



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

**Order of Worship — 8 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	Insert - <i>At the Name of Jesus</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 84
Hymn	TP 84
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 25:1-27
Hymn	522 - <i>'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"An Appeal to a Higher Court"
*Closing Hymn	542 - <i>My Faith Looks Up to Thee</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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## Do Not Fear Man

*"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whose putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."* (Proverbs 29:25)

The subject of this proverb is fear. Fear is one of the strongest emotions known to man.

It triggers off a rush of adrenalin in your body. You have a sudden burst of strength and energy.

Fear is an emotion that God has designed for our own good. It moves us to action when there is an emergency.

One good kind fear is mentioned several times in Scripture – the fear of the LORD.

This fear gives us the right reverence toward God which leads us to shun evil and to live our lives wisely.

### *When Is Fear Bad?*

But fear can easily become a bad emotion – firstly, when we fear what we should not fear at all. Little children are often afraid of the dark.

Such fear can cause embarrassment, especially when the thing or person we fear poses no real danger to us at all.

And if we do not overcome such fears, they can be debilitating. One threatening message from Jezebel was enough to make the prophet Elijah run away.

But he had just defeated 450 prophets of Baal! Elijah was fearful of someone he should not have feared at all.

Secondly, fear becomes bad when we allow it to trap us into doing something sinful, or to paralyze us from doing what God requires.

Abraham lied about Sarah twice because he feared that he would be killed if he said she was his wife.

Fear made Aaron agree to the people's demand to make a golden calf idol for them to worship.

The Israelites rebelled against God instead of entering the Promised Land because they feared the Canaanites.

King David committed murder because he feared he would be exposed as an adulterer.

Peter denied Christ thrice because he feared that he would be arrested.

Pontius Pilate sentenced innocent Jesus to death because he feared losing his rule of Judea.

Sometimes we are afraid of making our faith known to others. Proverbs 25:29 – *"The fear of man bringeth a snare."*

### *Overcoming Fear*

The fear of man is just like a deceptive bait that lures us right into Satan's trap.

It seems so real, so utterly convincing to us that we yield to its power. But if you were to take a closer look, you will soon realize that there is nothing to fear.

Just ask yourself – *"Why should I fear men?"* They are ordinary creatures like you and me.

Even the very greatest of men will die one day and have to stand before God. So we should not fear men.

Neither should we be afraid to tell any man that no matter how great he is, he will die in his sins, unless he turns to Christ.

There was once a pioneer evangelist named Peter Cartwright who spent seventy years in the work of the Lord and always preached the Word of God without fear or favor.

One Sunday he was asked to speak at a church in the southern part of the United States.

During the song just before the message, the pastor whispered to him that the US President, Andrew Jackson had just entered the sanctuary.

Jackson was a military general who became a very tough and aggressive president.

During his two terms in office from 1829 to 1837 he strengthened the power of the presidency.

So the pastor cautioned Cartwright to be very careful of what he said lest he offend their famous guest.

The evangelist knew that *"the fear of man bringeth a snare"* (Proverbs 29:25). He was determined not to compromise the truth.

He also knew that great leaders need the Lord as much as anyone, so he boldly proclaimed the gospel.

In fact, halfway through his sermon he said, *"I understand that Andrew Jackson is present in the congregation today. If he does not repent of his sins and accept Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, he will be just as lost as anyone else who has never asked God for His forgiveness."*

Instead of becoming angry, Jackson admired the preacher for his courage.

He listened with keen interest to the message and felt such deep conviction that after the service Peter Cartwright was able to lead him to the Lord.

From that moment on, the two became the best of friends.

Whenever you are tempted to fear men, remember that Jesus said, *"...fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* (Matthew 10:28)

The most that man can do to you is to destroy your body. But God alone has the power to destroy the soul, and therefore you should fear God rather than men.

But God also has the power to protect and preserve both your soul and your body from the evil designs of men.

And this points us now to the way to overcome our fear of man. As the latter part of the proverb says, *"...whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."*

The way to overcome any fear you have is to put your trust in the Lord.

Psalm 56:3-4 – *"What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee. In God I will praise His word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me."*

In Psalm 23:4 David testified – *"I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me."* According to Hebrews 13:6 *"...we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."*

These verses bring out a very important truth: Faith is the victory!

If the fear of men has brought you into a snare, then let faith in God release you from it.

If you have been paralyzed by the fear of men from doing God's will, then let faith in God strengthen you now to move on to do it decisively.

May we find all the victory we need over our fears by putting our full trust in the Lord.

*~ Adapted from the Life B-P Church Weekly Bulletin of 4 February 2018.*



## **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Q. 9. What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

Q. 10. How did God create man?

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

## Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (8.4.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (15.4.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Elizabeth Huang
Welcomers	Yen Fye Yap & Tee Xuan	Putri Harapan & Dolphin Wai
Offering Stewards	David Lim*, Lye Heng Chua* Rex Sriharan, Jansen Ng	Micah Chiang*, Jacob Woo* John Tan, Vincent Chiu
Ushers	Putri Harapan, Jerome Ng	Wendy Gong, Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Grace Wang*, Sandy Chua Josephine Austin	Adeline Ng*, Helen Wong Jenni Budiman
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>13 April 2018</i>	<i>20 April 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: "An Appeal to the Highest Court" (Acts 26:1-23).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "The Spirit Comes" (Acts 2:1-13). Speaker: Merilyn Woo.
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. Visitation this week by Pastor Mark Chen and Deacon Vincent Chiu.

#### Appointments for the Week

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

#### Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$3,661.60 (\*DD - \$200.00, #781 - \$11.35, #782 - \$100.00). Missions Fund - \$290.00 (\*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$600.00 (\*DD - \$400.00, #581 - \$200.00).  
Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,551.60.  
Attendance - 138.

\*DD: direct deposit

#### Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details

Available Building Fund	\$88,340.90	General Fund:	
Last Week's Collection	\$600.00	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316942
Total	\$88,940.90	Missions Fund:	
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$380,000.00</i>	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316950
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$291,059.10</i>	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 a Higher Court Acts 25:1-27

When it comes to justice in the world, there is a system. No one is above the law. There is a system of courts and higher courts. Even in the church, there is a system of courts and appeals - especially in a presbyterian system. Even wicked kingdoms like Persia had it. No one could be convicted or accused without due process. But sometimes justice is not forthcoming. Some never see it in this lifetime. How can we be patient in times of injustice?

1. The Need for Patient Wisdom in the Face of Uncertainty
  - a. Hopes Dashed
  - b. Continued Painful Uncertainty
2. The Unjust Ways of a Self-Serving Man
  - a. Earning Political Favors
  - b. Perverting Justice
3. The Surrender of Oneself to the Hands of a Sovereign God
  - a. Not Afraid to Die
  - b. Confident in God's Rule

There will be many times when the law won't work for us. We will get no justice, receive no vindication - no matter how much we appeal. But we remember Christ who endured the injustices so that he might have the joy of having us. Just as Paul's faith looked up to God, so can ours.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. Why should you not be afraid to make an appeal to seek justice for yourself? Are there times when you should not make such an appeal, but to suffer in silence?
2. How does knowledge of God's sovereign providence give you the patience to travail under prolonged injustice?
3. How can a secular government still have good laws and due processes that favor justice when it is ruled by unbelievers? How should this affect your opinion of the church?

## At the Name of Jesus

1. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him King of glory now;  
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.
2. At his voice creation sprang at once to sight:  
all the angel faces, all the hosts of light,  
thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,  
all the heavenly orders in their great array.
3. Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners, unto whom he came;  
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious when from death he passed;
4. Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,  
through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,  
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast,  
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.
5. In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
all that is not holy, all that is not true.  
Look to him, your Savior, in temptations' hour;  
let his will enfold you in its light and power.
6. Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign;  
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.