



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 15 July 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	63 - <i>Come, Thou Almighty King</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 4:4-13
Hymn	TP 131
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 3:16-22
Hymn	495 - <i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Earthly Justice and Injustice"
*Closing Hymn	Insert - <i>Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right</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

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Lingering Lot

The Bible has many examples of godly men.

But the Bible has many examples of weakness - believers who believed in God but went to heaven by the skin of their teeth. Lot was one of them.

His life is a sad tale of compromise in the life of a believer.

Lot Was a Believer

Lot was the nephew of Abraham. He left Ur of the Chaldees along with Abraham to Haran and subsequently with Abraham to Canaan (Gen 11:31, 12:5).

Why did he do that? It was Abraham and not Lot who received the call.

Furthermore, Ur was the center of civilization at that time - it was one of the most spectacular cities of the ancient world.

Archeological excavations have discovered a lot of gold and riches.

Lot would have given up a lot to leave. What benefit could he have had for going abroad?

The reason was because he was a believer. He believed the God that called Abraham. 2 Peter 2:7,8 calls him a just man.

His grandfather and father practiced idolatry (Josh 24:2, Gen 31:19,30).

And so, in obedience to God, he left with Abraham. They left the idolatrous culture they were in to set up a nation of believers.

They were called to be separate and holy. God commands all desires to be sanctified (1 Thess 4:3-7).

Unfortunately, we see that Lot, believer as he was, did not follow Christ wholeheartedly.

Lot Was Foolish

As a believer, he had guidance. He had the word of God telling him to be a nation.

When his workers contended with the workers of Abraham, they knew they had to part ways.

Abraham gave him first pick of the pastures.

Lot saw the plain of Jordan, with its green pastures and concluded that they were more than suitable for his herds.

There was nothing wrong with this. There was nothing wrong with having a godly ambition for one's life.

However, it was foolish that he chose to settle as far as Sodom (Gen 13:12).

It was a well-known fact that "*the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly*" (Gen 13:13).

Why would Lot settle near to such a city? There are several reasons.

Firstly, it could've been for economic reasons. He had the benefits of good pasture and he was near enough to a city to enjoy trade.

Secondly, it was familiar. Sodom was a thriving city. And Lot was, after all, once from a thriving city.

Because he was the nephew of Abraham, it would not be unreasonable to surmise that he had followed Abraham to Egypt (cf Gen 12).

Egypt was a rival civilization to Ur. It was rich, powerful, and modern.

So although Lot had left Ur, he never completely left its influence. And while he had left Egypt, he never left its influence.

As one said idiomatically, "*You can take Lot out of Egypt, but you cannot take Egypt out of Lot.*"

Lot Lingered

Lot moved to the plains near to Sodom, but because of compromise, because he lingered; he eventually became a citizen of Sodom (Gen 14:12).

This compromise would cost him dearly. He lost his livelihood, his family, and his dignity.

We all know about the destruction of Sodom. Archeological excavations have discovered an enormous cemetery at the site of where Sodom would've been located.

20,000 tombs containing several hundred thousand bodies was found. It was a hasty burial. Evidence was found that a civilization with an extensive population ceased around the time of Abraham.

Lot was not only a resident in Sodom - he became one of her leaders (Gen 19:1). He served on its town council.

And this was strange. It was recorded in 2 Peter 2:7,8 that he was *"vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds."*

As a believer, he was deeply troubled by their behavior. But yet, he lingered in the city.

This resulted in a reduction of his discerning powers and his spiritual life.

When the men of the city demanded for the angels under his protection in Genesis 19, Lot responded to them - *"I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly."*

He called them brothers! He was so influenced by them that he identified himself with them.

Furthermore, he was very willing to compromise. He offered his virgin

daughters to the men of the city to do as they pleased.

There was a gradual but definite moral breakdown in the character of Lot. Intimate fellowship with these unbelievers and their ways resulted in identifying with them. Lot was no longer part of a holy witness.

And neither were his daughters. They were raised in that wicked culture and they conformed to its norms.

In Genesis 19, after they escaped from the city, his daughters got him drunk and slept with him.

They bore him two sons, who were also his grandsons.

He lingered. And he lost his dignity.

Conclusion

Lot was not a bad man. He was a believer who still had a conscience pliable enough to be vexed by the evils in his society.

However, he compromised.

We are a lot like Lot. Despite having been redeemed from sin, we make foolish choices for ourselves and our children.

And we wonder why we aren't faithful. And we wonder why our children become like Lot's daughters.

Living the life of a pilgrim is hard. But if like Abraham, we are not looking for an earthly city, but a heavenly one, we can live a life of faith.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 31. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (15.7.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (22.7.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Merilyn Woo
Welcomers	Ian & Merrill Read	Putri Harapan & Dolphin Wai
Offering Stewards	David Pang*, Vincent Chiu* Ethan Huang, Chris Budiman	Ken Hong*, Kim Leow* John Tan, Ken Chong
Ushers	Josephine Austin, Rebecca Lee	Joyce Ng, Putri Harapan
Kitchen Duties	Mary-Anne Chan*, Victor Poon Rosemary Fitzpatrick	Debbie Blake*, Jackie Hong Lydia Orchard
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Joel Chua
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>20 July 2018</i>	<i>27 July 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	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. Next week's message: "Every Shadow Has a Light" (Ecclesiastes 4:1-16).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "If It Be of God, Ye Cannot Overthrow It" (Acts 5:33-42). Speaker: Chris Budiman.
4. Fresh cumquat marmalade available in the fellowship hall - proceeds from the donation will go to the Mukti Mission.
5. The next Ladies' Fellowship meeting is on Sunday 29th July, 12.15pm at church. Lunch and DVD "How People Change". Bring a dish to share. Ladies of all ages welcome. Please see Wendy for more details.

Appointments for the Week

WED 10:00 am Craft Group
 FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting
 SAT 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 - \$3,035.60 (*DD - \$340.00, #801- \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$250.00 (*DD - 100.00). Building Fund - \$780.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #596 - \$380.00, #597 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,065.60. Attendance - 139.

*DD: direct deposit

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.

Earthly Justice and Injustice
Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

There is injustice in this world. It has always been, it will always be. Those who commit crime don't always face the penalties. And those who are innocent, sometimes are wrongly charged. And those who are guilty and charged, often complain that the penalty is too harsh. There is no perfect justice under the sun. But how should we feel about it?

1. The Vanity of Earthly Justice
 - a. There is injustice
 - b. There will be eternal justice
2. The Humility and Joy Gained from Acceptance
 - a. The fate of man and beasts
 - b. The joy attainable despite injustice

Despite injustice, we can rejoice because God will right the injustices one day. Like Paul who was imprisoned unjustly, he learned to be content and could rejoice greatly. He knew how much Christ suffered injustice for him to purchase righteousness for him. And this is why we can be feel liberated despite our injustices. This enables us to glorify God during this time under the sun.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Did life deal you an unfair card? Who was it actually who brought the injustice into your life? If you are unhappy about these things, who are you actually unhappy with? How does this make you feel?
2. How liberated have you been from your background, the injustices you have faced, the occurrences in your life; by the power of Christ? Why or why not? How much has acceptance or non-acceptance contributed?

Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right

Words: Samuel Rodigast, 1675; tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878) (Public Domain)

Music: Matt Merker, Keith Getty

$\text{♩} = 60$

1. What - e'er my God or - dains is right, His ho - ly will a - bid - eth;
2. What - e'er my God or - dains is right, He nev - er will de - ceive me;
3. What - e'er my God or - dains is right, Though now this cup in drink - ing
4. What - e'er my God or - dains is right, Here shall my stand be tak - en;

I will be still what - e'er he does, And fol - low where He guid - eth.
He leads me by the pro - per path, I know He will not leave me.
May bit - ter seem to my faint heart, I take it all, un - shrink - ing.
Though sor - row, need, or death be mine, Yet I am not for - sak - en.

He is my God, though dark my road; He holds me that I shall not fall;
I take, con - tent, what He has sent; His hand can turn my griefs a - way;
My God is true, each morn a - new Sweet com - fort yet shall fill my heart;
My Fa - ther's care is round me there; He holds me that I shall not fall,

And so to Him I leave it all, And so to Him I leave it all.
And pa - tient - ly I wait His day, And pa - tient - ly I wait His day.
And pain and sor - row shall de - part, And pain and sor - row shall de - part.
And so to Him I leave it all, And so to Him I leave it all.