless we have begun well - to believe in Jesus and to repent of our sins.

And if our salvation is not a death-bed experience, we are obligated to grow in knowledge, godliness, and service.

But what if we have no grown in knowledge, godliness, and service? Will we die well or die poorly?

Every Christian Will Die Well

The thief on the cross had no time to grow in knowledge, godliness, or service. Did he die well?

The answer is "yes." Jesus told him in Luke 23 that he would be with Jesus in paradise.

And in paradise, those who have overcome, shall eat of the tree of life (Revelation 2:7).

Every Christian will die well because our salvation is not dependent on ourselves, but upon Christ. We believe, we have everlasting life. We are not condemned (John 3:16,18).

Then where does our knowledge, godliness, and service factor in? Surely, they help us to die well.

But whose standard of knowledge, godliness, and service? How

knowledgeable must we be before we die? How about the illiterate?

How godly must we be to die well? Even John Newton said - "I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am."

Did the thief on the cross die poorly because he did not use his spiritual gifts to serve?

We must be careful not to equate dying well as a Christian with dying fruitfully as a Christian. And every Christian will bear fruit. Some will have more fruit than others - but all will bear fruit.

So every Christian will die well because the Lord Jesus Christ has ensured that.

Dying Gainfully

But the Bible teaches us to die gainfully. Paul says in Philippians 1:21 - "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

For the Christian, death does not take away from us life, but by death we gain life. Why?

Being dead and away from this sinful world is far better. Philippians 1:23b - "...to be with Christ...is far better."

At death, we immediately enter the presence of Christ, who is at the right hand of God. 2 Corinthians 5:8 - "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

It is gain because we have been given victory over death. 1 Corinthians 15:57 - "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

How to Die Gainfully

The words that we utter at our death beds usually show what we hold to be most important.

The martyrs in the early church, though they were burned alive or mauled by animals, faced their death with singing. They knew they were soon meeting Christ.

The English Puritan, John Bradford, said to his fellow martyr - "Be of good comfort, brother; for we shall have a merry supper with the Lord this night."

No where better do we see this gainful dying than in Christ himself. His last words on the cross were - "*Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.*"

Despite great suffering at the hands of these sinners and at the hands of his Father, he acknowledged 3 things essential to dying gainfully.

Firstly, he acknowledged God's loving sovereignty. God called "Father."

Jesus had said frequently that he came to do his Father's will. And now that he had completed it, he was returning to heaven.

By calling God "Father" he also acknowledged God's love for him. Yes, God had forsaken him for a time at the cross, when Jesus bore the full weight of sin. But now, Jesus acknowledged God's loving sovereignty. God is good all the time, even though we suffer.

Dying gainfully requires us to have faith in God - that he does all things good. So even though we may suffer, God is still good and wise.

Secondly, he died thinking about God. His last words were a prayer - "*Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.*"

This means his greatest desire was God. And this was only possible if God was

always on Jesus' thoughts. Jesus was a man of prayer - even at his death.

And this prayer was actually a quote from Scripture - Psalm 31:5. Jesus had the Word of God in his mind as he died.

So we can die gainfully if we know what is important at death.

Thirdly, he died committing himself to God. He said, "*Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.*"

Jesus was entrusting his life and his life beyond physical death to God. In other words, he knew where he was going.

Paul himself said in 2 Timothy 1:12 - "... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

But shouldn't every Christian know this? Yes - but not every Christian has assurance. And assurance is something that can't simply be drummed into people's heads - it has to be believed.

While every Christian will die well - simply because of Christ - not every Christian will die gainfully. Dying gainfully is something that needs to be cultivated.

Dying gainfully requires us to look forward to death.

Calvin states, "*let us hold as fixed, that no man has made much progress in the school of Christ who does not look forward with joy to the day of death and final resurrection.*"

Do you looking forward to your death as you do your life? That's gainful living and dying. ~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 180. What is it to pray in the name of Christ?

A. To pray in the name of Christ, is, in obedience to his command, and in confidence on his promises, to ask mercy for his sake; not by bare mentioning of his name, but by drawing our encouragement to pray, and our boldness, strength, and hope of acceptance in prayer, from Christ and his mediation.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (3.12.17)	Next Week (10.12.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Jacob & Merilyn Woo	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Micah Chiang*, Ken Hong* Terence Lee, Rex Sriharan	Steven Lim*, Yen Fye Yap* Kim Leow, Lye Heng Chua
Ushers	Rebecca Lee, Dolphin Wai	Josephine Austin, August Ng
Kitchen Duties	Merilyn Woo*, Sandy Chua Jenni Budiman, Jacob Woo	Grace Wang*, Helen Wong Ken Hong
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ken Hong
Prayer Meeting	8 December 2017	15 December 2017
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	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 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: "Help in the Ministry" (Acts 18:1-17).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "The Faith of Abraham" (Hebrews 11:8-19). Speaker: Ken Chong.
5. Special Gospel Meetings in Vietnam Pavilion, Kings Park (May Drive/ Synergy Parkland/ near Zamia Cafe). Sunday 3rd Dec & Sunday 10th Dec at 5pm. Please bring a seat. Organised by Perth Free Presbyterian Church.
6. Worshiper's update form. If you have not handed this in, please take a copy from the foyer and return the completed form in the blue box by today.
7. Congratulations to Jansen and Eva Chiu on the birth of their daughter Jayleigh.

Appointments for the Week

WED 10:00 am Craft Group
 FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting
 SUN 9:00 am Sunday School
 10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$3,778.50 (*DD - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$351.00 (#760 - \$161.00). Building Fund - \$500.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #569 - \$100.00, #570 - \$100.00).
 Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,629.50.
 Attendance - 167.

*DD: direct deposit

Building Fund to Date

Available Building Fund	\$88,101.82	General Fund:
Last Week's Collection	\$500.00	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942
Total	\$88,601.82	Missions Fund:
Outstanding Loan	- \$390,000.00	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950
Amount Still Needed	\$301,398.18	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.

Too Smart for Our Own Good

Acts 17:22-34

The world will laugh at Christians because they consider Christ and the gospel foolish. And this is what those who perceive they are one up do. The smart laugh at the dumb. The rich laugh at the poor. The strong laugh at the weak. But God will have the last laugh.

1. The Ignorance of Learned Men
 - a. The superstition of educated men
 - b. The boldness of a wise man
2. The Knowledge that Ignorant Men Need
 - a. He confronted them with Scripture
 - b. He confronted them with the God of Scripture
3. The Command for Ignorant Men to Repent
 - a. There is judgment
 - b. There is response

Are we too smart for our own good? If the Lord has subdued us with his gospel, why do we not live according to it? Compared to God, we have no wisdom. That is why he gave us Christ - the power of God, and the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:24).

Questions for Reflection:

1. Read 2 Peter 1:3-4. God has given to us the Word which is sufficient to address all issues of life and godliness. Do you believe that the Word is absolutely sufficient or do we need other philosophies or psychology to help us to live righteously?
2. How is this wisdom found? Read Acts 17:11. How is this wisdom manifested? Read James 3:13-18. Who will have this wisdom? Read Proverbs 1:7, 9:10. According to these verses, looking at how much you search the Scriptures, bear forth patience and holiness, and are loving/fearing God; how wise would you say you are?