



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 29 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	67 – <i>Come Christians, Join To Sing</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 34:1-22
Hymn	HGG – Psalm 62
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Job 32:1-22
Hymn	313 – <i>In Times Like These</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"A Much Needed Voice in Controversy"
*Closing Hymn	494 – <i>All the Way My Savior Leads Me</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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Thinking on the Love of Christ

In Ephesians 3:17-19, Paul prayed that the Ephesian Christians would be "being rooted and grounded in love, [so they] may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height...of the love of Christ."

Paul was a pastor and a scholar. He was not a scholar in his ivory tower, but a theologian who would get on his knees. He prayed for the people to know the most important truth - that Christ loved them.

In this text, he spoke of how he prayed that the Ephesians would be strengthened in the inner man, and that they might know the love of Christ for them in a very experiential way.

He was afraid, as many Christian parents are, that his children only know Christ doctrinally - but not from the heart - with true faith and affection.

The words "rooted and grounded" are metaphors borrowed from farming and construction. He wanted them to be firmly established like oak trees which are hard to be uprooted; and grounded like tall buildings with firm foundations.

And what he wanted them to be established and grounded in was the love that God had for them. He wanted them to know the breadth, length, depth, and height of Christ's love.

Its Breadth

The breadth of Christ's love speaks about the extent of his love across time and space. Christ has loved his people from before the foundation of the world - before time began - until all eternity. This is why God has been bringing in his people into his kingdom ever since Adam fell until the last of God's elect is brought in.

God's love stretches throughout the world - not only to the Jews - but to all nations, tongues, and tribes.

Even before Israel was founded at Sinai, God through Christ had loved his people. Abel offered a sacrifice because he knew how much Christ loved him. Noah sacrificed at the altar because he knew how much God loved him to redeem him from the flood. Abraham saw Christ and rejoiced.

God even extended his love to Ruth, a Moabitess - a member of a cursed race; he loved the widow of Zarephath and her son; and he showed mercy to Naaman the Syrian.

He loved each of them and each of us before we were even born.

Its Length

The length of Christ's love is hard to comprehend if we only understand it in terms of physical measurement. In Hebrew, length is often used to speak about the length of time.

For example - 2 Samuel 3:1 - "...there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David..." Proverbs 8:23 - "I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was."

So when Paul spoke about the length of Christ's love, he was speaking about its eternity. And his love was shown by his action on the cross. Hebrews 13:20 speak of how the blood of Christ is the blood of the everlasting covenant. John spoke of how Christ was the the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

This means that Christ will never grow tired of loving us. Even if heaven and earth are to pass away, he will still love us because he has died for us.

Our love, on the other hand, is hot and cold. There are periods in our life that we don't love him as much as others. If Christ's love were as fickle as ours and if it were not eternal, we would have perished.

Its Depth

What is deep? Hell is deep. In the book of Job, Job's frenemy Zophar described the greatness of God as being deeper than hell.

Likewise, Paul was conveying that the love of Christ is deeper than hell. We are told that neither death nor life, angels nor principalities - including Satan and his demons - can ever separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Christ's love is deeper than hell in the sense that he was willing to suffer the pains of hell on the cross for us.

There is a pithy Christian quote that has been making its way around social media. It says - "I asked Jesus, 'How much do you love me?' And Jesus said, 'This much.' Then He stretched out His arms and died."

That is how much Christ loved us. Not only did he humble himself to put on human flesh, but he suffered on our behalf.

And when he was on the cross, he suffered hell. The sun would not shine for 3 hours. He was forsaken by God.

Its Height

Zophar also compared the greatness of God as being as high as heaven. And so Paul, by using similar language calls us to think of how Christ's love reaches into heaven.

Because we are poor, and wretched, and sinful, and blind, and lame, and utterly unable to reach God - there is no way that we would ever get to heaven.

But Christ's love makes that way possible for us to ascend with him to heaven.

Love is shown - not merely expressed. When Jesus was invited to the house of Simon the Pharisee in Luke 7, Simon failed to show him proper hospitality. He did not give him a kiss, neither washed his feet, or anointed his head with oil. However, during the meal, a sinful woman came and anointed Jesus' feet. Christ said that she was forgiven much, that is why she loved much.

Her love was shown in that way to savior. But Christ's love was shown in a greater way - not only was it done more extravagantly through suffering, but it was done for sinners and his enemies.

Conclusion

When we consider the close of the year and a start of another, we should remember the love of Christ - how broad, long, deep, and high it is - for sinners like you and me.

And may we consider, next year, how we might love him more - not only by our words, but by our actions and dedication. ~Pastor

Catechism for Younger Children

57. How does God sanctify you? God makes me more and more holy in heart and conduct.

58. What must you do to be saved? I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (29.12.2019)</i>	<i>Next Week (5.1.2020)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Putri Harapan	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	Jacob Woo, Ken Chong	Johnny Orchard, Micah Chiang
Ushers	Heng Qi Ban, Angela Yap	Faith Chiu, Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Putri Harapan, Eileen Tay Ida Lee	Aliza Chiu, Sarah Siew Rebecca Lee, Jerome Ng
PA Duty	Ken Hong	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. 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: "Inspiring Words for a Tough Year Ahead (Job 33:1-33)."
4. Children's Sunday School is in recess until late January 2020. Adult Bible Class is ongoing.

Appointments for the Week

SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2104.60
 (#898 - \$20.00, #899 - \$100.00, ET - \$200.00)
 Mission Fund - \$110.00
 Building Fund - \$300.00 (ET - \$300.00)
 Total Tithes & Offerings - \$2514.60

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 108.

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.