



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 16 September 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	67 - <i>Come Christians, Join to Sing</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Luke 18:9-27
Hymn	318 - <i>Though Your Sins Be as Scarlet</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 7:15-29
Hymn	TP 119:65-72
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"C'est La Vie"
*Closing Hymn	600 - <i>We Rest on Thee</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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## Letting Go of Pain

by Ed Welch, adapted

It sounds strange - let go of pain. Who would want to hold on to it? But we are complicated people.

Sometimes pain grabs us and it won't let go; sometimes it grabs us and we grab it right back. And we have the following bad reasons for doing so.

### *Reasons We Hang On to Pain*

#### 1. "I am looking for a witness."

When a child gets hurt, he or she seeks out a sympathetic adult, preferably Mom.

Once Mom is in view, the child, tearless up to that point, suddenly breaks out into sobs and wails. The child is holding on to pain until the right person witnesses it.

Pain is best shared. We want a sympathetic witness, and when we find one, all is well. Yes, the child within seems to be alive and well again.

The problems come when we feel that we must have a sympathetic witness, and without such a person our pain is meaningless, and we become committed to holding on to the pain until we find that right person.

2. "Particular people must witness my pain, and they must do it in a way I prescribe, though I am not going to spell out exactly what that is. If they can't figure it out, then they can keep at it until they get it right."

This is a more extreme version of the above reason, and it can be dangerous.

Many witnesses have been accused of not being sympathetic enough or not giving the "right" counsel. While we desire sympathy in times of hurt, this desire has run amok. It is idolatry.

The witness may respond perfectly, but the day will come when the witness will fail.

The original pain persists; overlaid is the pain of not being heard. And, like being invested in a losing stock, we hold on to the pain and hope that it will eventually pay off.

#### 3. "I want someone to remember."

This is a slight variation on the witness theme. When the pain comes from an accident, a witness is usually enough, but if it comes from an injustice, then we want a witness who will remember.

Many who experienced the Holocaust held on to the pain until they could pass it on to suitable custodians of the memory.

Trials for war criminals helped, so did a holocaust museum where the pain is shared by everyone who walks through the exhibits. Now, more people remember.

People who are filled with pain may also keep reminding themselves of their pain.

Here is where you might find pain that is laced with anger. If so, beware.

Anger is tenacious. It doesn't let go of us and we don't let go of it unless it is satisfied. And if the price of holding on to anger means that we

hold on to the accompanying pain, then so be it.

#### 4. "Pain is my identity."

There is a human tendency to want to both fit in and stand out. And sometimes pain allows us to do that. Pain becomes an identity.

A person who has lived a long time with pain and has witnesses to that pain, may not know how to continue living without the pain.

#### *The Process of Letting Go of Pain*

The above are just samples of why we hold on to pain. They do not necessarily mean that we intentionally hold on to it.

But many people who have traveled this path will tell you that, as they look back on their relationship with pain, they clung to it more than they realized.

As a result, they prolonged misery and delayed spiritual fruitfulness.

If this sounds familiar, please be hopeful.

Typically in the face of pain we believe that all we can do is passively wait. But if we are holding on to pain in any way, we can jettison some of it.

The process of letting go has already begun. You are identifying a subterranean current in the human heart and bringing to the surface. That is the hard part. The rest is easy, or at least easier.

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." (Isaiah 30:15)

We consider the life of Jesus, who was humanness at its best, though the people he loved never understood him.

We learn how to speak from our hearts to the One who hears. We rest in the Lord, who is the best of witnesses.

We entrust ourselves to him, who assures us that he remembers and is bringing justice.

We repent of the anger that says, "if God won't do anything, then I will take matters into my own hands."

Easy - because Jesus is our loving and reigning Lord.

*Ed Welch is a counselor and faculty member at the Christian Counseling and Education Foundation.*

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### **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Q. 39. What is the duty which God requireth of man?

A. The duty which God requireth of man is obedience to his revealed will.

Q. 40. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law.

# Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (16.9.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (23.9.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Elizabeth Huang	Merilyn Woo
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Chris Budiman*, Jansen Ng* Paul Butler, Yen Fye Yap	Eugene Lim*, John Tan* Rex Sriharan, Kim Leow
Ushers	Josephine Austin, Joyce Ng	Dolphin Wai, Wendy Gong
Kitchen Duties	Nancy Lim*, Lisa Lim Rosemary Fitzpatrick	Lydia Orchard*, Debbie Blake Victor Poon
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>21 September 2018</i>	<i>28 September 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Nancy 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: "No One Can Understand Life" (Ecclesiastes 8:1-17).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Simony" (Acts 8:5-24). Speaker: Tee Xuan.
4. Ministry reports for ACM 2018. Please submit by 1 October 2018 - email Jacob Woo (jacob.woo@gmail.com).
5. Ladies Fellowship. Sunday, 30th September 2018, 12 pm at church. Lunch and DVD "How People Change". Bring a dish to share. Ladies of all ages welcome. Please see Merilyn for more details.
6. Spring Camp 2018 (12-17 year olds), Presbyterian Youth of WA. 2-4 October 2018 at Dwellingup. Cost: \$130. Speaker: Mr Joel Otteen. Register: [tinyurl.com/wa-spring-camp](http://tinyurl.com/wa-spring-camp)
7. Retirees' Group. Visit to Olive Farm in Toodyay on Tuesday, 25th September 2018. Bus will leave church at 9am sharp.

<b>Appointments for the Week</b>	<b>Last Lord's Day Tithes &amp; Offering, &amp; Attendance</b>
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$2,611.80 (*DD - \$200.00, #818 - \$11.20).
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	Missions Fund - \$230.00 (*DD - 100.00).
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	Building Fund - \$500.00 (*DD - \$400.00, #613 - \$100.00).
10:00 am Worship Service	Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,341.80. Attendance - 129.
	<i>*DD: direct deposit</i>

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.

C'est La Vie  
Ecclesiastes 7:15-29

We all wonder what it takes to get ahead in life. We all wonder what is the secret to long life. We think that if we are kind, do good, and don't do evil, we will succeed. But life is not always like that. In fact, the evil very often do prosper more than the righteous. But that's life - c'est la vie! And because of that, many give up on righteousness and they pursue the darkest ways of getting ahead.

1. The Retribution Principle Doesn't Work
  - a. Karma
  - b. Worldly wisdom
2. Don't Be Presumptuous in Your Wisdom
  - a. The value of wisdom
  - b. The limits of your wisdom
3. Don't Be Rash in Folly
  - a. The danger of sin
  - b. There is none righteous
4. The One Man Principle
  - a. Enoch
  - b. Christ

Enoch was righteous and he was translated to glory. Christ was righteous and he died by the hands of the very ones he came to save. In life, there is no secret to get ahead or to long life. There is however, the open secret to eternal life - and that is only found in Christ, who is both wisdom and righteousness.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How desirous of you to get ahead in life? Has your desire caused you to resort to ungodly means and worldly wisdom?
2. Why do people generally think that success is a measure of God's blessing in a person's life? What are some reasons that success may not be a mark of God's blessings?
3. How much do true righteousness and wisdom mean to you and how much do you value them?