



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

**Order of Worship – 18 February 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	75 - <i>The Love of God</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Galatians 6:7-10
Hymn	435 - <i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 126
Hymn	547 - <i>Have Thine Own Way, Lord</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"It Was Like a Dream"
*Closing Hymn	580 - <i>Go, Labor On</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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## Why We Don't Grow Spiritually

### *Called to Grow Up*

As Christians, we are commanded to grow up spiritually - not to remain as children, but to grow up in Christ (Eph 4:14-15).

We are to grow in faith (2 The 1:3), in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus (2 Pet 3:18), in love (Phi 1:9), and in the fruit of the Spirit. Jesus told his disciples to "go and bring forth fruit" (Jhn 15:16).

But many problems result when we fail to grow in love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal 5:22-23).

There will be carnality - enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, and divisions, and envy (Gal 5:20).

But why do we not grow spiritually? We can learn much from Hebrews 5:11-14.

### *Sloth in Spiritual Exercise*

The Hebrew Christians had been Christians for so long that they were obliged to be teachers. Unfortunately, they had backslidden to a point where they needed to learn things they had been taught before (v 12).

They had become dull of hearing (v 11). Somewhere along the line, they became slothful. The word "dull" in Greek literally means, "no push." They were once all push, but now, they were no push.

And they were no longer exercising themselves in moral matters (v 14).

### *Spiritual Growth Depends on Yielding Yourself to the Word and Spirit*

It is no surprise that if we don't press on in cultivating love, that there will be hatred. Hatred is natural. But when we yield ourselves to the Spirit, we will grow in love.

Similarly, strife or rivalries occur when we yield to our sinful thoughts. But when we yield to God, we will be meek.

When we yield ourselves to the Spirit and exercise ourselves to make holy decisions, we will bear spiritual fruit. This is spiritual maturity (v 14).

However, when we don't obey the word of righteousness, and don't exercise ourselves to holiness, we remain as babes.

It is possible for us to be long-time Christians but not be mature.

And sometimes we deceive ourselves by our much service. Because we are active, we may inadvertently be deceived that we are growing in Christ.

Service can be performed without growing in spiritual fruit. And that is unfortunate, because the purpose of service is to cultivate Christian growth.

Ephesians 4:11-16 tells us that spiritual gifts when rightly used to serve the body will result in growth.

We also deceive ourselves by our much knowledge of theology. But knowledge alone puffs up - but knowledge is tempered with love.

### *A Lack of Spiritual Growth Is Backsliding*

We may think that if we don't grow spiritually, we will simply remain at the same spiritual level.

That is not true. Because the Hebrew Christians had not progressed spiritually, they backslid.

They were Christians for so long that they could be teachers but they had to learn the basics again (v 12).

This does not refer to teaching theology or Bible. By context, this refers to teaching others how to be holy.

If we have been Christians for any length, we should bear forth fruit and be able to teach others to be fruitful.

The older women of Titus 2 were obligated to behave in a holy and temperate manner and to teach the good things. (Tit 2:3).

If we have been Christians for any length, we are to grow in holiness - our behavior is marked by holiness and we will teach others to be likewise.

But if we don't grow, we will need to be taught basic holiness again.

For example, Paul pursued holiness - he was patient in trials and patient in opposition - which is why he was able to rejoice even in the midst of imprisonment (Phi 4:4).

If he never pressed on in the basics of patience, he would not have attained advanced patience, but would have lost what he had previously attained.

Philippians would have been a vastly different book - a book of complaints, gripes, and bitterness.

Similarly, if we don't press on in love or meekness, we will lose those virtues we had previously attained.

There is no standing still in the spiritual arena - we either grow or we backslide.

#### *Every Trial Is An Occasion for Growth*

What does God give to us to help us grow? He gives us trials. Our virtues and holiness will be tested. Trials are designed for growth.

They are means by which our carnality is put to death and our inner man is strengthened when we yield to the Spirit. They are means to maturity.

But if we don't grab every opportunity, or see every opposition as an occasion for growth, we will remain carnal.

James 1:2-4 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

And if we don't know how to handle our trial, then we ask God for wisdom (Jas 1:5-8). This is how people change. Why?

Because the wisdom that God gives is pure, peaceable, gentle, easily intreated, full of mercy and good deeds, unwavering, and sincere (Jas 3:17).

#### *Conclusion*

How are we growing spiritually? Do we exercise our spiritual muscle in times of trials and opposition to cultivate virtues? Or do we give in to carnality?

If we believers fail to grow up, we place ourselves in great danger. We place others in great danger as well.

May we count it as great joy, the next time we encounter difficulties, to exercise ourselves unto holiness - because that would develop virtues in us, that when developed, show us to be more and more complete in Christ.

~ Pastor



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 193. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

A. In the fourth petition, (which is, Give us this day our daily bread,) acknowledging, that in Adam, and by our own sin, we have forfeited our right to all the outward blessings of this life, and deserve to be wholly deprived of them by God, and to have them cursed to us in the use of them; and that neither they of themselves are able to sustain us, nor we to merit, or by our own industry to procure them; but prone to desire, get, and use them unlawfully: we pray for ourselves and others, that both they and we, waiting upon the providence of God from day to day in the use of lawful means, may, of his free gift, and as to his fatherly wisdom shall seem best, enjoy a competent portion of them; and have the same continued and blessed unto us in our holy and comfortable use of them, and contentment in them; and be kept from all things that are contrary to our temporal support and comfort.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (18.2.18)	Next Week (25.2.18)
Speaker	Ron Nugent	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Elizabeth Huang	Ian Tay
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Dolphin Wai & Josephine Austin
Offering Stewards	Lye Heng Chua*, Yen Fye Yap* Jansen Ng, Eugene Lim	Ken Hong*, John Tan* David Pang, Rex Sriharan
Ushers	Angela Yap, Joyce Ng	Jesslyn Leow, Wendy Gong
Kitchen Duties	Sandy Chua*, Carmel Sriharan Ken Hong	Mary-Anne Chan*, Lisa Lim Val Withnell
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Joel Chua
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>23 February 2018</i>	<i>2 March 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Ian Tay

## Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. We welcome Rev Ron Nugent to our pulpit today.
3. Next week's message: "Anger and the Idol of the Law" (Acts 21:17-29).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Keeping Marriage Pure" (Hebrews 13:4). Speaker: Eugene Lim.
5. Bible Conference 2018. Dates: 23-26 April 2018. Speaker: Pastor Allen Beardmore. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Please register with Ken Chong or Ken Hong.
6. Bible Study Tour of Israel and Jordan. Dates: 9-21 December 2018. Please contact Pastor Mark if you are interested.
7. Church Directory Update. Leo & Evelyn Monaco: 9310 8360 (home tel), 0409 296 677 (mobile). Vincent Chiu's email: vchiu69@icloud.com

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF 7:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	General Fund - \$3,620.35 (*DD - \$200.00, #769 - \$400.00, #770 - \$10.00). Missions Fund - \$290.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$1,300.00 (*DD - \$1,300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,210.35. Attendance - 140. *DD: direct deposit

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund \$83,838.90 Last Week's Collection \$1,300.00 Total \$85,138.90 Outstanding Loan - \$380,000.00 Amount Still Needed \$294,861.10	General Fund: BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942 Missions Fund: BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950 Building Fund: BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316969

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.