



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 11 March 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	81 - <i>Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus!</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	John 18:19-38
Hymn	21 - <i>Fairest Lord Jesus!</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 23:1-11
Hymn	TP 119:97-108
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Wise Paul, Surrendered Paul"
*Closing Hymn	537 - <i>Not I, but Christ</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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In Difficult Times, Pray

In last week's bulletin, we saw that all of us go through difficult times.

While we pray that God would remove them, which he is pleased at times to do; yet it may be his will that we remain under these burdens for a season.

And when we go through them, it is important to have godly perspective.

We are responsible to think spiritual thoughts - to remind ourselves of our lives in Christ and the victories we can experience over the flesh.

This is especially so when we remember Christ's promises to us - that he gives us abundant lives, that he is present with us, and that he is in control of all things.

When we think upon these things and let the word of Christ fill our minds, we can rejoice even though we may yet remain under our burdens.

Pray for Peace and Wisdom

But the Bible also commands that we pray.

It is when we pray that the peace of God that passes all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:6-7).

But more than just praying for peace, we are to pray that God gives us wisdom to handle our difficulties.

In the context of trials, James tells his readers to pray for wisdom.

James 1:5-6 says, *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."*

Very often when difficult situations come, we ask God to remove them. But if he doesn't remove them, we fall apart.

That should not be the case. Things don't always go our way. Trials are given so that we can rely on God for his wisdom to deal with these trials.

This was the case with David when he went through his difficulties with his son Absalom.

Absalom had raised a coup d'état against him and now David was on the run for his life.

Because of this trial and difficult time, David prayed to God for wisdom.

How David Prayed

Firstly, David committed himself to God. Psalm 25:1,2a - *"Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee..."*

David knew that if there was anyone who could rescue him from his predicament, it was God.

Far too often, we make prayer a rubber stamp for the decisions that we have already made.

In our wisdom, we make certain plans and decisions on how we might tackle our difficulties. And prayer simply becomes a means of blessing our plans.

But God desires that we commit ourselves to him. If he is the source of wisdom and if he gives wisdom to those who ask, why do we make our escape route or battle plan without his wisdom?

Secondly, David repented of his sins. At least for David, he knew the part he played in his problems. Absalom's coup was caused in part by David. Psalm 25:11 - *"For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great."*

Not all problems that we face are caused by our sins. But difficult times afford us an opportunity to search our souls - to see if there are any evil ways in us.

One of the things that happens when we confess our sins, is that God hears and forgives us (1 John 1:9). But more than that, the prayer of a righteous and forgiven man is effective (Jas 5:16).

James gives the example of Elijah, who prayed and God stopped the rain for 3.5 years. And when he prayed again, God gave rain (Jas 5:17-18).

Indeed, the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

When we confess our sins, we can watch our endurance grow and our difficulties resolve, if God wills.

Thirdly, it is to pray for teachability. God's ways are not our ways. And frequently, his wisdom will run counter to our worldly wisdom.

Psalm 25:4 - "*Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.*"

The Hebrew word for "paths" speaks about the tracks on a road made by wheels repeatedly rolling over the ground.

This speaks about God's consistent and established ways. And his ways are rooted in his holiness.

So to ask God to teach us his ways, we are asking to know what he, as a holy God, would have us do.

And we remember here that God's wisdom is above all pure and peaceable (Jas 3:17).

If we ask God to teach us his paths, we better be seeking to walk in them.

And they are very different from the paths of human wisdom.

For example, when the trial has to do with an enemy, human wisdom leads to carnality - your enemy hurts you; you respond by taking offense. He takes

revenge; so you discredit him. When he prospers; you envy him. When he has problems; you rejoice in his downfall. You want him punished or at the very least, you want him to pay. And when you make a mistake, you deny it. This is human wisdom.

But godly wisdom is different - your enemy hurts you, you forgive. He prospers, you rejoice with him. He has a downfall, you pray for him. When you sin, you seek forgiveness. Your life is not your own, you are crucified with Christ.

In difficult times, we pray. And we are praying for God's wisdom. And that wisdom runs contrary to our human wisdom.

But that is the means by which we may handle our difficult times to solve or escape them.

Conclusion

What seems to be your difficulty today? Are you praying?

There is a great difference between truly seeking the Lord and perfunctorily praying.

Are you committing yourself to God and repenting of your sins? And when you pray for God's wisdom to handle your trials, are you really teachable, prepared to do and be what God's wisdom dictates to you?

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 196. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, (which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen.) teacheth us to enforce our petitions with arguments, which are to be taken, not from any worthiness in ourselves, or in any other creature, but from God; and with our prayers to join praises, ascribing to God alone eternal sovereignty, omnipotency, and glorious excellency; in regard whereof, as he is able and willing to help us, so we by faith are emboldened to plead with him that he would, and quietly to rely upon him that he will, fulfill our requests. And, to testify our desire and assurance, we say, Amen.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (11.3.18)	Next Week (18.3.18)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Edward Lim	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Ken Hong*, Yen Fye Yap* Lye Heng Chua, Rex Sriharan	David Lim*, Ken Chong* Kim Leow, Steven Lim
Ushers	August Ng, Josephine Austin	Jerome Ng, Angela Yap
Kitchen Duties	Mary-Anne Chan*, August Ng Victor Poon	Nancy Lim*, Jackie Hong Debbie Blake
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>16 March 2018</i>	<i>23 March 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	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. Next week's message: "Failed Conspiracy" (Acts 23:12-35).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Christ Doesn't Let Go of Us" (Hebrews 13:20-25). Speaker: Jansen Ng.
4. Bible Conference 2018. Dates: 23-26 April 2018. Speaker: Pastor Allen Beardmore. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. **Please register and pay by this Thursday, 15 March.** Electronic payment option - CBPC General Fund: BSB: 036-031, Acct: 316942, Ref: BC(Surname)(Initial).

Appointments for the Week

WED 10:00 am	Craft Group
FRI 7:30 pm	CBI & Prayer Meeting
SAT 4:00 pm	YPG
	4:30 pm JF & TF
SUN 9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$3,971.65 (*DD - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$300.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$500.00 (*DD - \$400.00, #574 - \$100.00).
Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,771.65.
Attendance - 136.

**DD: direct deposit*

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details

Available Building Fund	\$86,240.90	General Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942
Last Week's Collection	\$500.00	Missions Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950
Total	\$86,740.90	Building Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316969
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$380,000.00</i>		
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$293,259.10</i>		

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.

Wise Paul, Surrendered Paul

Acts 23:1-11

Some governments have a dignified way of conducting themselves in making legislation. Other governments are filled with brawling and fighting. They are even more violent and fleshly than a boxing match. While Christians are called to contend at times, we are not to do so sinfully. We are to be wise as serpents but innocent as doves.

1. Paul Was Wise and Righteous
 - a. He had shown wisdom before
 - b. A righteous man before a kangaroo court
 - c. A wise man conducts his own trial
 - d. A wise move
2. Paul Was Innocent and Surrendered
 - a. He did it for Christ and them
 - b. The resurrection motivated his surrender

The Christian is called to be courageous because despite his trials and the fights he must fight, the way of the cross leads to resurrection. When we are called to fight, we are still called to bear the cross. So when we have our trials, we are to be wise and innocent. We are not to give into the flesh but to be mindful of Christ and his willingness to suffer. But even in suffering, the hope of resurrection gives us strength to press on.

Questions for Reflection:

1. When you have to fight, which are you more prone to do - turn inward and despair or turn outward and start a brawl? In what ways have you or do you need to learn to contend wisely and with innocence? Why is this so hard?
2. The call of the cross is to suffer. When injustice seems to reign, how have you experienced surrender to Christ by not giving up the struggle for righteousness? Why does this lead to suffering?