



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 15 April 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	42 - <i>Praise Ye the Lord!</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	John 21:15-25
Hymn	TP 23
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 26:1-23
Hymn	538 - <i>Give of Your Best</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"An Appeal to the Highest Court"
*Closing Hymn	521 - <i>My Times Are in Thy Hand</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)

## We Need Correction

Proverbs 13:18 – *"Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured."*

This proverb speaks of correction. There are two words that describe it.

The first word is 'instruction.' This speaks about correction by means of disciplinary action. The word is also translated as 'correction' eight times in the Old Testament.

The other word is 'reproof.' It refers to correction by means of rebuke - to convince someone of wrong that he may change.

These two words for correction are just like a couple (e.g. Proverbs 3:11-12; 5:12, 10:17; 15:10).

No one is above correction. David as king received it from Nathan. Elijah as prophet was corrected by God. Eli as priest was reproved through Samuel's words.

Correction is different from punishment. While Jesus bore our punishment, we must bear correction.

We all need correction because we are sinners, full of flaws and imperfections.

### *It is Valuable*

It ought to be treasured and not despised or ignored because it is precious to the soul.

Proverbs 10:17 proclaims that heeding correction gives life and keeps a person on the path of life.

Proverbs 27:6 tells us that the wounds of a friend are faithful. They are good and helpful to us. Only a true friend will care enough to correct you.

Therefore correction should always be welcomed. It is an expression of love. A father disciplines his child out of love. God disciplined His chosen people out of love.

Correction assures us that we are true children of God. Hebrews 12:6-7 says – *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"*

### *It Is Not Easy to Receive*

There are at least two reasons why correction is not easy to receive.

The first is that it takes humility to admit that we need to be corrected. We naturally resist this because of pride.

We don't like anyone to tell us we have done wrong, and we will react by trying to justify our actions.

Secondly, it is not easy to receive correction because it can be unpleasant to endure.

One example is Israel's seventy-year captivity in Babylon. God designed this for their good – to rid His people of their sins of idolatry. It worked very well.

After the captivity, the Jews committed other sins, but idolatry was no longer a problem for them.

But while the correction they received was very effective, it was also very painful for them. Those seventy years were difficult years for the Jews.

In John 15:2, Jesus likened our relationship to him as branches of a vine that needed pruning to be fruitful – *"every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."*

But going through this pruning work of God may be very unpleasant for us. Thus, we see that correction is painful and unpleasant. And because of that we feel greatly tempted to refuse it, and to do everything we can to avoid it.

### *Refusing It Brings Ruin*

*"Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction."*

Firstly, refusing correction brings a person to poverty or dire need. The richness of God's blessing will be absent.

Refusing correction also brings shame – to become a disgrace. People will see him as foolish, stubborn, and ungovernable (Matthew Henry).

Thus, those who refuse correction hate their own soul (Proverbs 15:32).

### *Receiving It Brings Reward*

It is the way to become better and wiser. Many people think it is shameful to be corrected and very dishonoring to be rebuked, especially if it is in public.

They don't like to 'lose face.' To them, honor comes only when they are highly commended.

Actually the opposite is true – to be corrected actually adds more honor than being commended.

Proverbs 13:8 says *"he that regardeth the reproof shall be honored."*

The word translated as 'honored' literally means 'to be full of weight' in contrast to the word 'shame' which literally means 'to have no weight.'

This is one instance where it is more desirable to gain weight than to lose weight!

To receive correction well is to turn something unpleasant into something useful. Some have said that when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

In a similar way, whenever someone throws a brick at you, don't throw it back at him.

Use it wisely to build up your life. If you keep doing that, then one day you will have a strong building made from those bricks.

Let us learn to receive correction graciously, whether it comes from God or from men who are used by God.

Each time you are chastised or rebuked, believe in your heart that it will somehow be good and helpful to you.

Make sure that you learn the lesson well and improve, so that you need not be corrected again and again.

The best resource that God has given us for correction is the Bible – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

Let us avail ourselves of the correction that the Scriptures are designed to work in us, so that we may become perfect, thoroughly equipped to be what God wants us to be.

~ Adapted from the Life B-P Church Weekly Bulletin of 11 March 2018.



### **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Q. 11. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise towards man, in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (15.4.18)	Next Week (22.4.18)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Elizabeth Huang	Valerie Lee
Welcomers	Putri Harapan & Dolphin Wai	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Micah Chiang*, Jacob Woo* Chris Budiman, Vincent Chiu	Ken Hong*, Johnny Orchard* Ian Read, Kim Leow
Ushers	Wendy Gong, Jemima Ng	Angela Yap, August Ng
Kitchen Duties	Adeline Ng*, Helen Wong Jenni Budiman	Merilyn Woo*, Carmel Sriharan Vincent Chiu
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Joel Chua
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>20 April 2018</i>	<i>27 April 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	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. Next week's message: "Two Madmen" (Acts 26:24-32).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "What Does God Want You To Know?" (Acts 2:14-36). Speaker: Jerome Ng.
4. 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.
5. Training on Teaching Children & Teens. Date: 28 April 2018 (Saturday). Time: 1.00-5.00pm. Trainer: Ms Lorita Lim. Sunday school teachers and assistant teachers are required to attend, all others are welcome. More information on the fellowship hall notice board. Please sign up.
6. Visitation this week by Pastor Mark Chen, Elder Jimmy Orchard & Deacon Johnson Lim.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Appointments for the Week</b></p> <p>WED 10:00 am Craft Group</p> <p>FRI 7:30 pm CBI &amp; Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SAT 4:00 pm YPG</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Last Lord's Day Tithes &amp; Offering, &amp; Attendance</b></p> <p>General Fund - \$4,163.50 (*DD - \$1,200.00, #783 - \$200.00, #785 - \$50.00). Missions Fund - \$360.00 (*DD - \$100.00, #784 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$1,500.00 (*DD - \$1,300.00, #582 - \$200.00). Total Tithes &amp; Offering - \$6,023.50. Attendance - 139.</p> <p><i>*DD: direct deposit</i></p>
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Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund	\$88,940.90
Last Week's Collection	\$1,500.00
Total	\$90,440.90
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$380,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$289,559.10</i>
	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.

## An Appeal to the Highest Court

Acts 26:1-23

Miranda rights are given so a person can remain silent so as not to incriminate himself. Sometimes it is important to stay silent. The Bible says much about the control of the tongue. But there is a time to speak, especially when it concerns the gospel. Paul's duty was to speak - not to remain silent. And he did so, because his appeal was to God - he trusted in God's sovereignty.

1. Paul's Life Was Always About the Gospel
  - a. The real reason they hated him
  - b. His testimony of salvation
  - c. What he was saved to do
2. Paul's Gospel Appeals to Them
  - a. Why he appealed to them
  - b. What he appealed to them

Paul preached to them because his appeal was for God to save them. He appealed passionately to them to come to Christ. He was called a mad man. The gospel is foolishness to those who are perishing. There are times when we should be silent. But when it concerns the gospel, we should always speak up. When a soul, a life, a conscience is at stake, we must not keep silent.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. What are the reasons why we remain silent when given an opportunity to speak about Christ? How can knowing God's sovereign control help you to speak out?
2. How can we as Christians find the simple message of the gospel and the cross foolish too?
3. Is your life always lived for the gospel - both in witness and in living it out?