



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 12 August 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>Before the Throne of God Above</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Proverbs 16
Hymn	TP 128
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 6:1-12
Hymn	482 - <i>A Heart Like Thine</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Always Hungry"
*Closing Hymn	492 - <i>I Love Jesus, Hallelujah!</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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What Is Your Only Comfort in Life and Death?

The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 by Professor Zacharias Ursinus.

It is the teaching tool of the European Presbyterians, just as the Westminster Catechisms are the teaching tools of the British Presbyterians.

While the Westminster is written objectively and factually, it lacks the warmth and feeling of the Heidelberg.

That's why it's said that the Devil can quote the Westminster, but never the Heidelberg - because it is written in the first person.

Q 1: What is your only comfort in life and death?

A: That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

This question deals with comfort in life. When Adam fell, he lost the comfort that came from being friends with God.

As Adam's descendent, I am an enemy of God because of my sins. Thus, I don't experience true comfort.

This is why I - along with every man, woman, and child - am in search of comfort. In fact, everything I do is for that purpose. But I cannot find it. Why?

Blaise Pascal, the able mathematician answer the question. *"All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others*

avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves. There was once in man, a true happiness of which now remains to him only the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from things absent the help he does not obtain in things present. But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and unchangeable object, that is to say, only by God Himself."

No one can find happiness in the world because they have a God-shaped emptiness. Hence, the Heidelberg states that true happiness can only be found in God.

And it comes by way of knowledge - what I must know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort.

It is a fourfold knowledge of 1. Whom I belong to, 2. What Jesus has done for me, 3. What he continues to do for me, and 4. The comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Whom I Belong To

I am not my own (1 Cor 3:23). This means that I am not my own boss. I can't decide to do my own sinful will, nor act on my sinful feelings, nor indulge in my sinful thoughts.

Rather, I belong body and soul to Christ (1 Cor 6:19). This speaks of the entirety of who I am. My body, thoughts, feelings, etc - all belong to Christ.

And I belong to him in life and in death (Rom 14:8). This speaks of the entirety of my time. There is never a time when I shouldn't belong to him.

And I don't belong to a tyrant - but I belong to a faithful savior, who is also my Christ - the ruler sent from God.

Belonging to him is not difficult. This is because of what he has done.

What Jesus Has Done For Me

And I belong to him because he has paid for my sins - not partly, but fully (1 Pe 1:18,19).

This tells me that if he has not paid for my sins, then I can never have this comfort because I don't belong to him.

His payment comprised of him suffering and dying for my sins. His payment was his death in place of mine by shedding his precious blood.

And by so doing, he has freed me from the power of the devil - not just partly - but fully (Heb 2:14). In other words, the fallenness of this world can't remove my belonging to Christ.

But I can only belong to him if I trust that he is my faithful Savior who has fully paid for my sins.

What Jesus Continues To Do For Me

Because Jesus has saved me, how can he leave me alone? Rather, Jesus continues to preserve me.

He preserves my salvation (John 10:28). Once truly saved, always saved. If he has paid the price for me, and rescued me, how can he ever abandon me?

But he also preserves me. This does not mean that nothing will ever happen to me; rather that nothing outside God's will can happen to me (Matt 10:30).

That includes even the hairs on my head. God preserves me to the minutest detail. But all of this is subservient to my salvation - they work together for my salvation (Rom 8:28).

If God deems it right for me to go to heaven now and be glorified, then it is good because it is his will.

But if it is not my time; no famine, or disease, or attack, will ever kill me. God is always at work. Whatever happens to me in my life - good or bad - is within the good will of God.

The sooner I realize that, the greater comfort I will feel.

But I don't have the power to hang on to that knowledge. I need a supernatural work of remembrance.

The Comfort of the Holy Spirit

Therefore, by Christ's Spirit, he assures me of eternal life (2 Cor 1:20-22). If left by myself, looking at my own sins and circumstances - I may well conclude that I am lost!

It is the Holy Spirit that assures me that I am saved, if I believe in Jesus. And by the Holy Spirit, I am willing to live for God (1 John 3:3). I can't find joy in God, or desire to live holy, or want to obey him; unless I surrender myself to the Holy Spirit.

If I walk after the Spirit, then I find comfort from all the promises.

But this is my problem. I don't always live by the Spirit, and so I don't always find joy in Christ's work, and so I don't always find that comfort. And it's ironic that I look for that comfort elsewhere, when all I need is Christ.

Perhaps you are like me. You forget that Christ is your all in all.

Go once again to him, to remind yourself of what he has done, that you may once again capture the affection and the comfort. ~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 34. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (12.8.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (19.8.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Josh Williamson
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Josephine Austin & Wendy Gong
Offering Stewards	David Lim*, Yen Fye Yap* Johnny Orchard, Kim Leow	Steven Lim*, Ken Hong* Ethan Huang, Jacob Woo
Ushers	Putri Harapan, Jerome Ng	Dolphin Wai, August Ng
Kitchen Duties	Grace Wang*, Sarah Siew Josephine Austin	Helen Wong*, Sandy Chua Carmel Sriharan
PA Duty	Jacob Woo	Joel Chua
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>17 August 2018</i>	<i>24 August 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 speaker is Pastor Josh Williamson, Executive Director and Speaker for Answers in Genesis Australia & New Zealand. Message: "The Authority of the Scriptures".
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Joseph and God the Deliverer" (Acts 7:9-16). Speaker: Jansen Ng.
4. Congratulations to Johnson and Nancy Lim on the birth of their grandson Ethan Lim on 10 August 2018.

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 - \$2,589.30 (*DD - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$330.00 (*DD - 100.00, #806 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$700.00 (*DD - \$400.00, #603 - \$200.00, #604 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,619.30. Attendance - 132.

*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.

Always Hungry
Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

Satisfaction is a matter of perception. Even though we may have a lot, we may not be satisfied. This is the case when it comes to certain foods. Many people, even though after a meal, are not satisfied even though they are full. We are always hungry. The warning in Ecclesiastes 6 is this - if we refuse to be satisfied with little, then we will never be satisfied with more.

1. The Common Things We Hope Will Satisfy Us
 - a. Riches
 - b. Reputation
 - c. Family
 - d. Long life
 - e. Work
 - f. Wisdom
2. The Reasons Why They Don't Satisfy Us
 - a. Circumstances
 - b. Understanding
3. The Way to Be Full
 - a. Find satisfaction in what you have
 - b. Find satisfaction in God

What is your only comfort in life and death? That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What is the thing that you are hungriest for in your life? Is it because you don't have it already?
2. A neglect of spiritual disciplines will lead to a growing dissatisfaction with your estate in life. What does at your level of contentment say about your spiritual disciplines?

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea:
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands.
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free.
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me;
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb!
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of Glory and of Grace.
One with Himself, I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God;
With Christ, my Saviour and my God.