



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 25 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	46 - <i>O Worship the King</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 32:1-11
Hymn	TP 51:1-6
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 24:1-27
Hymn	561 - <i>Living for Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"A Clear Conscience Before God and Man"
*Closing Hymn	550 - <i>Search Me, O God</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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The Importance of Having a Clear Conscience

What Is the Conscience?

Conscience is that part of man that guides his sense of right and wrong. This is the part of man that hates evil and loves good.

When a person sins, he feels shame. That's the conscience.

Where Did the Conscience Come From?

The conscience comes from God. God made man in his own image and imbued man with a sense of right and wrong. So all men have a conscience.

Before the Fall, the conscience knew only good. That's why when Satan tempted Eve, she knew it was wrong to eat of the forbidden fruit.

However, it was after the Fall that man's conscience was awakened to know evil.

After the Fall, it was noted by the Godhead that man knew good and evil. Genesis 3:22 - *"And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil..."*

And when man knew evil, he felt shame. This is why Adam and Eve took fig leaves to try and cover their nakedness.

And to deal with the shame and guilt, Adam blamed God and Eve and Eve blamed Satan.

What Does the Conscience Do?

The conscience testifies that man knows God's laws. While the Jews had the laws of God - given by Moses on Mount Sinai - the Gentiles weren't given that privilege.

However, the fact that they do what is contained in the law means that they knew the law. It is that inner voice that keeps people in check and encourages them to live righteously.

This is because the conscience performs the task of self-examination. When a person has not lived according to the laws of God, his conscience would not be clear. But when he does, he will have a clear conscience.

In the book of Acts, when Paul's character was called into question and when he was accused of breaking the law, he defended himself and said that his conscience was clear toward God and man (Acts 24:16).

The conscience also reveals the moral understanding of a person. A person can have a strong conscience or a weak conscience depending on his knowledge of God's Word.

For example, a person who has less of an understanding of God, his laws, and his mercy is considered to have a weak conscience. Many things which are not sins may bother him. And things that may be sins may be lost to him.

But a person who has a strong understanding of the Word has full confidence what is right and what is wrong. He may live with a clear conscience when he follows the Word.

How to Cultivate a Good Conscience

A conscience is only as good as the knowledge and faithfulness of the person.

A person who doesn't understand the Word of God will err in 2 ways. He may have an overactive conscience which reacts to every thing he perceives as sin.

This was the case with some Jewish Christians in the New Testament. They were afraid of eating meats which had been offered to idols when it was not sinful to do so.

Or he will have an uninformed conscience. He may not know that something is sinful and will continue to do it.

For example, the rich young ruler thought that he had kept all of God's commandments, but didn't understand that deep down, he was a covetous man.

However, a person may have an understanding of God's Word but still err when he refuses to submit himself to the commandments. This causes his conscience to be seared.

His conscience has been rendered insensitive by the habitual ignoring of its promptings.

This is why, as Christians, we may know the law of God and what pleases him, but we don't do it. We have become insensitive.

Hence, the way to cultivate a good conscience is by the study of God's Word - to know what are sins and what are not sins - and to be obedient to God.

How to Cleanse a Guilty Conscience

All men are sinners. And man tries a variety of ways to cleanse his guilty conscience. The most common way is by doing good works. Another way is by numbing his conscience.

But the Bible says that the only way to clean a conscience is by faith in Christ and repentance.

When we become Christians, God counts us to be without sin. That's justification.

At that moment, God cleanses us from sin and clears our conscience. All that we have done wrong and will ever do wrong are forgiven by him. We are always in a right standing before God as judge.

Because of this, we are freed from sin and we can follow after righteousness and holiness (Romans 6:18).

But this does not automatically stop our proneness to sinning. While we never lose our salvation, our life will be a continual battle against sin.

This is why the New Testament exhorts us to be holy.

When the Christian sins, he is to repent by confessing his sins. God, as a father, is faithful and just to forgive us our sins when we confess them (1 John 1:9).

But what happens when we don't acknowledge our sin and confess them? This is when our conscience becomes seared.

Like Adam and Eve, we may try to cover up our shame by doing good works.

And when that doesn't work we may try to assuage our conscience by blaming someone else for contributing to our sinfulness. Adam blamed God and Eve and Eve blamed Satan.

When we blame others, we can trick ourselves into believing that since they have the greater blame, we are therefore less guilty.

This does nothing to cleanse a guilty conscience. It will only grieve the Spirit more.

A clean conscience is one that is sensitive to God. And sensitivity to God is evidenced by a contrite heart and broken spirit.

We are not perfect. We will sin. But may God give us a conscience that is clear when we understand the Scriptures, when we strive for inward and outward purity, and be sensitive to the promptings of our Spirit-led conscience.
~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 4. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (25.3.18)	Next Week (1.4.18)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Merylyn Woo	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Josephine Austin & Wendy	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	John Tan*, Johnny Orchard* Kim Leow, Chris Budiman	Paul Butler*, Chris Budiman* Steven Lim, Ken Chong
Ushers	Putri Harapan, Joyce Ng	Josephine Austin, Rebecca Lee
Kitchen Duties	Aliza Chiu*, Lydia Orchard Julian Poon	Peggy Woo*, Dina Portillo Sarah Lim, May Poon
PA Duty	Joel Chua	Raymond Woo
Prayer Meeting	30 March 2018	6 April 2018
Facilitator	Prayer Meeting in Recess	Mark Chen
Pianist		Eugene Lim

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 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: "Love for Our Savior" (Song of Solomon 8:6-7).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Love for Our Savior" (Song of Solomon 8:6-7). Speaker: John Tan.
5. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 27 March 2018, 10am. Message by Pastor Mark: "Listening to the Holy Spirit". Potluck lunch after meeting.
6. Good Friday Gospel Service on 30 March 2018, 10 am. Message: "When Dying Leads to Living". Speaker: Mark Chen. Worship Leader: Jacob Woo. Pianist: Eugene Lim. Welcomers: Merylyn Woo & Wendy Gong. Kitchen Duties: August Ng*, Aliza Chiu & Jackie Hong. PA Ministry: Ian Tay.
7. Church 8th Anniversary Dinner. North Lake BBQ Restaurant: 406 North Lake Road, Bibra Lake. Date: 28 April 2018 (Saturday). Time: 6:30pm. Subsidised cost: \$20/adult, \$11/child (4-12 years). Please register with Jacob Woo.
8. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (April-June) are available in the foyer.

Appointments for the Week

TUE	10:00 am	Retirees' Bible Study
WED	10:00 am	Craft Group
FRI	10:00 am	Gospel Service
SAT	9:00 am	JF & TF Outing
	4:00 pm	YPG Outing
SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$5,062.25 (*DD - \$1,750.00, #778 - \$200.00, #779 - \$12.90). Missions Fund - \$180.00.
Building Fund - \$800.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #579 - \$500.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$6,042.25. Attendance - 155.

*DD: direct deposit

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details

Available Building Fund	\$87,040.90	General Fund:
Last Week's Collection	\$800.00	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942
Total	\$87,840.90	Missions Fund:
Outstanding Loan	- \$380,000.00	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950
Amount Still Needed	\$292,159.10	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.

A Clear Conscience Before God and Man

Acts 24:1-27

When we sin we ought to feel shame because our conscience is at work. Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves after the fall. But sometimes conscience is corrupted when we reject God's standard of right and wrong. Hitler felt no shame concerning his atrocities. It is truly a scary thing when our conscience is not guided by the Word of God.

1. Religious People Who Seared Their Conscience
 - a. Falsehood
 - b. Blasphemy
 - c. Sedition
2. A Forgiven Man Cleared by Conscience
 - a. Not perfect
 - b. Not guilty
3. A Wicked Man with No Conscience
 - a. Manipulation
 - b. Gain
 - c. Hardened

Felix had a hardened heart and did not respond to Paul's preaching. Despite Paul's unjust circumstances, his conscience was clear and was still engaged in his preaching of righteousness. How is your conscience today? Do you harden it against the Word of God? Acknowledge the shame and respond in repentance and faith - this leads to a clear conscience.

Questions for Reflection:

1. When God's people are slandered, how can we avoid being taken in by these accusations? If slander can't be prevented or corrected, how can we live in clear conscience despite the pain?
2. Why is the phrase, "Let your conscience be your guide" only partially true?
3. Why do you think that blaming others is an effective way of soothing a guilty conscience?



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Message Forecast for April - June 2018*

"King Jesus Must Reign" (1 Corinthians 15:25)

Lord's Day Worship Service:

APR	Title and Text	Speaker
1**	Love for Our Savior (Song of Solomon 8:6-7)	MC
8	An Appeal to a Higher Court (Acts 25:1-27)	MC
15	An Appeal to the Highest Court (Acts 26:1-23)	MC
22	Two Madmen (Acts 26:24-32)	MC
29	Safe Through Shipwreck (Acts 27:1-44)	MC
MAY		
6**	TBA	E Paauwe
13	The Needy Ministering to the Needy (Acts 28:1-16)	MC
20	The Softness and Hardness of Heart (Acts 28:17-29)	MC
27	Always for the Gospel (Acts 28:30-31)	MC
JUN		
3**	Life Is Vain (Ecclesiastes 1:1-18)	MC
10	Accomplishments Are Vain (Ecclesiastes 2:1-26)	MC
17	The Dreadful Cycle of Life (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15)	MC
24	Our Works Turn to Dust (Ecclesiastes 3:16-22)	MC

* Subject to change

** Lord's Supper

Adult Bible Class:

"Bible Survey" (cont.)