



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 30 July 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	78 - <i>No Blood, No Altar Now</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 30:1-12
Hymn	TP 30:1-12
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 11:19-30
Hymn	382 - <i>Sweeter As the Days Go By</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"A Well-Taught Church"
*Closing Hymn	568 - <i>The Lower Lights</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

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Finishing Well Means Starting Well

At the past Retirees' Bible Study, we started on a new series of messages entitled "The Christian Life - Beginning and Ending Well."

It was a topic that the committee wanted to have to prepare our retirees' for their inevitable promotion to glory.

What legacy do we leave behind as Christians? How well have we run the race? What are some things we must do to finish well?

It was made clear that we would not focus on issues such as retirement plans, preparing a will, or leaving an earthly legacy behind. It would focus mainly on spiritual preparedness - which also has earthly repercussions.

And while there are many spiritual components, 5 stood out.

1. Making Sure of Your Salvation - Are You Sure You've Started Well?
2. Continuing Well - Are You Growing in Knowledge?
3. Continuing Well - Are You Growing in Godliness?
4. Continuing Well - Are You Growing in Service?
5. Dying Well - How Do You Know You Can End Well?

These components were drawn from Paul - who in his last days was confident that he had started well and would finish well.

Paul Started and Finished Well

Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 - "*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: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*"

Here, Paul was at the end of his life. He was about to die anytime at the hand of Caesar - "*the time of my departure is at*

hand." And he was ready to die - "*I am now ready to be offered.*"

The reason he was ready was because he had completed his work. His work was 3 fold - "*he had fought a good fight, he had finished his course, and he had kept the faith.*"

He was confident that he was going to heaven - "*henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day.*"

Every Christian must have these components if he is to finish well. You can only finish well if you are ready to die at anytime. And you can only be ready to die at anytime when you are confident you are going to heaven and you have been pursuing the things that God has called you to do.

The Christian must have fought the good fight. This refers to a fight against self and sin. Hebrews 12:4 - "*Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*"

The Christian is to fight against sin because he has been freed from sin. 1 John 3:9 - "*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*" Therefore a Christian is to grow in godliness.

The Christian is also to finish his course. This course or race refers to the race toward Christian maturity. Philippians 3:12,14 - "*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*"

The Christian must grow in maturity. And this can only be achieved by knowledge. Ephesians 4:11,13 - "*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man,*

unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

Paul was ready to die because he had grown in maturity, in knowledge, and as a full grown Christian, he was serving God.

The Christian must also keep the faith. This means we must keep on believing Christ and his Word and upholding it. Luke 11:28 says, *"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."*

Jesus himself said that it is necessary to hold fast to the end. Matthew 24:13 - *"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."*

Because of all these markers in his life, Paul was confident that he would finish well. Naturally there are exceptions - the thief on the cross neither had the time or the opportunity to grow in knowledge and maturity - but he had genuine faith. That was enough to save him. He started well.

Have You Started Well?

If keeping the faith is so important, then having the faith is basic. To end well, you must have at least started well.

There are many who believe themselves saved but are actually not. Some are "outed" in this life.

For example, there are those who receive the gospel with joy and believe for a season. But their belief is not saving faith. When the temptations or persecutions come, these fall away. This is what Jesus taught in the Parable of the Sower.

Examples of these abound in the Scripture - Judas Iscariot, Simon the Magician, and Demas. They abound in church history too - most of the Israelites in the wilderness were disallowed from entering the promised land because of unbelief; and the apostates in the early church who recanted Christ to avoid death. All of us know at least one person who professed to be Christian but no longer follows Christ now. Hebrews 3:19 - *"So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."*

But for those not "outed" in this life, because of their cultural Christianity, they will find that they are not Christians on Judgment Day.

Matthew 7:21 - *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."*

False belief and profession is not uncommon. Some believe that a sinner's prayer, or their baptism, or their church attendance have turned them into a Christians.

This is why it is important to make sure of your salvation - to know that you have started well; to know that you have heeded Jesus' commands in Mark 1:15 - *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."*

Have you started well? Have you truly believed the gospel and repented of your sins? You can't finish well without it.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 160. What is required of those that hear the Word preached?

A. It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer, examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (30.7.17)	Next Week (6.8.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Ian & Merrill Read	Josephine Austin & Wendy Gong
Offering Stewards	Ian Read*, Ken Hong* Johnny Orchard, Rex Sriharan	Rex Sriharan*, Vincent Chiu* Ken Hong, Steven Lim
Ushers	Putri Harapan, Josephine Austin	Rebecca Lee, Wendy Gong
Kitchen Duties	Carmel Sriharan*, Vincent Chiu Jenni Budiman	Mary-Anne Chan*, Sandy Chua Nancy Lim, Val Withnell
PA Duty	Jacob Woo	Raymond Woo
Prayer Meeting	4 August 2017	11 August 2017
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Nancy Lim

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: "Conflict of the Sovereigns" (Acts 12:1-25).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Jesus Gives a Better Rest" (Hebrews 4.1-10). Speaker: John Tan.
5. Presentation by Creation Ministries International on 4 August 2017, Friday at 7.30pm. Speaker: Dr Craig Russell. Topic: "Thinking God's Thoughts After Him - The Biblical Basis for Modern Science."
6. JF & TF (5 Aug). TF - Combined Youth Camp Echo at Perth Free Presbyterian Church at 2:30 pm. JF - Activity at the Budimans at 3 pm.
7. Ministry reports for ACM 2017. Please submit by 31 August 2017 - email Jacob Woo (jacob.woo@gmail.com).

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$5,399.69 (*DD - \$960.54, #730 - \$400.00, #732 - \$13.50, #733 - \$1,155.00). Missions Fund - \$490.00 (*DD - \$250.00). Building Fund - \$1,770.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #549 - \$1,370.00, #550 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$7,659.69. Attendance - 142. *DD: direct deposit
FRI 7:30 pm Creation Ministries	
SAT 2:30 pm JF & TF	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details			
Available Building Fund	\$67,867.45	General Fund:	
Last Week's Collection	\$1,770.00	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316942
Total	\$69,637.45	Missions Fund:	
Outstanding Loan	- \$396,000.00	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316950
Amount Still Needed	\$326,362.55	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.

A Well-Taught Church
Acts 11:19–30

The desire of every minister is that the church would mature through the Word. That worshipers would grow in love for one another, service to one another, and holiness. That we should be transformed through the renewing of our mind that we would know and do the will of God.

1. A Church Taught By Spirit-led Christians
 - a. Antioch - a filthy city
 - b. Planted by ordinary Christians
 - c. Taught by the Spirit
2. A Church Taught by the Apostles and Prophets
 - a. Barnabas and Saul
 - b. Prolonged teaching
 - c. Agabus
3. A Church Responding in Obedience to Christian Teaching
 - a. Obedient generosity
 - b. They were known as Christians

Do we have to be constrained to give? Do we discriminate? Or like Barnabas, will we be called good? Are we called Christians by others? Do our lives visibly illustrate the gospel?

Questions for Reflection:

1. Would unbelievers call you a Christian if you didn't tell them you were one?
2. If we always need to be cajoled by church officers to serve, give, love, and minister; what does that say about us and our obedience to Scripture? But why is this cajoling necessary?

Heer the good news that: the biblical account of origins is not only historically accurate, but makes better sense of the evidence.

DOES GOD SING
WHAT ABOUT EVOLUTION WAS
DARWIN RIGHT HOW CAN A LEVINEE GOD
A) ON SUFFERING AND DEATH WHAT ABOUT THE
AGE OF THE EARTH TO DATING METHODS PROVE THE
EARTH IS MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD WHO WAS CAIN'S WIFE
HOW DID NOAH FIT ALL THE ANIMALS ON THE ARK WAS THERE
REALLY A WORLD WIDE FLOOD DOES ANY REAL SCIENTIST
BELIEVE IN CREATION ARE THERE REALLY MISSING
LINKS CAN'T A BAY BEAD
WHAT ABOUT NATURAL
THE RABBIT COME FROM
MILLIONS OF YEARS
SELECTION WHERE DID
WHAT ABOUT DIRTY
STARLIGHT ARE UFO'S
REAL DID GOD USE
EVOLUTION WHAT ABOUT
THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN
MONKEY AND HUMAN DNA
WHAT ABOUT THE OC AGC WCL
ADAM AND EVE REAL PEOPLE
WHO GIVES WW I BELIEVE
ABOUT ORIGINS DON'T
FOSSILS DATE HOW
MILLIONS OF YEARS
TODAY WILL BEAT
DINOSAURS

Question
ARE YOU READY



Evolution!
FOR ANSWERS?

Friday 4 August at 7.30pm

**Thinking God's Thoughts after Him—
The Biblical Basis for Modern Science**

Dr Craig Russell, CMI speaker & Agricultural Scientist

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
47 Davis Rd, Attadale

Enquiries: Phone Ps Mark Chan on 0415 932 373

Admission free - donations accepted. Creation resources available.

CMI Australia ph 07 3340 9888 emails ministry@creation.info

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