



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 12 March 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	46 - <i>O Worship the King</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Revelation 5:1-14
Hymn	TP 37:10-19
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 6:8-15
Hymn	210 - <i>Spirit of the Living God</i>
Membership Covenant	
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Putting His Life on the Line"
*Closing Hymn	538 - <i>Give of Your Best</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

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

How Do I Grow Spiritually?

In the past few weeks, I've had many questions about spiritual growth and holiness. How can I grow? How can I be holy?

These are important questions. But there is no mystery to it. Since God commands spiritual growth, he tells us in the Word how to achieve it.

We Must Grow Spiritually

It is God's will that Christians grow in Christ (Col 2:6-7). But what specifically are we to grow in?

We are to grow in grace and knowledge. 1 Pet 3:18 says "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Spiritual Growth Is Growth in Holiness

To grow in grace means to mature as a Christian - the evidence is holiness.

Tit 2:11-12 - "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

God's will is for the grace-filled Christian to grow in holiness. 1 Thess 4:3 says, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification."

Why does God want us to be holy? Aren't we already saved? Can't we live however we want to?

No! Because God has saved us, he commands us to be holy. 1 Pet 1:15 says, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation."

Shall we continue to sin? Paul says - "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Rom 6:1-2).

We must grow in holiness. But to do that, we must grow in knowledge.

Spiritual Growth Is Growth in Experiential Knowledge

1 Pet 3:18 also tells us to grow in the knowledge of Christ. How do you do that?

Obviously, we must read the Bible to know more about Jesus. But more than mere information, this knowledge must impact our affections.

Col 3:1-2 says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Saved people will desire spiritual things - things that please Christ. If we are dedicated to Christ, we will grow. Therefore we must know what pleases Christ and what displeases him.

Know What Pleases and Displeases Jesus

Eph 5:8,10-11 says, "...walk as children of light...proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Christians must live as Christians. And to do that, we must know what is acceptable to Jesus. At the same time, we must reject what is sinful - what displeases him.

But how do we know what pleases and displeases Jesus? We look into his Word. Col 3:16 commands - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another..."

What does the word of Christ reveal about what pleases and displeases him? "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Paul himself said in Rom 13:8-10 - "Owe no man any thing, but to love

one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

To love Christ is to keep his commandments. That pleases him.

How to Grow in Holiness

To keep Christ's commands, to grow in holiness, there are practical things we must do.

Firstly, we must walk in the Spirit (Rom 8:1,5,9). We must let the Spirit have full control over our lives.

And if we are doing that, we will not give control of our bodies and minds to our sinful nature.

Rom 6:13 tells us - *"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."*

Secondly, we will put in effort to change our lives. Eph 4:25-32 gives practical instructions:

We are not to lie, but speak the truth. When we are angry, we are not to stay angry and give opportunity to the devil. We are not to steal, but to work hard. We are not to speak corruptly, but speak edifyingly. We are not to harbour bitterness, but to forgive.

We don't change overnight. Years of sinful habits will require much effort to change - to acquire new holy habits.

This is why we are to exercise ourselves unto godliness (1 Tim 4:7). And little gains all add up.

Thirdly, when we do fail, we ask for forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Confession and repentance are disciplines that the Christian continues in. 2 Cor 7:9-10 speaks about how godly sorrow brings about repentance in Christians. And that repentance is good because it is God's will.

Jesus himself called upon the churches of Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, and Laodicea to repent (Rev 2-3).

Conclusion

There is no short cut to spiritual growth and holiness. When we know the Word of Christ, when we love him, and when we strive to please him, we will grow in grace. And the longer we live, the more we grow and holier we become if we do these things. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 131. What are the duties of equals?

A. The duties of equals are, to regard the dignity and worth of each other, in giving honor to go one before another; and to rejoice in each other's gifts and advancement as their own.

Q. 132. What are the sins of equals?

A. The sins of equals are, besides the neglect of the duties required, the undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts, grieving at the advancement or prosperity one of another; and usurping preeminence one over another.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (12.3.17)</i>	<i>Next Week (19.3.17)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Jacob Woo*, Micah Chiang* Jansen Ng, Rex Sriharan	Paul Butler*, Ken Hong* Ken Chong, Terence Lee
Ushers	Jemima Ng, Merilyn Woo	Joyce Ng, Eva Ng
Kitchen Duties	Grace Wang*, Nancy Lim Val Withnell	Lydia Orchard*, Eva Ng Carmel Sriharan
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>17 March 2017</i>	<i>24 March 2017</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Eugene Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "The God of Glory" (Acts 7:1-8).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "A Merciful God Forgives When Sinful Man Repents" (Jonah 3:9-10). Speaker: Johnson Lim.
4. Presentation by Creation Ministries International on 17 March 2017, Friday at 7.30pm. Dr Mark Harwood will speak on "The Heavens Declare - Astronomy and the Bible".
5. Men's & Ladies' Seminar. 22 April 2017, Saturday, 4.30pm. Speakers: Dr Bob Jones and Mrs Beneth Jones.
6. Combined Church Youth Camp. Dates: 14-15 July 2017. Theme: "Living as a Christian in a Non-Christian World". Speaker: Pastor Ron Nugent. Cost: \$55. Age range: High schoolers to working adults. Registration closes 4 June 2017. Please register with Eugene Lim, Jerome Ng or Micah Chiang.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	<i>General Fund - \$3,723.35.</i>
FRI 7:30 pm CMI Presentation	<i>Missions Fund - \$205.00 (#677 -</i>
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	<i>\$5.00). Building Fund - \$100.00 (#518 -</i>
4:30 pm YPG	<i>\$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering -</i>
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	<i>\$4,028.35. Attendance - 159.</i>
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$82,533.93
Last Week's Collection	\$100.00
Total	\$82,633.93
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$416,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$333,366.07</i>
Building Fund Account:	
Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church	
(Westpac Bank, Applecross)	
BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969	
SWIFT: WPACAU2S	

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.

Putting His Life on the Line

Acts 6:8-15

In the world, might is right. But in the kingdom of God, right is might. Jesus is described as the Lion of Judah - but the Lion of Judah is a slain lamb (Rev 5) who alone could open the book of human destiny. When Jesus died for the church, the church grew. When the apostles risked their lives, the church grew.

1. The Ministry of a Faithful Man
 - a. A man of faith
 - b. Ministry at the synagogue
 - c. Ministry of the Word
2. The Evil Plots of Self-Righteous Men
 - a. 3-fold conspiracy
 - b. The charge against him
 - c. Anger when self-righteousness is torn down
3. The Peace and Confidence of a Faithful Man
 - a. He knew his destiny
 - b. He knew his Lord

Stephen was willing to put his life on the line because he saw something far better. We can put our life on the line because Christ is far better than the world. That is why we can die to self. We can forgive instead of fight, surrender instead of seethe, and be content instead of complain - because Christ and his kingdom are far better than the world.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Is Christ's righteousness better than self-righteousness? What evidence of this truth is evident in your life?
2. Read Numbers 6:24-26 and Isaiah 60:1-3. What connection do you think there is between the shining of God's face on his people and his people reflecting his glory? Can this glory be reflected by a show of strength? Why or why not?