



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 31 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	22 - <i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 101:1-8
Hymn	TP 128
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 19:1-20
Hymn	463 - <i>More About Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Jesus Really Matters"
*Closing Hymn	641 - <i>Immanuel's Land</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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Resolving to Be Godlier Next Year

Making New Year resolutions is a good tradition. But I don't try to make them because I often break them within the first week.

And I wouldn't want to forget James' command not to take vows I have no intention of seriously keeping.

So while I would like a thinner waist line, more muscle tone, and more energy, it's a *running* joke at home that I still wouldn't be able to catch up with last year's resolutions.

But seriously, I have to work on that.

However, there are spiritual resolutions that we should be making because they are already part of our covenant with God as his children.

There is one resolution we can make - to be godlier.

David, in his coronation Psalm, resolved to be godly in his private and public lives. There are 4 things we can learn from his resolutions.

Private Devotional Life

David resolved in Psalm 101 to have a devotional life.

Psalm 101:1 - *"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing."*

While we do these things in church and in public worship, how often do we do it in our private life? David would worship God in his house (v 2).

To sing of God's mercy and judgment is to remember the cross. There, Jesus faced God's judgment to purchase God's mercy for his people.

We remember how Christ redeemed us from the curse of God's judgment by being made a curse for us and we remember how God's goodness leads us to repentance.

When these things are on a godly person's lips, he disciplines his heart toward sincerity in singing these things.

The worship and adoration of God are part of a Christian's private devotional life.

As the hymn says, *"Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in Him always, and feed on His Word."*

Private Life of Purity

David resolved to be holy privately. Psalm 101:2-3 says, *"I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."*

David wanted to behave himself at home. Why? Because what we are at home is what we really are.

We may act a certain way in church, work, school, or play; but what we are behind closed doors is what we genuinely are.

But how can a person walk perfectly and wisely? It is by walking according to God's Spirit. Ephesians 5:15,17,18 says, *"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise...understanding what the will of the Lord is...[and being] filled with the Spirit."*

Seeing as what we do and say emanates from our hearts, we must guard our hearts with all diligence (Prov 4:23).

After Moses had given the Israelites the 10 commandments, he said in Exodus 23:13 - *"and in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect."*

As the hymn says, *"Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul, each thought and each motive beneath His control."*

This also has to do with affiliations. David resolved to be holier by shunning

evil and worthless things (v 4). We frequently bring in what is worthless into our lives through entertainment. While there are many things we can enjoy, there are many things we ought to hate.

A private holy and devotional life will lead to a godly public life. And often, it's because we fail to be devoted to God privately that we are not holy publicly.

An Upright Public Life

David was a king. It was his duty to wield the sword. Our duty as Christians, unless we are magistrates, is not to wield the sword, but the word.

Psalm 101:5 says, "*Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.*"

There are those who would sin against others. There's a duty amongst Christians, especially, to discourage that - to be salt and light in a wicked world.

This takes not only courage but holiness. Often we Christians are too cowardly to speak out against sin. Or we are recklessly bold and uncouth. Neither are right. Hebrews 12:14 says, "*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.*"

Charles Spurgeon said of this verse - "*Some who have aimed at holiness have made the great mistake of supposing it needful to be morose, contentious, faultfinding, and censorious with everybody else. Their holiness has consisted of negatives, protests, and oppositions for oppositions sake. Their religion mainly lies in contrarities and*

singularities; to them the text offers this wise counsel, follow holiness, but also follow peace. Courtesy is not inconsistent with faithfulness. It is not needful to be savage in order to be sanctified. A bitter spirit is a poor companion for a renewed heart. Let your determination principle be sweetened by tenderness towards your fellow-men. Be resolute for the right, but be also gentle, pitiful, courteous. Consider the meekness as well as the boldness of Jesus. Follow peace, but not at the expense of holiness. Follow holiness, but do not needlessly endanger peace."

Cultivate Godly Associations

David vowed also to keep godly friendships. Psalm 101:6 says, "*Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.*"

David vowed to surround himself with God's people - that they would be his friends. Far too often, we make close friends of those in the world - and it will affect us. And while God's people are not perfect, they are governed by the Word of God. We ought to establish close friendships with believers.

As the hymn goes, "*Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.*"

Spiritual resolutions are important. But even though we do not make them, we are already covenanted to keep them. Perhaps the Lord is reminding you of what you ought to resolve. ~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 184. For what things are we to pray?

A. We are to pray for all things tending to the glory of God, the welfare of the Church, our own or others' good; but not for any thing that is unlawful.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (31.12.17)	Next Week (7.1.18)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Jansen Ng Ian Read	David Lim*, Terence Lee* Steven Lim, Johnny Orchard
Ushers	-	Putri Harapan, Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Florence Orchard*, Jemima Ng Rosemary Fitzpatrick	August Ng*, Nancy Lim Angela Yap, Victor Poon
PA Duty	Joel Chua	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>5 January 2018</i>	<i>12 January 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	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: "When Our Idols Are Threatened" (Acts 19:21-41).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "What Faith Can Do In Your Life" (Hebrews 11:32-40). Speaker: John Tan.
5. Bible Conference 2018. Dates: 23-26 April 2018. Speaker: Pastor Allen Beardmore. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Please register with Ken Chong or Ken Hong.
6. Bible Study Tour of Israel and Jordan. Dates: 9-21 December 2018. Please contact Pastor Mark if you are interested.
7. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (January-March) are available in the foyer.
8. Church directory additions and amendments page - please collect from Valerie.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>General Fund - \$2,775.10 (*DD - \$200.00, #761 - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$240.00 (#762 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$400.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #573 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,415.10. Attendance - 138.</p> <p><i>*DD: direct deposit</i></p>

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund	\$93,101.82
Last Week's Collection	\$400.00
Total	\$93,501.82
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$390,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$296,498.18</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.

Jesus Really Matters

Acts 19:1-20

There's always a connection between our knowledge and our actions. What we know or think we know affects our actions. Sometimes the knowledge we have is incomplete. Sometimes the knowledge that we have is wrong or misinformed. Sometimes we have false confidences. But the word is sufficient to give us success in life.

1. A Complete Knowledge of Jesus Matters
 - a. They had an incomplete understanding
 - b. They had an incomplete conversion
 - c. They responded with obedience and faith
 - d. They did not respond with obedience and faith
2. A Genuine Trust in Jesus Matters
 - a. They had simple faith
 - b. They were simply superstitious
 - c. They were profoundly repentant

Greater than the miracles of healing and demon casting was God converting the soul. What excites us at this time of the year? Our physical blessings or the spiritual growth that we have in Christ?

Questions for Reflection:

1. How have you grown in grace this year? Is it evident?
2. What knowledge and understanding of Christ have you especially grown in this year and how has that affected your actions and affections?
3. Does Jesus matter to you? What about Jesus do you need to grow more in next year?