



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 13 August 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	13 - <i>Rejoice, the Lord Is King!</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Galatians 1:1-24
Hymn	TP 47
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 13:1-12
Hymn	215 - <i>Come, O Thou Prophet of the Lord</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Paul Commissioned"
*Closing Hymn	585 - <i>Am I a Soldier of the Cross?</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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What Is a Sacrament?

Last week we examined question 162 of the Westminster Larger Catechism - "What is a sacrament?" to which it answered - "A Sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ in his Church to signify, seal, and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace, the benefits of his mediation; to strengthen and increase their faith and all other graces; to oblige them to obedience; to testify and cherish their love and communion one with another; and to distinguish them from those that are without."

We learned before that Christ teaches us about his mediation and conveys its benefits through his Word, the sacraments, and through prayer.

Well, just how do sacraments do that?

The Term "Sacrament"

Like the word "Trinity", the word "sacrament" is not found in the Scriptures. But since the concept is found, we make use of the word.

What Does Sacrament Mean?

The *sacramentum* was an oath taken in the Roman army where a soldier promised to be faithful to his general and the general promised himself to be faithful to his soldier. It was a covenant.

Likewise, when we are in covenant with God, God promises to bless his people through Christ and we promise to follow Christ. There is a covenant.

Sacraments Signify, Seal, and Exhibit

When two people get married, they make their promises to one another. They exchange rings (or sign the marriage contract) as a sign they are married and to seal them to the promises they have made.

The sacraments are therefore a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, as the catechism says.

The Old Testament sacrament of circumcision was a sign and seal. "And he received the *sign* of circumcision, a *seal* of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised" (Romans 4:11a).

This is a reference to Genesis 17:7,9,10 where God told Abraham that he would be a God to him and his seed, and Abraham and his seed were obliged to obey God.

That covenant was ratified by a "signature" - circumcision. Likewise, because baptism replaces circumcision (Col 2:11-12), it is the New Testament sign. It is the "wedding ring" of God and God's people.

But it is *more* than just a sign or a memorial. It is also a seal. A wedding ring (or marriage contract) seals the vows a husband and wife have made.

When Abraham believed in God and God promised to bless Abraham, circumcision was that pledge from God that he would fulfill his promises to Abraham.

If Abraham ever doubted God's pledge to him, he was reassured by that mark on his flesh. It reminded him of how God had set him apart from all others to be a God unto him.

Similarly, a Christian is reassured of his salvation when he remembers how God has given him the Holy Spirit to cleanse him, as signified by his water baptism.

The Passover and Lord's Supper signify the same thing. They are a sign and pledge of how God has sacrificed Christ by the shedding of blood so that believers may be forgiven.

Sacraments Strengthen Faith and Obligate Obedience

Since sacraments are a seal, the Christian can truly be strengthened in his faith when he remembers his baptism and when he partakes of the Lord's Supper.

He knows that Christ will be gracious to take care of him, bless him, make him holy, and pray for him.

This was the case with Abraham. He received the sign of circumcision - and this was a sign and seal that *"he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also"* (Romans 4:11).

What assurance that would have given Abraham! "God will be faithful to multiply me! God will make me a nation." Why do you think that Abraham was willing even to sacrifice Isaac? He had the faith that God would raise him up (Hebrews 11:19) - his faith no doubt strengthened by the mark he bore on his body - reminding him of God's promises.

Similarly, for baptism, those who have been baptized have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27), and they are therefore the children of God (v 26). Nothing can separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39).

All this strengthens the faith of the Christian.



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 163. What are the parts of a Sacrament?

A. The parts of a Sacrament are two: the one an outward and sensible sign, used according to Christ's own appointment; the other an inward and spiritual grace thereby signified.

Q. 164. How many Sacraments hath Christ instituted in his Church under the New Testament?

A. Under the New Testament Christ hath instituted in his Church only two Sacraments, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

And the sacraments obligate them to obedience.

Paul reminded the Roman Christians to live righteous lives. How? By pointing them back to their baptism. Romans 6:3-4 - *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

Their water baptism was a sign that they had been baptized by Christ - cleansed by him, dead to the world but risen in him. Therefore, they were obligated to walk righteously.

Similarly, the Lord's Supper obligates us to holy living. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:21 - *"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."*

Every wedding anniversary, couples are reminded of their vows and their love and obligation to one another. They are reminded to be faithful and to love more. That's what the Lord's Supper does.

This is why we believe that the sacraments are more than just signs or memorials. There are real benefits conveyed by them. ~ *Pastor*

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (13.8.17)	Next Week (20.8.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Valerie Ong	Evelyn Lee
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	Jansen Ng*, Ken Chong* Paul Butler, Johnny Orchard	David Pang*, Jacob Woo* David Lim, Terence Lee
Ushers	Josephine Austin, Eva Ng	Jerome Ng, Putri Harapan
Kitchen Duties	Eva Ng*, Florence Orchard Rosemary Fitzpatrick	Jemima Ng*, Josephine Austin Aliza Chiu
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong
Prayer Meeting	18 August 2017	25 August 2017
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene 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: "Christ's Kingship Is Non-Negotiable" (Acts 13:13-41).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Jesus Is Our Great High Priest" (Hebrews 4:14-16). Speaker: Ken Chong.
4. New course starting this Friday, 18 August 2017 for CBI. "Church History I - the Ancient Church" by Dr Robert Godfrey. This course will examine the first 500 years of the church in order to illuminate the impact of the early church so that the church today might know itself and its God better.
5. 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 - \$3,605.30 (*DD - \$200.00, #736 - \$200.00, #737 - \$100.00). Missions Fund - \$430.00 (*DD - \$250.00). Building Fund - \$1,670.00 (*DD- \$1,300.00, #553 - \$100.00, #554 - \$70.00, #555 - \$200.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,705.30. Attendance - 139. *DD: direct deposit
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:00 pm YPG	
4:30 pm JF & TF	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund	\$70,237.45
Last Week's Collection	\$1,670.00
Total	\$71,907.45
Outstanding Loan	- \$396,000.00
Amount Still Needed	\$324,092.55
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: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682.
Jacob Woo 0421 212 206.

Paul Commissioned

Acts 13:1-12

How does God's kingdom expand? It expands through the ministry of the Word brought by people who are commissioned. These go to minister - some far, some near - they leave their comforts to do a noble work fraught with difficulties and opposition.

1. A Sacrificial People Dedicated to Ministry
 - a. Antioch had come of age
 - b. Diversity of leaders
 - c. Dedicated leaders
2. The Ministry-Minded Church Submits to the Spirit to Commission People for the Work
 - a. Command originated from the Spirit
 - b. Church submitted to the command
 - c. Men submitted to the church
3. Commissioned People Exercise Their Authority Over Opposition and Growth
 - a. The church and the Spirit sent
 - b. He who opposed and he who received
 - c. Paul opposes

We do not stand in awe of these commissioned men. We stand in awe of Christ, who by his Spirit, commissioned them, just as he had been commissioned by God. This is how Christ expands the kingdom of God.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Why should we encourage qualified, godly, and submitted men to stand for office? What would the consequence be of a lack of leaders for the church? But does Christ need anyone?
2. Why is it important for us to know that in ministry there will be opposition? What would the consequence be of not counting this cost?