



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 15 September 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	72 – <i>Glory Be to God the Father</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Galatians 5:16-26
Hymn	453 – <i>Close To Thee</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 12:11-21
Hymn	<i>Psalm 23b</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Paul's fears for the Church"
*Closing Hymn	347 – <i>Not What These Hands Have Done</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

What Is the Free Offer of the Gospel?

Christ has instructed his disciples to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). The preaching of the Gospel contains a command from God for the hearer to believe. Acts 17:30 – “God commandeth all men everywhere to repent.” Men are commanded to look to Christ for salvation (Isaiah 45:22).

But along with the command to believe, there is also an offer of mercy and salvation that God makes to sinners. This offer expresses his kindness to them. This is the Free Offer of the Gospel.

The Free Offer of the Gospel in the Westminster Standards

The Confession states, “Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein He freely offers unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in Him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life His Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.” (WCF VII:3)

This offer of grace and salvation is not only unto the elect, but to all sinners. The Larger Catechism states that “All the elect, and they only, are effectually called: although others may be, and often are, outwardly called by the ministry of the Word, and have some common operations of the Spirit; who, for their wilful neglect and contempt of the grace offered to them, being justly left in their unbelief, do never truly come to Jesus Christ.” (WLC 68)

As such, in the preaching of the Gospel to every creature, this offer of grace and salvation must be made.

It is stated in the *Sum of Saving Knowledge* that there are four reasons to

believe which must be given in the preaching of the Gospel. The first two reasons, in particular, support the Free Offer.

The first reason to believe is that God heartily invites all who thirst to come to Christ. This is done “by proclamation of a free and gracious market of righteousness and salvation, to be had through Christ to every soul, without exception, that truly desires to be saved from sin and wrath: ‘Ho, every one that thirsteth.’”

The second reason to believe is that God earnestly requests sinners to be reconciled to him in Christ because he delights in their salvation.

One sees in the Standards that in the preaching of the Gospel, there is not only the command to repent and believe in Christ, but also the Free Offer, where sinners are invited to trust in Jesus because God freely offers them this grace and earnestly desires the salvation of sinners.

The Basis of the Free Offer

Firstly, the Gospel can be freely offered because God is benevolent to the wicked.

While the Bible states that God loves all kinds of people in the world (John 3:16) and has redeemed his people “out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Revelation 5:9), the Bible also teaches that “The Lord is good to all” (Psalm 145:9). God is “kind unto the unthankful and to the evil” (Luke 6:35). He restrains sin and bestows material blessings and abilities on them. He is also longsuffering toward them, staying their judgment and giving them the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

As such, the Free Offer is a further extension of that benevolence. Since all they have, they owe to God’s goodness, it is right, therefore, to make known this goodness of God.

Secondly, the Gospel can be freely offered because God desires the salvation of sinners.

God does not delight in the death of the wicked. "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked should turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel" (Ezekiel 33:11). Because of this desire of God, there is an overture of mercy and an earnest plea from God that the wicked repent.

This godly compassion for the wicked is also evident in the Christian (Romans 9:1-3; 10:1). The Holy Spirit would not create such compassion in the people of God if it were contrary to God's purposes, since "we are ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Objections Answered

In order for the Free Offer to be sincere and well-meant, some have said that Christ must be presented as having died effectually for all and secondly, that God desires the salvation the reprobate.

Firstly, the atonement of Christ does not need to be presented as being universally made in order for the offer to be sincere. William GT Shedd states – "God may call on

all men to repent and believe, and promise salvation to all that do so, and yet not incline all men to accept it. No one will say that a man is insincere in offering a gift, if he does not along with it produce the disposition to accept it."

We present that Christ is dead for sinners! That anyone who comes to him by faith will be saved.

Secondly, to say that God desires the salvation of the reprobate would be inconsistent with the decree of election and reprobation.

What the Bible says is simple - God desires that sinners believe and repent. He calls on them to obey his call to faith. In all of these calls, God does not single out the reprobate. What God delights in is the repentance of sinners as sinners. "Sinners without distinction or discrimination are invited in the external call of the Word."

Conclusion

Does God desire the salvation of sinners? Yes. And he makes it abundantly clear by calling people to faith and telling them that he wants to save them. God is good and long-suffering to sinners. Why? Because he has no desire that they should perish. And we should make that known to all. ~ *Pastor*



Catechism for Younger Children

25. In the covenant of life, what did God require Adam to do? To obey God perfectly.

26. What did God promise in the covenant of life? To reward Adam with life if he obeyed God perfectly.

27. What did God threaten in the covenant of life? To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed God.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (15.9.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (22.9.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Jairus Wong	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Chris Budiman, David Pang Johnny Orchard, Sharon Sriharan	Kim Leow, Eugene Lim John Chandran, Yen Fye Yap
Ushers	Jerome Ng & Putri Harapan	Wendy Gong & Rebecca Lee
Kitchen Duties	Aliza Chiu, Debbie Blake Ida Lee	Hui Min Chen, Dina Portillo Adeline Ng
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ian Tay
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>20 Sep 2019</i>	<i>27 Sep 2019</i>
Chairman	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	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 Need to Be Holy and Saved" (2 Cor 13:1-10).
3. Ministry reports for ACM 2019. Please submit by 1 October 2019 - email Jacob Woo (jacob.woo[at]gmail.com).
4. Ladies Fellowship: Sunday 29th September at 12:30pm. Lunch and continuation of the DVD "How People Change". Please bring a dish to share. Ladies of all ages welcome! Please see Sis Wendy for more details.

Appointments for the Week

FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting

SUN 9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2,097.20 (ET- \$290.53)
 Mission Fund - \$200.00 (ET- \$100.00)
 Building Fund - \$1300.00 (ET- \$1,300.00)
 Total - \$3,597.20

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 110.