



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 18 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	24 - <i>God of Earth, God of Sky</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Colossians 3:1-17
Hymn	TP 112:1-6
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 9:32-43
Hymn	347 - <i>Not What These Hands Have Done</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Jesus Christ Maketh Thee Whole"
*Closing Hymn	561 - <i>Living for Jesus</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
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You Mean Some Sins Are Worse to God than Others??

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So, last Lord's Day evening, my son asked me a question about the Confession of Faith section of the service - "You mean some sins are worse to God than others??"

I had taught from WLC 151 which states that some sins are more heinous in God's sight than others because of certain reasons.

Let's take a look this more closely.

What Does It Take for a Sin to Be Heinous?

Well, all sins are heinous to God. All sins are grievous and offensive. Since they are against God's character and law, they are heinous.

As a result, all sins, from the least to the greatest deserve the wrath and curse of God.

However, the Bible implies that some sins are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

How Are Some Sins More Heinous than Others?

Some sins are more heinous than other sins in and of themselves.

For example, a sin against God is worse than a sin against man. While all sins are ultimately sins against God, yet, the sin of idolatry is more heinous than the sin of adultery, and blasphemy is more heinous than speaking evil of your neighbor.

We see this in 1 Samuel 2:25 - *"If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him?"*

Eli said these words to his sons who had committed adultery, but were in greater danger because by their sin, they caused the people to hate worshiping God.

Furthermore, sins against the gospel are more heinous than sins against the law.

God has shined the light of the gospel - therefore, those who reject the gospel despite knowing it have the greater judgment.

This is why judgment shall be greater upon cities like Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum because they rejected the gospel than lands such as Sodom - as evil as she was (Matthew 11:20-24).

Some Sins Are More Heinous Than Others Because of the Accompanying Circumstances

1. Some sins are more heinous because of the persons committing it.

Kings, prophets, and teachers should know better; so when they sin, their sin is more heinous.

Jeroboam's sin caused the entire nation to sin. God always referred to Jeroboam's sin as the catalyst for the destruction of Israel. 1 Kings 14:16 - *"And [God] shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin."*

Similarly, James cautions teachers about the use of the tongue; because when they sin, as teachers and superiors, they receive a greater judgment.

James 3:1 says, *"My brethren, be not many masters [teachers], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."*

And the reason for that is the great influence that teachers have over the people. God condemned the prophets during Micah's time - *"The prophets make my people to err"* (Micah 3:5).

2. Some sins are more heinous because of the place or nation in which it is committed.

Israel had seen God's power in Egypt; but once they got to the Red Sea, they doubted what God could do.

This is why it was said of them - *"Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the*

multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea" (Psalm 106:7).

Those nations which have more light are therefore more guilty - like the cities of Matthew 11.

3. Some sins are more heinous because of the time in when they are committed.

It goes without saying that whenever a sin is committed, it is abhorrent to God. But since the Lord's Day is a holy day devoted to Christ, a sin committed on that day not only transgresses that law, but also transgresses the fourth commandment.

4. Some sins are more heinous because they are committed willfully rather than through ignorance.

We are weak creatures and we sin by mistake and ignorantly. Yet, this does not excuse the sin. However, in the Old Testament, there was a provision for these sins.

Numbers 15:22,27 speaks of a person making a mistake by not having kept a commandment - or by ignorance having broken a commandment - this was forgivable by a sacrifice.

But a sin committed presumptuously (Numbers 15:30) would deserve death. This showed the differences in the degree of heinousness of sin to God.

That is why, when a Christian commits a sin willfully, it grieves God (Ephesians 4:30) because the Christian has been atoned. We should live more victoriously.

Should We Despair for Our Sins?

On one hand, we should have great grief for our sins because they grieve Christ; but on the other, we should not absolutely despair of having mercy.

The most wicked person sinning presumptuously can be pardoned by Christ (1 Corinthians 6:11).

And though some sins will receive a greater condemnation - those who call out to Christ for salvation will never be condemned.

Romans 8:1 says, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

It is also to remember that as Christians, we have been saved not to sin. That is why we can't give in to our flesh. Those who receive mercy would surpass all others in love for God and others (Luke 7:42-48).

It is also a reminder that even though we may not have committed these sins in these circumstances, that our sins are still heinous to God.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 152. What doth every sin deserve at the hands of God?

A. Every sin, even the least, being against the sovereignty, goodness, and holiness of God, and against his righteous law, deserveth his wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come; and cannot be expiated but by the blood of Christ.

Q. 153. What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us by reason of the transgression of the law?

A. That we may escape the wrath and curse of God due to us by reason of the transgression of the law, he requireth of us repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, and the diligent use of the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (18.6.17)	Next Week (25.6.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Chris Budiman
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Evelyn Lee
Welcomers	Jacob & Merilyn Woo	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Rex Sriharan*, Terence Lee* Vincent Chiu, Ian Read	Ken Hong*, Ken Chong* Jansen Ng, Jacob Woo
Ushers	Rebecca Lee, Dolphin Wai	Josephine Austin, Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Aliza Chiu*, Jemima Ng Mary Loh	Jackie Hong*, Angela Yap August Ng
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Ian Tay
Prayer Meeting	23 June 2017	30 June 2017
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: "Eat Bacon, Peter" (Acts 10:1-23).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Jesus Christ Is Better Than the Angels" (Hebrews 1:4-14). Speaker: Merilyn Woo.
4. Retirees' Bible Study. Next Tuesday, 27 June 2017, 10am. Message by Pastor: "The Unexpected Death of the Christian". Potluck lunch after meeting - bring a dish to share.
5. Hymnals for sale today and next Sunday. 'Hymns of Grace and Glory' - \$25 each, limited new copies, 1 per household. 'Great Hymns of the Faith' - \$10 each, used copies in excellent condition.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$3,382.55 (#720 - \$29.25). Missions Fund - \$680.00 (#721 - \$500.00). Building Fund - \$100.00 (#542 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,162.55. Attendance - 156.
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
7:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details			
Available Building Fund	\$65,137.89	General Fund:	
Last Week's Collection	\$100.00	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316942
Total	\$65,237.89	Missions Fund:	
Outstanding Loan	- \$402,000.00	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316950
Amount Still Needed	\$336,762.11	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.

Jesus Christ Maketh Thee Whole

Acts 9:32-43

Parents try to instill responsibility, orderliness, and care in their children by teaching them, among other things, to make their beds. Parents are concerned for the maturation of their children. Similarly, Christ is concerned that we mature - in spiritual virtues - and he is actively working in us to produce them.

1. Christ Strengthens the Believers

- a. Time of busy growth
- b. Time of rest and strengthening

2. Christ Illustrates the Gospel in the Believers

- a. Aeneas and victory over weakness
- b. Tabitha and eternal life

3. Christ Prepares the Believers

- a. Peter himself needed to be strengthened before the 3rd phase
- b. Peter was made to confront the uncleanness of his perceptions

Are you mature in Christ? Does it show in your character and perceptions? What areas of your Christian life needs strengthening? What areas in your life can Christ use to illustrate the gospel to unbelievers? What areas in your life are you still unclean in your perception? Jesus Christ makes us whole - let us arise and make our beds. It's time to grow up.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Do you think that Christians are often lacking in realization of their need for maturity? Why is that? How does time in church, knowledge of theology/doctrine, and tenure in service contribute to that lack of knowledge? Is there anything ironic with that?
2. What kind of people truly annoy you? Is it their fault or yours? What does the gospel say?