



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

**Order of Worship — 30 December 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	11 - <i>All Glory, Laud, and Honor</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 116
Hymn	TP 84
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Colossians 3:1-4
Hymn	278 - <i>How Can It Be?</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Fostering a Love for Christ"
*Closing Hymn	458 - <i>Christ Liveth in 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

Website: [www.covenantbpc.org.au](http://www.covenantbpc.org.au)

Contact: [pastor@covenantbpc.org.au](mailto:pastor@covenantbpc.org.au)

## 4 Christian Principles for Making New Year's Resolutions

It seems that every new year, we are caught up in a whirlwind of well-intentioned resolutions. With premeditated bursts of enthusiasm, those closest to us begin to take part in peculiar, and sometimes public activities that even cause neighborhood children to look puzzled.

We find ourselves bearing witness to surprising edicts and seemingly self-conscious new year's manifestos whereupon we are summoned to behold what sweeping changes may come—resolutions for impending dispositions, impossible diets, and impenetrable fortresses of discipline.

The skeptical observer may inquire: "Is all this fervor really necessary?" Moreover, the cynical reader may ask: "Is it even appropriate to make resolutions? After all, shouldn't we at all times and all seasons seek to live wisely, obediently, and biblically?"

Some may even go so far as to argue that resolutions themselves are not biblical based on the fact that the Word of God itself provides us with a complete and authoritative compilation of God's resolutions for His people. To manufacture our own list of resolutions, they would argue, is superfluous at best.

These are the sorts of questions I have always considered when it comes to this whole business of making resolutions, and I have a hunch that many of my fellow biblically-informed skeptics also ponder such questions.

Nevertheless, the Word of God gives us not only permission to make resolutions, it gives us good reasons for doing so. Various biblical passages seem to provide us with reasons for resolutions and examples of men of God who resolved to live for Him in a particular manner for a particular reason (Dan. 1:8; Matt. 1:19; Acts 19:21; 1 Cor. 10:14-32; Col. 3:12-17; 2 Thess. 1:11).

As such, in considering how to glorify God in all that we do in our particular circumstances and callings, we would be wise to resolve to make particular resolutions to assist us in our sanctification. This we do by the power of the Holy Spirit, resting assured that we have been declared righteous by the Father because of the completed righteousness of the Son.

The nineteen-year-old Jonathan Edwards knew his weaknesses and was aware of the destructive nature of his sin, so he resolved to make and keep certain resolutions in his effort to live for God's glory. He helped pave the way for us all as he prefaced his seventy resolutions with these words:

Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me to keep these resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to his will, for Christ's sake.

These simple, introductory words of Edwards not only provide us with a glimpse into the mind of one of history's greatest minds, they provide us with a glorious insight into the heart of a young man whose heart had been humbled and mastered by the Lord God Almighty. We would therefore do well to consider Edwards' prefatory remarks as we seek to glorify God and enjoy Him forever in our churches, our homes, and our hearts.

### *Resolving Sensibly*

"Being sensible," Edwards begins his preface—we must be sensible, reasonable, in making resolutions. If we set ourselves about the business of hastily making resolutions as the result of our grand illusions of sinless perfection, it is likely that we will not merely fail in our attempt to keep such resolutions, we will likely be less inclined to make any further resolutions for similar desired ends. We must go about

making resolutions with genuine prayer and thorough study of God's Word.

Our resolutions must be in accord with the Word of God; therefore, any resolution we make must necessarily allow us to fulfill all our particular callings in life. We must consider all the implications of our resolutions and be careful to make resolutions with others in mind, even if it means implementing new resolutions incrementally over time.

#### *Resolving Dependently*

"I am unable to do anything without God's help," Edwards admits. We must be sensible in grasping the simple truth that every resolution must be made in dependence on God. And while every Christian would respond by saying, "Well, of course we must depend on God for all things," most Christians have been sold the world's bill of goods. They think that once they become dependent on God, then they will have immediate strength. They mimic the world's mantra: "Whatever doesn't kill me will make me stronger."

While the principle is generally true, such thinking can foster an attitude of proud independence. We must understand that in being able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us means that we must depend on His strength continuously in order to do all things and to keep all our resolutions (Eph. 3:16; Col. 1:11). In truth, whatever doesn't kill us, by God's conforming grace, makes us weak so that in our weakness we will rely

continuously on the strength of our Lord (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

#### *Resolving Humbly*

"I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me to keep these resolutions." In making resolutions for the glory of God and before the face of God, we must not come into His presence pounding our chests in triumphal arrogance as if God must now love and bless us more because we have made certain resolutions to follow Him more.

In reality, the Lord in His providence may choose to allow even more trials to enter our lives; in His unchanging fatherly love for us, He may decide to discipline us even more in order that we might more so detest our sin and delight in Him. We should approach Him in humble reliance on His grace as we seek not merely the blessings but the one who blesses.

#### *Resolving For Christ's Sake*

"So far as they are agreeable to his will for Christ's sake." We cannot resolve to do anything with a presumptuous attitude before God. The whole matter of making resolutions is not just goal setting so that we might have happier lives. We are called by God to live according to His will, not our own—for Christ's sake, not our own—for it is not unto us but unto Him that all glory belongs (Ps. 115:1).

~ Burk Parsons, <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/4-christian-principles-making-new-years-resolutions/>



### **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Q. 69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.

## Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (30.12.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (6.1.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Merilyn Woo	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Josephine Austin
Offering Stewards	Rex Sriharan Jansen Ng	Micah Chiang Rex Sriharan
Ushers	-	Jerome Ng, Sharon Sriharan
Kitchen Duties	Angela Yap*, Jenni Budiman Grace Wang	Florence Orchard*, Jemima Ng Mary-Anne Chan, Nancy Lim
PA Duty	David Lim	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>4 January 2019</i>	<i>11 January 2019</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Jerome Ng

### 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. Junior Worship is in recess today and next Sunday.
5. Bible Conference 2019. Dates: 22-25 April 2019. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Theme: Strength in Weakness. Speaker: Pastor Josh Williamson. Register by 31 December 2018 for early bird fees. Registration forms available at foyer. Payment by cash, cheque or direct deposit to CBPC General Fund: BSB: 036-031, Acct: 316942, Ref: BC(Surname)(Initial). Any enquiries, please contact Micah Chiang or Vincent Chiu.

<b>Appointments for the Week</b>	<b>Last Lord's Day Tithes &amp; Offering, &amp; Attendance</b>
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	General Fund - \$1,141.80 (*DD - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$150.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$400.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #632 - \$100.00).
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	Total Tithes & Offering - \$1,691.80.
10:00 am Worship Service	Attendance - 79.
	<i>*DD: direct deposit</i>

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.  
**Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.