



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 11 June 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	39 - <i>How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Ephesians 2:1-10
Hymn	TP 51:12-19
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 9:10-31
Hymn	552 - <i>I Surrender All</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"An Amazing Testimony"
*Closing Hymn	494 - <i>All the Way My Saviour Leads Me</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

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

How To Help Your Children Make a Profession of Faith

The Example of Jesus' Parents

We don't know too much about Jesus' childhood - we only know about his birth and journey to Egypt.

Despite the lack of details, God has revealed one incident from Jesus' childhood - his journey to Jerusalem.

Jesus' parents were god-fearing Jews. They brought Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. This feast remembered God's redemption of Israel from slavery to freedom.

If we want our children to profess faith - to understand the gospel and to believe in Christ - instruction must begin early. They must know the gospel of redemption. They learn this at home.

Our children must hear God's truth from their parents and see it being lived out.

The Example of Jesus' Surpassing His Parents in Knowledge and Desire

Jesus was 12 years old. And he stayed behind in Jerusalem while the rest of his family returned home.

They hurried back and found him in the temple courts sitting among the teachers. He was listening to them and he asked questions. All who heard him were amazed with his understanding and answers.

Because of his home instruction, he was advanced in his learning. Yes,

Jesus was God, but he had to grow in wisdom as a human being.

Not every child will be like Jesus. They are more likely to be like Adam. However, diligent training of our children in the Scriptures will help them to know much about spiritual things.

While our teaching can modify their behavior, it can't change the hearts - only the Spirit can do that. But if they don't know the Bible, an important link is removed in the process of bringing them to profess Jesus as Lord.

And in this account, we see Jesus not only amazed the teachers, he had surpassed his own parents in their faith and understanding.

When Mary finally found him, she expressed worry. But Jesus dismissed her worry. He did not apologize. Rather, he was amazed that she didn't know he would be in his Father's house!

Jesus hungered after the knowledge of God. He desired it more than his parents' desire for him to know it.

When a Jewish boy reached 13 years old, he would become a full adult member of the synagogue. He would now be prepared for marriage.

If that were the case, he would be responsible for teaching his own wife and children the Law! Jesus had to keep the Law for himself, and for us; and so it especially concerned him that he should know the Law perfectly.

That is why he was in his Father's house - to study and ask - so that when he took on his responsibilities as the Redeemer, he would obey God perfectly.

This is why he could not go home immediately after the feast. He had to prepare for his ministry. How could his mother not know this? He was 12!

The Example of the Teachers of Jesus

This example shows us how vital teachers are. Jesus sat with the teachers and learned from them.

As our children grow up, not only do parents teach children; but church teachers also teach them - the Sunday School, the pulpit, their older brethren all minister to them.

These must know their Bible and their doctrine. They must not only teach the doctrines from the Scriptures, they must urge the children to put it into practice - they must be urged to live what they believe from an early age.

The Age to Urge a Profession of Faith

We should urge our children to believe in Jesus from a young age - from the time they can understand. We urge them to trust in Jesus. We teach them that Jesus is their savior who can take away their sins.

However, we gain some wisdom here about the age where covenant children might make that public profession of faith; or other children who are not baptized, may publicly profess their faith by baptism.

Jesus studied diligently so that when he joined a synagogue, he could take his place among the others. He showed responsibility and maturity.

He was becoming an adult. In his day, it was 13. Unfortunately, our children are growing up far too slowly. They are often kept at immaturity. Society has engineered it as such; and Christians have allowed it. In our society, that age of majority, of maturity, of responsibility is probably around 18.

Before our children make that profession of faith, there should be evidence of a heartfelt commitment to Christ. They must have studied well. They must be mature.

Should children who are younger be urged to profess faith? There are children who truly believe and have a strong commitment to Christ. They also show great maturity at a young age. They should not be denied.

Yet, children often reflect the views and teaching of their parents. Thus they need to make their faith their own. It is important that children progress through this process before their profession of faith. And this allows their parents to let go - their children have to trust in Jesus on their own.

May the Lord grant children and parents wisdom in this.

I conduct a catechism class for young people to prepare them to profess their faith publicly. Please contact me for more information.

~ Pastor

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (11.6.17)</i>	<i>Next Week (18.6.17)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Ken Chong	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Jabez Huang
Welcomers	Josephine Austin & Wendy Gong	Jacob & Marilyn Woo
Offering Stewards	Kim Leow*, David Pang* Chris Budiman, Micah Chiang	Rex Sriharan*, Terence Lee* Vincent Chiu, Ian Read
Ushers	Jesslyn Leow, Joyce Ng	Rebecca Lee, Dolphin Wai
Kitchen Duties	Lisa Lim*, Josephine Austin Jesslyn Leow	Aliza Chiu*, Jemima Ng Mary Loh
PA Duty	Joel Chua	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>16 June 2017</i>	<i>23 June 2017</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Nancy Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Jesus Christ Maketh Thee Whole" (Acts 9:32-43).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Jesus Christ Is God's Best Teacher" (Hebrews 1:1-3). Speaker: Chris Budiman.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$3,370.70 (#718 - \$300.00).
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	Missions Fund - \$1,090.00 (#719 - \$910.00).
SAT 4:00 pm YPG	Building Fund - \$200.00 (#540 - \$100.00, #541 - \$100.00).
4:30 pm JF & TF	Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,660.70.
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	Attendance - 148.
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details		
Available Building Fund	\$64,937.89	General Fund:
Last Week's Collection	\$200.00	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942
Total	\$65,137.89	Missions Fund:
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$402,000.00</i>	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$336,862.11</i>	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.

An Amazing Testimony
Acts 9:10-31

Jim Elliot and his friends were amazing testimonies - they gave their lives for the gospel and were killed; their wives and children were also amazing - reaching out to the very people who killed their husbands and fathers. What kind of testimony do you have? Do you have an amazing testimony or a bad testimony? How should the gospel affect you? What should it do to your temperament and character?

1. A Forgiving Disciple
 - a. He heard the command to restore
 - b. He feared and was conflicted
 - c. He restored in obedience
2. A Reformed Disciple
 - a. Restored and rejuvenated
 - b. He overwhelmed, confounded, and angered
3. Supportive Disciples
 - a. Damascus
 - b. Barnabas
 - c. Jerusalem and Caesarea

Why does God use people? Because the church is comprised of people who are sinners saved by grace - only by their contribution will the church be built up. What is the result of such amazing testimonies? The safety of Saul and the growth of the church.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What kind of testimony do you have as a Christian to the world and to other Christians? Does it make you ashamed? How would you want other Christians to support you in your growth?
2. If you were an Ananias facing a Saul, with all of his past, what heart work must you do in order to forgive and minister?

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 151. What are those aggravations that make some sins more heinous than others?

A. Sins receive their aggravations,

1. From the persons offending: if they be of riper age, greater experience or grace, eminent for profession, gifts, place, office, guides to others; and whose example is likely to be followed by others.

2. From the parties offended: if immediately against God, his attributes, and worship; against Christ, and his grace; the Holy Spirit, his witness, and workings; against superiors, men of eminency, and such as we stand especially related and engaged unto; against any of the saints, particularly weak brethren, the souls of them, or any other, and the common good of all or many.

3. From the nature and quality of the offence: if it be against the express letter of the law, break many commandments, contain in it many sins: if not only conceived in the heart, but breaks forth in words and actions, scandalize others, and admit of no reparation: if against means, mercies, judgments, light of nature, conviction of conscience, public or private admonition, censures of the Church, civil punishments; and our prayers, purposes, promises, vows, covenants, and engagements to God or men: if done deliberately, willfully, presumptuously, impudently, boastingly, maliciously, frequently, obstinately, with delight, continuance, or relapsing after repentance.

4. From circumstances of time and place: if on the Lord's Day, or other times of divine worship; or immediately before or after these, or other helps to prevent or remedy such miscarriages: if in public, or in the presence of others, who are thereby likely to be provoked or defiled.