



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 20 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	11 - <i>All Glory, Laud, and Honor</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Daniel 2:26-49
Hymn	TP 2
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 13:13-41
Hymn	492 - <i>I Love Jesus, Hallelujah!</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Christ's Kingship Is Non-Negotiable"
*Closing Hymn	533 - <i>I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art</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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The Christian's Involvement in Politics

The Bible makes it clear that Christians are the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven - that this world is not our home.

Therefore, there are some who disapprove of the involvement of Christians in politics as politicians. They believe that politics is dirty and would corrupt the Christian, forcing him to compromise to be successful.

The disapproval extends also to the political arena - that lobbying for any kind of political agenda is less worthwhile than lobbying for the gospel.

What do the Scriptures say? Can Christians be involved in politics?

The simple answer is "Yes." Many believers have been involved in politics with the approval of the Lord.

Examples of Believers in Politics

Joseph was the prime minister of Egypt. Daniel was brought up to serve Babylon, becoming the chief governor in the empire. Nehemiah held a high post. While their stint in civil service was involuntary, they were faithful to God in their posts. But what about voluntary involvement in politics?

The Cultural Commission

God commanded Adam and Eve to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over...the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

"Dominion" means to "rule over" and to "tread down." It refers to the pressing of grapes in wine-making - to produce gain through work. The word "subdue" means to "trample under foot." This word is also used to speak about cleansing and subduing our iniquities.

In Matthew 5:13, Christ called his disciples the salt of the earth - to be a preservative and antiseptic. The

Christian's presence and work in society are to preserve morality and to cleanse and purify.

It is therefore the responsibility of Christians to live actively in society and strive for excellence in producing fruit and promoting virtue. We're to be influential in our families and churches, and also in business, education, the arts, and even politics. This is known as the Cultural Commission.

In fact, Christians in politics have influenced advances in society. They have given us hospitals (which symbol is the cross!), the equality of women, sound justice systems, education for the masses, and the abolition of slavery.

Christians As Citizens

But what about Christians as normal citizens? How involved should we be?

Augustine wrote in *The City of God*, that citizens of God's kingdom are best equipped to be citizens of the kingdom of man. Christians have civic responsibilities.

Firstly, Christians are to obey the rulers of the land. We are to submit ourselves "to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake" (1 Peter 2:13) as government is God's instrument.

Secondly, Christians are to pray for the nation's leaders. 1 Timothy 2:2 tells us that "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority..." This requires the Christian citizen to be in the know of the needs and trends of the nation.

Thirdly, Christians are to oppose evil. We bear moral responsibilities in this world. Psalm 97:10 says, "Ye that love the LORD, hate evil." No nation and no government is perfect. There will be evil and sin. Those who hate evil should speak out against it.

This is not an easy task, and will often be met with opposition and hatred (Amos 5:10). But this does not mean that we should not speak out.

How we speak out is important. Can we oppose evil in a manner that is contrary to the spirit of Christ? Our activism and lobbying must needs be wise and blameless.

We do well to imitate Esther, who did all she could to be upright and blameless in her appeal to the king. We also do well to learn the meekness of Nehemiah when addressing the government and society.

It takes maturity to do both. Zeal and character are not mutually exclusive. Gumption and patience are not opposed. Conviction and love are not polar opposites.

Let your involvement in politics as a citizen be perfectly moral and bold in Christ and perfectly Christ-like. Let your opinions and lobbying, as well as your heart and behavior, be shaped by Scripture. Why should one take precedence over the other? This includes your online presence as well.

Can the Church Be Involved in Politics?

While every Christian is to obey the Cultural Commission, the church is not given the Cultural Commission.

While there are many churches and pastors who promote politicians and political parties, that's not our role.

Jesus said of his church in Matthew 18:36 - "My kingdom is not of this world." Her role is not political.

Rather, the church's role is spiritual - she has been given the Great Commission.

She is not called to build empires or change society. That may be the Christian's calling - but not the church's. She is called to build God's kingdom through the gospel.

The church does not support a particular political party. So in church, while Christians gravitate to or support a particular party such as the Liberal, Labor, or an independent party, the church does not.

Naturally, as Christians, there will be certain political policies and parties that we would be opposed to in our faithfulness to Christ. Our political thoughts and activism will be shaped by the gospel.

How Are We As Citizens?

There are important political decisions to be made in this country. And by God's providence, Australia is a democracy. These decisions are made by the representatives of the people, and some decisions are given to the people to vote on.

Let all Christian citizens, in obedience to the Cultural Commission and the gospel, be involved - being faithful to God's call to be the salt and light of the earth.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 165. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is a Sacrament of the New Testament, wherein Christ hath ordained the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, regeneration by his Spirit; of adoption, and resurrection unto everlasting life; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible Church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (20.8.17)	Next Week (27.8.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Allen Beardmore
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Ken Chong
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	David Pang*, Jacob Woo* David Lim, Terence Lee	Micah Chiang*, Kim Leow* Ian Read, Chris Budiman
Ushers	Jerome Ng, Putri Harapan	Dolphin Wai, Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Jemima Ng*, Josephine Austin Aliza Chiu	Jesslyn Leow*, Lisa Lim Jackie Hong
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Joel Chua
Prayer Meeting	25 August 2017	1 September 2017
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	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. Next week's messenger is Pastor Allen Beardmore of Emmanuel Reformed Baptist Church Plant. Worship service message: "The Failure of a Successful Life" (Ecclesiastes 2). Adult Bible Class topic: "David's Confrontation of Saul" (1 Samuel 24).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Jesus Is a Better High Priest" (Hebrews 5:1-10). Speaker: Lye Heng Chua.
4. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 29 August 2017, 10am. Message by Pastor: "Continuing Well - Are You Growing in Knowledge?".
5. Worshiper's update form - please fill in and put it in the blue box at the church foyer.
6. Ministry reports for ACM 2017. Please submit by 31 August 2017 - email Jacob Woo (jacob.woo@gmail.com).

Appointments for the Week

WED	10:00 am	Craft Group
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

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$3,695.75 (*DD - \$550.00, #738 - \$19.75). Missions Fund - \$170.00. Building Fund - \$400.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #557 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,265.75. Attendance - 156.
*DD: direct deposit

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details

Available Building Fund	\$71,907.45	General Fund:	
Last Week's Collection	\$400.00	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316942
Total	\$72,307.45	Missions Fund:	
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$396,000.00</i>	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316950
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$323,692.55</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.

Christ's Kingship Is Non-Negotiable

Acts 13:13-41

Christ started his ministry by calling people to repent and believe the gospel for the kingdom of God - God's rule - had come. This is Christ's kingdom, as prophesied in Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the statute, how it would be smashed by the rock who is Christ. Christ's kingship is non-negotiable. He will come and show mercy to those who worship him, and condemn those who reject him.

1. The Kingship of Christ Was Instituted by God
 - a. Kingship over the apostles
 - b. Kingship implies deliverance
 - c. Kingship implies deliverance in Christ
2. The Kingship of Christ Was Earned by Him
 - a. Christ died and resurrected
 - b. Christ is a better king
3. The Kingship of Christ Is Commanded
 - a. Deliverance in Christ is offered
 - b. Condemnation by Christ is threatened

Christ the king delivers his people from their sins. Despite their failures and constant sins, he forgives those who come to him and believe in him. Christ's salvation is tied to his kingship - we cannot receive his salvation without having him as our king.

Questions for Reflection:

1. In what ways are you living for Christ's kingdom and accepting his rule in your life? In what ways do you know that you are not? What makes you sure that you are part of God's kingdom when you are not living according to the dictates of his rule?
2. Why is it good to accept the kingship of Christ? See Psalm 2 and Matthew 11:27-30.