



# C O V E N A N T

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 24 September 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	23 - <i>Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	2 Timothy 3:1-17
Hymn	TP 37:1-9
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 14:21-28
Hymn	570 - <i>Rescue the Perishing</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"They Returned Back to Danger"
*Closing Hymn	509 - <i>He Who Would Valiant Be</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](http://www.covenantbpc.org.au)

Contact: [pastor@covenantbpc.org.au](mailto:pastor@covenantbpc.org.au)

## The Duties of a Church Member

### *The Concern*

A month ago, in preparation for the AGM, I wrote about the responsibilities of members. And since the notice of our members' meeting is going out today, I thought I'd write another one - less theological, but more pointed.

The reason for this is motivated by a love for the church and a concern for the spiritual health of the members.

There have been members who wilfully miss church because of sports, music, home improvements, school events, and other commitments which do not fall under the category of the works of necessity or mercy. While non-members may do it wilfully, it is a concern that members do.

Our prayer meeting, while remaining stable in numbers, has not grown. How can the church march on in its work if the members do not desire spiritual things for themselves?

But everyone wants a say at the member's meeting.

### *The Vows We Made*

In our membership covenant, whether the candidate is transferring from another church, reaffirming his faith, or professing his faith by baptism, 2 questions are asked:

*1. Do you covenant to participate faithfully in this church's worship and service, by your regular attendance, prayer, service, and offerings, to the best of your ability?*

*2. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, even if you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life; and do you promise to keep its purity and peace?*

This is expected of every communicant member. And while our non-communicant members have not taken these vows, their parents have vowed to raise them in that faith at their baptism when they vowed:

*Do you promise to instruct your child in the principles of our faith as revealed in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and do you promise to pray with and for your child, to set an example of godliness before him, and to endeavour by all the means of God's appointment to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?*

Is a vow to the Lord important? Yes, it is binding. So what are the things that church members and their children need to do?

### *1. Make Worship Your Top Priority*

The fourth commandment tells us to keep the Sabbath Day holy. The Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day.

In keeping with our vows and our duty as creatures towards God's commandments, we are to attend church faithfully (Heb 10:24-25) to worship and partake of the Lord's Supper. Why would we miss it?

If this is a duty of members, how much more is it the duty of officers of the church?

Do we love Jesus? Then why do we wilfully miss worship? Could it be we don't love him as we should?

Regular attendance is necessary, because without attendance, we can't fulfil the other duties.

### *2. Encourage One Another*

We have a mission to build each other up. When people are received into membership, we also make a vow:

*As these who stand before you have been received into communion in the church, the members are obligated to receive them, for in Christ we are members of one another. Christ claims them as his own and calls you to serve them in love. Therefore, you ought to covenant before God to assist them in their Christian growth by godly example, prayer, encouragement, and admonition in the faith and in the fellowship of believers. Do you so covenant before God to receive them?*

If we are to do this, we have to be present and active. Far too often, we neglect this duty because we get upset with one another. *"Why should I minister to him when he doesn't accept what I say or do?"*

Welcome to the church, where ministering to each another is hard!

Perhaps we all need to be reminded of Ephesians 4:2-3 - *"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

### 3. Attend Other Meetings

2 Corinthians 1:11 says, *"Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf."*

Paul's work was helped by prayer. It was also helped by many giving to his work. They came together as a church to pray for him and help him.

We ought to come together to pray - and the prayer meeting is the means by which we can do that corporately.

The AGM is the place where we as a church affirm the budget - to determine how to give to the work of the ministry.

But unless we pray and seek God's will for the work of the ministry and the needs of the ministry, how do we know what the Lord is calling us to do?

Don't just determine to have a say in church, you must also pray.

### 4. Serve God as a Servant

The church grows when we do our part (Ephesians 4:15-16). The ministries of the church need people.

If you are grateful for the bread, give of your time to collect it. If you want your children to attend the Vacation Bible School, give of your time to serve there.

If you want the men of the church to grow and mature, be at the men's group. If you want your children to grow in grace and knowledge, send them to Sunday School and teach there. There are many places you can serve. Don't only be served.

Be available to serve and support your deacons, elders, and pastor in their stewardship. Don't make them beg. It is not their church, but yours too. And most of all, the church belongs to Christ, who is your king.

### Conclusion

To love Christ is to love his church.

There are privileges and sacred duties of being a member. You have made a vow to God; it is a fearful thing not to keep it, but a blessing if you do.

See you at church, at the prayer meeting, and at the AGM.

~ Pastor



## Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 170. How do they that worthily communicate in the Lord's Supper feed upon the body and blood of Christ therein?

A. As the body and blood of Christ are not corporally or carnally present in, with, or under the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, and yet are spiritually present to the faith of the receiver, no less truly and really than the elements themselves are to their outward senses; so they that worthily communicate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, do therein feed upon the body and blood of Christ, not after a corporal and carnal, but in a spiritual manner; yet truly and really, while by faith they receive and apply unto themselves Christ crucified, and all the benefits of his death.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (24.9.17)	Next Week (1.10.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Evelyn Lee
Welcomers	Josephine Austin & Wendy Gong	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Ken Chong*, David Pang* Lye Heng Chua, Ken Hong	Lye Heng Chua*, Johnny Orchard* David Lim, David Pang
Ushers	Joyce Ng, Jesslyn Leow	Eva Ng, Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Adeline Ng*, Merilyn Woo Julian Poon	Helen Wong*, Grace Wang Jenni Budiman
PA Duty	Joel Chua	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>29 September 2017</i>	<i>6 October 2017</i>
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. 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: "Controversy and Gospel" (Acts 15:1-12).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "We Live In Better Times" (Hebrews 7:11-28). Speaker: Jacob Woo.
5. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 26 September 2017, 10am. Message by Pastor: "Continuing Well - Are You Growing in Godliness?"
6. **Notice of the 8th Annual General Meeting.** Date: Sunday, 8 October 2017. Time: 11:30 pm sharp. Venue: 47 Davis Road, Attadale, WA 6156. Please collect your AGM papers from Jacob Woo.
7. Worshiper's update form - please fill and place form in the blue box at the foyer if you have not done so.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
TUE 10:00 am Retirees' Bible Study	General Fund - \$3,738.85 (*DD - \$450.00, #746 - \$6.10, #747 - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$680.00 (*DD - \$500.00). Building Fund - \$1,300.00 (*DD - \$1,300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,718.85. Attendance - 155. *DD: direct deposit
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:00 pm YPG	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund	\$89,507.45
Last Week's Collection	\$1,300.00
Total	\$90,807.45
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$396,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$305,192.55</i>
	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.

## They Returned Back to Danger

Acts 14:21-28

Why would a mother or father rush back into a burning house to save their child? Because they love them. There is someone they want to help. Similarly, Paul and Barnabas constantly put themselves in harm's way to preach the gospel and returned back to danger because they loved the souls of people and the well-being of new believers.

### 1. They Willingly Returned to Intense Illegal Retaliation

- a. The long way home
- b. Places of retaliation
- c. Places of intensity
- d. Places without protection

### 2. They Returned to Help Others in Tribulation

- a. They strengthened them
- b. They taught them
- c. They encouraged perseverance
- d. They established elders

### 3. They Returned to Be Accountable

- a. They returned to their sending church
- b. They gave an account

Many sorrows accompany the life of the godly. This is the way to heaven. But is this something we are actively avoiding and taking a different path? If Jesus endured it, why should we not?

### Questions for Reflection:

1. How are you growing in the things that would bring tribulation? Are you growing in self-denial? Are you growing in godliness?
2. How accountable are you to the Word that is preached and to your elders in walking the straight and narrow road to heaven? Does it matter to you that you should be different from the world?