



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 17 June 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	24 - <i>God of Earth, God of Sky</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Genesis 2:8-20
Hymn	TP 98:4-9
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 2:1-26
Hymn	374 - <i>He Keeps Me Singing</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Accomplishments Are Vain"
*Closing Hymn	494 - <i>All the Way My Saviour Leads Me</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)

## The Need for Wisdom

### *A Wise Request*

When Aladdin came across a lamp, he rubbed it and out came a genie. It gave him 3 wishes.

Even though he wanted the hand of the princess in marriage, Aladdin did not ask for that. Instead, he asked for riches and power so that he could win the princess' hand.

That led him into a lot of problems.

On the other hand, when Solomon was crowned king after his father died, God asked him what his singular wish was.

Solomon didn't ask for a princess. Neither did he ask for wealth or power. But Solomon asked for wisdom - to know right from wrong.

He was already wise in making that request.

So wise was Solomon that the Queen of Sheba came to see for herself. And she concluded that because he was wise, *"Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom"* (1 Kings 10:8).

Do we have wisdom?

### *The Definition of "Wisdom"*

What is wisdom? The Hebrew word for "wisdom" is used in the Old Testament to refer to skill.

Exodus 28 speaks about the skill and wisdom of the tailors who sewed Aaron's priestly garments. Exodus 35 speaks about the skill and wisdom of the people who built the tabernacle.

While anyone can build a tabernacle, not anyone can build THE tabernacle.

Jeremiah 10:12 speaks about how God established the world by his wisdom. He created it by his power, but he exercised that power by wisdom.

That is why after each day, he proclaimed his creation "good" and after

6 days, he proclaimed it "very good." His power with wisdom created good things.

This is my Father's world,

The birds their carols raise,

The morning light, the lily white,

Declare their maker's praise.

Therefore, in Proverbs, wisdom is the skill of applying the knowledge we have.

Proverbs 14:29 gives us skill not to be angry; it says, *"He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly."*

Proverbs 11:32 teaches us to control our words, *"The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness."*

Proverbs 25:7 teaches us to be good guests - *"Withdraw your foot from your neighbor's house; lest he be weary of you, and so hate you."*

These verses teach us wisdom how to apply what we already know.

### *The Effects of Wisdom*

What happens when you exercise wisdom and skillfully apply the Word of God?

Proverbs 1:4-5 says that we will grow in maturity - *"To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels."*

The simple will grow in subtlety, in prudence, in shrewdness, in cunning. This is what Jesus meant by being as wise as serpents in an innocent way.

Being shrewd and cunning is not how to get away with not paying your parking fine by sweet talking the cop. Neither is it getting back more tax returns because you took advantage of that loophole. Wisdom is not a oneupmanship in guile.

Wisdom is from God. So it's a subtlety and shrewdness in exercising the purity of God.

It also gives the young man - the inexperienced - discretion. Literally, it is "device." It means craftiness. But it is not a craftiness to do evil - rather, it's a craftiness to escape from evil.

In Proverbs, the young man is often exhorted to flee from the strange woman and to escape from bad friends. It takes skill to stay away from sinful influences.

Do we find ourselves easily influenced? Easily angered? Easily duped? We are not wise and we need wisdom.

### *The Complement of Wisdom*

Wisdom is only complete when it is accompanied by the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 1:7 says, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*"

Why would a person not want to get out of a parking fine by sweet talking? Why wouldn't you want to use that loophole to get more money back?

Because we fear the Lord. Therefore, when there is no fear, there is no wisdom.

And it is the beginning of wisdom. This does not mean that fear is the first step and then you move away from it. Rather, it is the principal thing - you must have fear to have wisdom.

What is fear? Throughout the Bible, we see that fear is the response of those who see God. When Moses was at the burning bush, he was terrified. When Isaiah had the vision of God's throne room, he was terrified - woe is me!

This was the same reaction to Jesus. When Jesus told Peter where to fish, and he got a boatload of fish as a result, Peter said - depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man.

When Jesus appeared in blazing white clothes at the Transfiguration, and a voice from heaven said - this is my beloved son - his disciples fell on their faces and were terrified.

Fear is the response of those who see God. It is a person's attitude toward God. No fear, no wisdom. Why? Because when there's no fear, there's no obedience.

But the fool despises wisdom. There's always an explanation, a justification, an excuse. Therefore, the fool does not lack knowledge, but obedience. He isn't ill-informed, rather he's wicked.

### *Jesus Is Our Wisdom*

Solomon, wise as he was, ceased to fear God. It destroyed his kingdom. But the greater son of David was filled with the spirit of wisdom and understanding.

As a child, he increased in wisdom - when he preached, the people marveled. No one feared God like he did.

To have that wisdom of God, we need to look at the cross - where a wise man died in the place of fools like you and me.

To learn his skill, his obedience, who because he was wise and shrewd, did not escape death, but went headlong into it.

~ Pastor, preached at CBPC Bible Conference 2017.



## **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Q. 26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

# Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (17.6.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (24.6.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Khawl Ro Kim
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Chris Budiman
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Elizabeth Huang
Welcomers	Yen Fye & Angela Yap	Tee Xuan & Julian Poon
Offering Stewards	Vincent Chiu*, John Tan* Chris Budiman, Ethan Huang	Paul Butler*, David Pang* Ken Hong, David Lim
Ushers	Jerome Ng, Rebecca Lee	Josephine Austin, Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Sandy Chua*, Jenni Budiman Adeline Ng	Carmel Sriharan*, Helen Wong Merilyn Woo
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Joel Chua
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>22 June 2018</i>	<i>29 June 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene 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 speaker is Rev Khawl Ro Kim, pastor of Bible Presbyterian Church of Myanmar.
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "The Early Church Was United" (Acts 4:32-37). Speaker: David Lim.
4. Mission Report on Saturday 23 June 2018, 4:30 pm. Rev Khawl Ro Kim from Myanmar will be giving a report of his work in Myanmar of his church, church plants, orphanage, and Bible School. The fellowship groups will be in recess.
5. Visitation this week by Elder Jimmy Orchard and Deacon Vincent Chiu.

<b>Appointments for the Week</b>	<b>Last Lord's Day Tithes &amp; Offering, &amp; Attendance</b>
<p>WED 10:00 am Craft Group</p> <p>FRI 7:30 pm CBI &amp; Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SAT 4:30 pm Mission Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">7:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>General Fund - \$2,756.70 (*DD - \$200.00, #796 - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$240.00 (*DD - 100.00). Building Fund - \$400.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #591 - \$100.00). Total Tithes &amp; Offering - \$3,396.70. Attendance - 141.</p> <p><i>*DD: direct deposit</i></p>

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.

Accomplishments Are Vain  
Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

Man thinks he can build a peaceful society that lasts. He can't. We wish for a time when we can say "And they lived happily ever after." But there will never be a time like this on earth. No where, not even the church, is spared from difficulty. All life under the sun is vanity and vexation of spirit. Ecclesiastes 2 calls us to evaluate our attitude toward our accomplishments in life.

1. Accomplishments Are Good

- a. His ambitions in life
- b. They were legitimate

2. Accomplishments Are Vain

- a. Because of death and imperfection
- b. Enjoying accomplishments in Christ

There are many joys in a crooked world. There are many good gifts - in our homes, in our work, in our church. But we don't see it because we have not surrendered. We are still expecting things to work the way we see fit. But we are not surrendering ourselves. We don't realize we are broken in our thinking. But the Lord Jesus Christ's body was broken, that we might be made healed in our thinking about the world and about our accomplishments.

Questions for Reflection:

1. In what way are you broken in your understanding of your work, achievements, and relationships? How has your understanding caused you dissatisfaction with these things in your life?
2. How does surrender to Christ help you to deal with the messiness of the world? How does it help you to deal with disappointments in work, family, and church?