



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 15 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	97 – <i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	James 1:1-27
Hymn	TP – 1:1-6
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Job 19:25-27
Hymn	542 – <i>My Faith Looks Up to Thee</i>
Covenant Baptism	
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"
*Closing Hymn	Insert – <i>He Will Hold Me Fast</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

Kimchi and the Christian Life

Why I Make Kimchi

Two weeks ago, I made a batch of kimchi. This is a Korean fermented cabbage that is salty, sour, and spicy. I have been making kimchi for a long time ever since I learned how to make it from a friend's mother.

It has been very beneficial for me to make and eat it, rather than buy it because it can be rather costly. As a fermented food - like sauerkraut - it is very good for digestive health. I have suffered from poor digestive health for a very long time. Kimchi has helped.

There are many fermented products out there that are beneficial for the health of the body. In recent times, they have been called probiotics.

The most common is yoghurt. It is a fermented dairy product. Certain good bacteria are added to milk to prevent it from spoiling through controlled fermentation. The product has a longer shelf life than normal milk and the fermentation in turn contributes to good gut health.

Like yoghurt and sauerkraut, kimchi and other probiotic products like kefir and kombucha have been consumed for hundreds of years and have kept people healthy.

I recently reflected on the kimchi making process and remarked in my mind how similar it is to the Christian life.

How to Make Kimchi

The cabbage is preserved through a process of salting, spicing, and fermentation. The cabbage is first salted to remove its liquid. Unless the liquid is removed, the product will spoil. The salt draws out the water and it also kills the harmful bacteria.

After the cabbage has wilted, it is then washed in water to remove the impurities. The cabbage is then drained and squeezed of its excess water.

Salt and other spices are then added to flavor and pickle the cabbage. It is then

stored in a sterile jar and allowed to ferment.

The fermentation occurs when the good microbes multiply. They alter the cabbage, changing the starches and sugars of the cabbage, and releasing lactic acid and carbon dioxide. At the end of the fermentation process, you have a batch of kimchi - delicious and teaming with good microbes that are good for the body.

There are times when the process is disturbed. Either the salting is insufficient and impurities are not removed, or undesirable microbes find their way in during the fermentation process. The end result can be very unpleasant. The batch of kimchi is ruined and spoiled.

Just as a bit of the good microbes will ferment and mature the kimchi, a bit of the bad microbes can destroy the entire batch.

Good kimchi will never spoil. In fact, the most prized kimchi can be prepared and fermented in the ground for a year. As the kimchi ripens, it has a deep flavor.

As I thought more about this, I realized how much the process of making kimchi reflected the process of the Christian life.

The Christian Life - Purification, Preservation, Perfection

The Christian is saved from his sins by Christ. Christ is our Passover lamb, but he is also the Passover fire that purges the old leaven of sin from us (1 Corinthians 5:7). Like salt, he draws sins from us and purifies us for his kingdom.

Malachi 3:3 says that God shall purify his people and purge them so that they may worship God in righteousness. He makes us fit.

He also keeps us fit. After he purifies us, he continues to wash us. Ephesians 5:26 tells us that the way he does this is by the washing of water by the Word. As the believer grows in the Word, he

becomes more useful and fit for Christ's kingdom.

But God doesn't only purify us, he preserves us. Like salt, Christ preserves us for his kingdom above. Jude 1 describes Christians as those who have been sanctified and purified by God and preserved in Jesus Christ.

Sometimes the Christian doesn't grow as he should. So God has to bring trials to our lives to squeeze us and to try us. Why? To make us holier. This is why, according to James 1:2-4, we are to be joyful despite our trials, knowing that the trying of our faith produces maturity.

So as the Word of God, as the Spirit of God, and as trials work in our lives to produce endurance, we will ripen into greater spirituality and maturity.

Christ said that the Kingdom of God was like leaven - another microbe. Matthew 13:33 - "Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."

If we let God have his work in us, we will ripen and mature. And when we mature, we will be a good influence - to purify the world around us and to preserve the goodness around us. Jesus said to his disciples that they were the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13). And salt is only good when it is salty.

At times, there is residual sin in us and takes a foothold. And unless we are diligent to resist these sins, they can overcome us. Christ warned the disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:6). They were

religious people who thought that as long as they kept their outward religious acts, they were clean before God.

Christians can be that way - we may come to church and serve in religious activities, but unless there is an inward nurturing of the soul and repentance, sin will always have a foothold in our lives.

2 Timothy 2:21 says that unless a person purge himself from his sins, he cannot be used by God for the kingdom's sake.

When we are well-salted, well-wrung, well-washed by Christ, the Word, and by trials; and if we continue with Christ in the maturation process, we will be useful and an influence in the world for Christ.

But if we allow sin into our lives, no matter how religious we appear on the outside, there will be a putrefaction of the soul that prevents us from growing. Rather, our leaven will spread and cause much destruction.

This is why Paul warns Christians in 1 Timothy 4:16 to pay careful attention to ourselves and beliefs, that we would continue in them, and this will lead to purity in us and those around us.
~ Pastor

Catechism for Younger Children

53. What kind of death did Jesus die? The painful and shameful death of the cross.

54. What is meant by the atonement? Christ satisfied God's justice by his suffering and death as a substitute for sinners.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (15.12.2019)</i>	<i>Next Week (22.12.2019)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Meryl Woo	Magdalene Tay
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	David Pang, Kim Leow Jemima Ng, Johnny Orchard	Steven Lim, Ken Hong
Ushers	Sandra Tan & Jerome Ng	Joyce Ng & Faith Chiu
Kitchen Duties	Florence Orchard, Debbie Blake Mary-Anne Chan	Lydia Orchard, Angela Yap
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	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: "Taking the Time to Think About Jesus" (1 Peter 1:8-25).
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

FRI	7:30 pm	Carols Evening
SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$1662.10
(ET - \$200.00)
Mission Fund - \$80.00
Building Fund - \$300.00 (ET - \$300.00)
Total Tithes & Offerings - \$2042.10

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 107.

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.