



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 28 October 2018

Theme for the Year: "King Jesus Must Reign" (1 Corinthians 15:25)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	220 - <i>Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 10:26-33
Hymn	TP 25:8-15
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 12:9-14
Hymn	522 - <i>'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Fear God and Obey Him"
*Closing Hymn	247 - <i>Amazing 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

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Strength in Weakness

In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul described a situation in his own life.

He was facing a problem - it was an excruciating problem. In fact, he described it as a thorn and an agent sent from Satan.

And he asked Christ 3 times to take it away. But Christ responded to his earnest prayers by declining to take it away.

Because in those times of weakness, Christ gives strength. When we are at our lowest, that is when we will experience the sustaining power of Christ.

2 Corinthians 12:9 - *"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

In our Christian lives, and in the life of the church, we will experience times of weakness and distress.

But these times are used by God for the good of his people. And that is why we might undergo trials for sometime because God sees fit for us to do so.

The Struggles He Experienced

Christians will experience trouble in their lives. We will become weak and struggle.

Sometimes the struggles can be overwhelming. Paul described his struggles in 2 Corinthians 1:8 - *"that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life."*

His struggles were so great that he thought he would not live through them.

What were these struggles?

He described some of them in 2 Corinthians 12:10. They were infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, and distresses.

His infirmities, or his weaknesses, may very well have been his own sinfulness. His struggles were contributed by himself.

We are not perfect. And very often we struggle because we have a part to play in our suffering.

He also struggled because of reproaches. He was insulted for his faith. He was hated because of Jesus.

And as such, he faced necessities - or hardships. He was in a bind.

Not merely that, he also faced persecutions. He bore the accusations of others.

And furthermore, he experienced distresses - or anguish. He was between a rock and a hard place. He was squeezed. He was stressed.

We will often go through struggles - sometimes contributed by us, but we will struggle.

And these were things that made Paul look weak. Because if he had been "strong", he would have fought back. If he had been "strong", he would have retaliated. If he had been "strong", he would have returned evil for evil.

The Source of His Struggles

There was especially one weakness and struggle that he faced. Paul called it a thorn and an agent from Satan.

It could have been a physical weakness - because it was called a thorn in the flesh. Or it could have been a person because it was called a messenger from Satan.

Whatever it was, it came from Satan. Our struggles in our Christian walk frequently come from Satan who seek to destroy.

But we should also note that behind Satan, God is the one who allows it.

Perhaps there is a sin in our lives that we need to address. It is the cause of our suffering. While Satan comes to destroy, God directs it so that through our suffering, our sin may be revealed.

The Good Results of Our Struggles

In 2 Corinthians 12:7, Paul revealed that this struggle was given to humble him.

And that's what struggles frequently do - they reveal how truly weak we are, and how we need to rely on Christ for his strength.

If we are to go through our struggles, there is purity and humility at the end.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9, Paul reveals another good result of struggling and weakness. He says that Christ's sustaining power is revealed in our weakness.

When we are weak, and have no other strength to rely on, we turn to Christ. And we turn to him in a way that we have never turned to him. We trust in him more.

And we find him to be a steadfast source of power and strength. If not for the trial, we would never have leaned on him.

This is what happened to Job. When Satan attacked him, Job went to God in a way that he never went to God. And finally, God humbled him and blessed him.

And this humility and reliance that struggles produce in us, serve only to glorify Christ.

When others see in us these qualities, they glorify Christ. While Christ did not deliver us from our struggles, he caused us to triumph over them.

We were not harmed by them. We were not destroyed by them. Yet we learned from them.

This then is the strength that we have when we go through struggles - not that we repelled our attackers, but that we triumphed in grace over our flesh.

The reason why God allows us to go through times of struggles and weakness is that it displays the very message of the cross.

Conclusion

As we go through struggles and trials in our lives, what we need is not quick deliverance. What we need to know is that while these struggles are sent by Satan, they are ultimately sent by God himself for our good.

So that when we rely on him, and not our flesh; when we remain under our struggles without fleshly retaliation, we produce the peaceable fruits that God desires of us. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his Word.

Q. 52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (28.10.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (4.11.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Josephine Austin & Wendy Gong	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	David Pang*, Ethan Huang* Micah Chiang, Paul Butler	Jansen Ng*, David Pang* David Lim, Chris Budiman
Ushers	Dolphin Wai, August Ng	Rebecca Lee, Heng Qi Ban
Kitchen Duties	Adeline Ng*, Angela Yap Carmel Sriharan	Nancy Lim*, Marilyn Woo Vincent Chiu, Florence Orchard
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>2 November 2018</i>	<i>9 November 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Nancy 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. 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: "Hear This and Give Ear" (Joel 1:1-12).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "God Doesn't Show Favoritism" (Acts 10:34-48). Speaker: John Tan.
5. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 30 October 2018, 10 am. Message by Pastor Mark: "False Isms and the Sufficiency of the Word". Potluck lunch after meeting.
6. Church Family BBQ. Sunday, 11 November 2018, 12pm at Bicton Quarantine Park. Cost: \$5/adult and \$3/child under 12. Please register with and pay Jacob or Marilyn by Sunday, 4 November.
7. **9th Annual General Meeting.** Today at 11:30 am sharp.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$3,100.00 (*DD - \$975.00, #830 - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$220.00 (*DD - 100.00). Building Fund - \$1,300.00 (*DD - \$1,300.00).
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,620.00.
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	Attendance - 119.
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	<i>*DD: direct deposit</i>
10:00 am Worship Service	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Deacons: **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.

Fear God and Obey Him
Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

We have come to the end of Ecclesiastes. We've been confronted weekly with the realities of life and how messy it is. But do you believe the words of the preacher? Are you convinced? Or are you still banking your hopes in this life? Are you still finding your ultimate joy and worth in this life by what you do and gain? But here at the end, it's time to evaluate.

1. The Preacher's Credibility
 - a. His wisdom
 - b. His teaching
 - c. His shepherding
2. The Goodness of Truth
 - a. Its rebuke
 - b. Its edification
 - c. Its neglect
3. The Goal of Truth
 - a. Fear and reverence
 - b. The final reckoning

Dearly beloved, the words of this book are life to us. You may have been rebuked by them. But if you receive them as wise words, you will be strengthened in your life here - the just shall live by faith. And you will fear the Shepherd who gave these words, and keep his commandments, longing to be with him in his kingdom.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Are you convinced of the truth that the preacher teaches when he speaks about the messiness of life under the sun? Which aspect were you most pained by?
2. How are you fearing and reverencing your Shepherd?