



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 24 February 2019

Theme for the Year: "Strength in Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	24 - <i>God of Earth, God of Sky</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Peter 2:21-25
Hymn	462 - <i>Be Thou My Vision</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Hymn	526 - <i>I Need Thee Every Hour</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Comforting Your Frenemies"
*Closing Hymn	510 - <i>He Giveth More Grace</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 Should We View Interfaith Cooperation and Ecumenism?

Interfaith Document Signed

On 4 February 2019, Pope Francis of the Roman Catholic Church and leading Sunni Imam Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb signed a historic interfaith covenant.

They arrived at the signing ceremony hand in hand to symbolize their interfaith brotherhood. There were many people witnessing this event.

In attendance were leading figures in other religions. According to *The Guardian*, it was signed "in front of a global audience of religious leaders from Christianity, Islam, Judaism and other faiths."

This included the World Council of Churches General Secretary, Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, who was in attendance. He encouraged religious leaders and institutions to help bring about world peace.

The thrust of the document centered on the need of world religions to work towards peace. Here are some excerpts:

"If we believers are not able to shake hands, embrace one another, kiss one another, and even pray, our faith will be defeated...We, who believe in God and in the final meeting with Him and His judgment, on the basis of our religious and moral responsibility, and through this Document, call upon ourselves, upon the leaders of the world as well as the architects of international policy and world economy, to work strenuously to spread the culture of tolerance and of living together in peace..."

The Pope explained that the document was "born of faith in God who is the Father of all and the Father of peace; it condemns all destruction, all terrorism,

from the first terrorism in history, that of Cain."

This sounds good and all - with a noble cause to end world strife. But there are disturbing things about the document and the intention.

Problems with the Document

Firstly, the document assumes that the god of the Muslims is the same as the god of the Catholics. The Catholics believe they worship the God of the Bible - who is Triune.

However, the Muslims do not worship the Triune God of the Bible. They reject this most strenuously. They worship their god Allah.

While the word "Allah" means god and has been used by Arabic speaking Christians to refer to the God of the Bible, the Muslim Allah is not the Christian Allah/God.

Secondly, the document assumes the unity of the brotherhood of Muslims and Christians. The Pope explained that God is the Father of all.

But according to the Bible, God is not the Father of all. Jesus told the Pharisees that they were of the devil - their father. God becomes Father only when we believe in Christ.

Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6 speak of how we must be adopted to call God "Father."

Thirdly, the document speaks of the need "to shake hands, embrace one another, kiss one another, and even pray."

While we ought to be able to extend neighborly friendship - if that is what is meant - to shake hands, and embrace, and to kiss; yet, there is great confusion when the document suggests prayer.

Prayer necessitates spiritual kinship and agreement. Indeed, how can a Muslim and a Christian agree, when they do not agree on the divinity of Christ?

In Matthew 18:20, Christ said, "*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*"

How can Muslims and Christians pray when Muslims do not come in the name of Jesus?

Principle of Separation

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 says, "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*"

Those who signed and those who attended do not understand this principle.

In fact, the World Council of Churches (WCC) is a worldwide inter-church organization founded in 1948. Its goal

is to bring together churches to fulfill the calling of God.

While this sounds noble, the WCC brings together in agreement those who profess the true gospel and those who do not. Within the group are many mainline Protestant churches; but also in this group are the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches who do not profess the true gospel.

Galatians 1:8 says, "*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*"

Romans 16:17 says, "*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*"

Conclusion

The Bible speaks about the Biblical unity between true believers who proclaim the true gospel. That is something to be fostered. But the false interfaith movement and unbiblical ecumenism is something that the true church of Christ must oppose.

Next week, I will write about the Charismatic glue that has facilitated the bond between true and false believers.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (24.2.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (3.3.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Merilyn Woo
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Steven Lim, Vincent Chiu Yen Fye Yap, David Pang	Chris Budiman, Micah Chiang David Lim, Ken Chong
Ushers	Jesslyn Leow, Angela Yap	Jerome Ng, Putri Harapan
Kitchen Duties	Grace Wang*, Val Withnell Jenni Budiman	Peggy Woo*, Josephine Austin Dina Portillo, Putri Harapan
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>1 March 2019</i>	<i>8 March 2019</i>
Chairman	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Ian Tay	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: "A Perfume to God" (2 Corinthians 2:1-17).
4. Junior Worship is in recess from next week as the Session reviews the ministry.
5. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 26 February 2019, 10am. Message by Pastor Mark: "Sola Scriptura." Potluck lunch after meeting.
6. Bible Conference 2019. Dates: 22-25 April 2019. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Theme: Strength in Weakness. Speaker: Pastor Steven Tan. Registration forms available at foyer. Payment by cash, cheque or direct deposit to CBPC General Fund: BSB: 036-031, Acct: 316942, Ref: BC(Surname)(Initial). Any enquiries, please contact Micah Chiang or Vincent Chiu.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
TUE 10:00 am Retirees Bible Study	General Fund - \$2,790.99 (*DD - \$222.04, #849 - \$500.00). Missions Fund - \$240.00. (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$1,500.00 (*DD - \$1,300.00, #642 - \$200.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,530.99. Attendance - 117. *DD: direct deposit
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	
FRI 7:45 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. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.