



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 8 July 2018

Theme for the Year: "King Jesus Must Reign" (1 Corinthians 15:25)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	3 - <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 127, 128
Hymn	TP 128
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Hymn	501 - <i>God Leads Us Along</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"The Dreadful Cycle of Life"
*Closing Hymn	556 - <i>Only One Life</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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Thanking God in All Circumstances

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul says, *"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

The will of God concerning the Christian, given here, is 3 fold - rejoice, pray, and give thanks.

The order is important. When the Christian can rejoice always, and when he can pray to God, then thanksgiving is natural to him.

Spurgeon said, *"When joy and prayer are married their first born child is gratitude."*

Are we thankful? One way to measure our thankfulness, or lack of it, is by how often we grieve.

But we aren't alone. God's people were delivered from Egypt by great miracles; but shortly after that, they murmured.

When Jesus healed the 10 lepers, only one of them returned to thank him.

Thanksgiving must be cultivated.

When Do We Give Thanks?

"In everything give thanks." This means that in all, every, and whatever circumstances, we are to give thanks.

The circumstances do not matter.

It's clear that the verse does not say - "for everything give thanks." We cannot give thanks for sin. But we can give thanks in every situation.

We see 3 biblical examples.

Job gave thanks when tragedy struck. He was blessed with children - but in one day, all 10 of them died. They were killed when his house collapsed on them. He also lost his possessions.

While he did not give thanks for those things, yet in that very sad and bitter situation, he gave thanks to God.

He said, *"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."*

When Jonah ran from God and went overboard, he was swallowed by a fish. Yet in the fish, he repented. And he gave thanks by praying - *"But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."*

At the Last Supper, Christ took the bread, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples. He also took the cup, he gave thanks, and distributed the wine to his disciples.

And this was just before he was betrayed!

But if we are to give thanks in all circumstances, for what should we give thanks?

For What Do We Give Thanks?

There are many things for which we can give thanks.

We can give thanks for our new life in Christ. Ephesians 1:6 reminds us that because of Jesus, we have been accepted. No matter what, we never lose our salvation.

We can also give thanks for God's grace in our lives - when we go through trials, we know that he gives sufficient grace (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Because Jesus saves us, he has given us an inheritance. At the time of our death, we will receive it in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-5). We can give thanks for God's gift of new life.

But there are things for which we cannot give thanks. We cannot give thanks for our sins nor the evil satisfaction we receive when we sin. We cannot give thanks for Satan.

This is foreign to God's will.

We can't say these things without clarification. Surely, we can thank God that because we had sinned, we learned grief which led us to our Jesus.

Similarly, we can give thanks that because we have a deeper understanding of who Satan is, we love Jesus more.

This is why we can give thanks for those things that are seemingly negative.

Why Do We Give Thanks?

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, *"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

We give thanks because God commands it. It is the will of God that we give thanks. We are naturally weak. We would not give thanks for difficult situations. This is why God commands us to give thanks.

If God didn't command us to give thanks, we won't. Giving thanks in all situations requires us to see things from God's perspective.

Because it is a command, we are to be persistent in keeping it. We are to obey continuously.

When we feel like giving up, and giving in to our despair, and not giving thanks, we are to give thanks.

When we are tempted to say that God is not present in our troubles, we are to

resist our sinful thoughts and give thanks for God who is a very present help in trouble.

We also give thanks because it is a blessing to give thanks. It is God's will concerning us.

God cares so much for weak, sinful, and thankless creatures, that he even has a will for us.

It is a blessing to give thanks to God. If we were not special to him, why would he care to tell us his will for us?

And because it is God's will for us, he will help us to give thanks.

Our thanksgiving is not forced – but it is helped. Philippians 2:13 tells us – *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."*

Conclusion

God commands us to give thanks in every circumstance.

The more we understand God's love for us, his care over us, and the smallness of our problems from the perspective of God, then our thanksgiving will flow from our hearts.

Thanksgiving is a safeguard from despair, indifference, and ingratitude.

Whenever we are in any circumstance - tragedy or joy - we can give thanks.

Why? For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 29 How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

Q. 30 How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (8.7.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (15.7.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Jabez Huang
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler*, Rex Sriharan* Julian Poon, Jansen Ng	Jacob Woo*, David Lim* Steven Lim, Chris Budiman
Ushers	Jemima Ng, Jesslyn Leow	Josephine Austin, Rebecca Lee
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Lisa Lim Ken Hong	Mary-Anne Chan*, Victor Poon Rosemary Fitzpatrick
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>13 July 2018</i>	<i>20 July 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Ian Tay

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: "Our Works Turn to Dust" (Ecclesiastes 3:16-22).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Obey God Rather Than Man" (Acts 5:17-33). Speaker: Vincent Chiu.
4. Men's Bible Study. Saturday, 14 July 2018. 7:30 pm. We are commencing the study of the book "20 Controversies that Almost Destroyed a Church: Lessons in 1 & 2 Corinthians." Please contact Vincent Chiu for details.
5. Visitation this week by Pastor Mark Chen and Deacon Vincent Chiu.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$3,839.40 (*DD - \$700.00). Missions Fund - \$270.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$700.00 (*DD - \$400.00, #594 - \$200.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,809.40. Attendance - 146. <i>*DD: direct deposit</i>
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
 Deacons: **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.