



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 8 December 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	103 – <i>What Child Is This?</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	John 8:1-11
Hymn	TP – 37:1-9
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Job 11:1-20
Hymn	560 – <i>Take My Life and Let It Be</i>
Installation of Deacon	
Reaffirmation of Faith and Covenant Baptism	
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Round 3: Fight"
*Closing Hymn	114 – <i>To Us a Child of Hope Is Born</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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Is God Unfair?

In last week's sermon, we saw how Bildad castigated Job for questioning God for his misfortunes. Bildad believed that Job's suffering was justified because God was a fair God. He would only punish the wicked. But is God fair in this way?

People Say that God Is Unfair

But others say God is unfair. Unlike Bildad, they see evidence that the innocent suffer. Furthermore, not everyone is given equal opportunity to be wealthy and healthy. There are 1.5 billion people living in absolute poverty - most of them children. 24,000 die a day from poverty-related issues.

God is also accused of being unfair because the wicked are not punished and the innocent suffer. If God is such a good God, why would he allow this?

A few years back, I heard of a freak accident that claimed the life of a man. He left behind a wife and four sons. Two sons have kidney problems, and one is still in primary school. He was the sole breadwinner of the family. They were living under the poverty line. Of all the families and people for this tragedy to befall, why did it have to be this one? People would say that God is unfair.

Our False Assumption and Wrong Expectation

Unfortunately, we measure God by our standard of unfairness.

We falsely assume that there are good and innocent people who do not deserve misfortunes.

We also wrongly expect that God is obligated to prevent misfortunes from happening. Since God is supposed to be good, he cannot allow misfortune to befall good people.

No One Is Good

If it is a false assumption that there are innocent people, what is the reality? The reality is that there is no one who is good - all are guilty. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

And it is God's holiness that makes him glorious. Isaiah 6:3 says, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." If man is not as holy as God, man sins. But man sins when he breaks his own rules. James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Everyone breaks his own rules.

And when we break one rule, we break all. James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

In other words, no one deserves a break in this world. There's no one good.

God Is Angry

God's attitude towards sinners is anger. Psalm 5:4-5 says, "For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."

His anger results in him justly punishing sinners. Psalm 11:6 says, "Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup."

Yes, all of us deserve judgment. Ezekiel 18:20 says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

It is wrong to expect God to be obligated to prevent misfortunes. Rather, we should expect the opposite.

If God Were Fair

If God were fair, we would not be here to debate it. We would've been annihilated long ago. The meaning of "fair" is "to be free from bias." If God were fair, he would have to give us what we deserve.

The Unfairness of God

But we thank God that he is unfair - not in the way we understand it. God is unfair because he is slow to punish and he even withholds the punishment that we deserve. And if God does not show that mercy, he is being fair. But every second we live is an act of mercy.

But God shows further unfairness by offering us a way to escape eternal punishment.

God commands us to repent of our sins and believe in Christ, and he will not punish us. Romans 10:9 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

In sending Jesus to die for our sins, God also showed his unfairness. Jesus was innocent of any wrong, but God delivered him up to the cross to be our substitute. 1 Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh..."

God pours out his wrath upon an innocent person, so that we, the guilty, will experience the mercy of God. God is unfair.

Our Response to God's Unfairness

Dear Reader, what is your response to God's unfairness? He is angry with you because you have sinned against him. He is not obliged to save you. Yet, he offers mercy.

Will you obey his commandment to repent and believe in Christ for salvation? If you do not, you will one day face the fairness of God, and receive the wrath you deserve. But if you do, you will receive the unfairness of God, and receive the fullness of his mercy. ~ Pastor



The Parable of the Carpenter's Tools

The carpenter's tools were having a conference. Brother Hammer presided but the others informed him he had to leave because he was too noisy. "All right," he said, "I'll go, but Brother Plane must withdraw too. There is no depth to his work. It's always on the surface."

Brother Plane responded, "Well Brother Ruler will have to go too. He's constantly measuring people as if he were the only one who's right."

Brother Ruler complained about Brother Sandpaper saying, "He's rougher than he ought to be and is always rubbing people up the wrong way."

In the midst of this discussion, the Carpenter of Nazareth walked in. He went to his workbench to make a pulpit from which to preach the gospel. He used the hammer, the plane, the ruler, and the sandpaper.

After the pulpit was finished, Brother Ruler arose and said, "I see now that all of us are laborers together with God. We criticize one another of things to be done our way, but forget that the carpenter needs many different tools to do his work. Let's learn and appreciate the varying gifts God has given to us. Then we may be able to work together in harmony to do the task God has given us to do."

~ *Contributed by Leo Monaco*

Catechism for Younger Children

51. For whom did Christ obey and suffer? For all whom God the Father gave to Christ.

52. What kind of life did Christ live on earth? A life of obedience, service and suffering.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (8.12.2019)</i>	<i>Next Week (15.12.2019)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Merilyn Woo
Welcomers	Yen Fye & Angela Yap	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	Yen Fye Yap, John Chandran Sharon Sriharan, Micah Chiang	David Pang, Kim Leow Jemima Ng, Johnny Orchard
Ushers	Wendy Gong & Jesslyn Leow	Nicole Tan & Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Grace Wang, Siew Kim Chandran	Florence Orchard, Debbie Blake Mary-Anne Chan
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Raymond Woo

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: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" (Job 19:25-27).
3. Children's Sunday School is in recess until late January 2020. Adult Bible Class is ongoing.
4. **Christmas Carols Evening:** 7:30 PM, Friday 20 December 2019 for an evening of Christmas Carols. Friends and family are welcome.
5. **Christmas Day Service & Fellowship Lunch:** 10 AM, Wednesday 25 December 2019 followed by lunch after the service - please bring a dish to share.

Appointments for the Week

SUN 9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2700.20

(#896 - \$500, ET - \$250.00)

Mission Fund - \$130.00

Building Fund - \$1500.00 (ET - \$1500.00)

Total Tithes & Offerings - \$4330.20

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 116.

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373.

Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149. **Chris Budiman** 0422 736 658.