



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 26 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	25 - <i>Come, Let Us with Our Lord Arise</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Peter 2:1-10
Hymn	TP 63:1-5
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Titus 2:11-15
Hymn	335 - <i>And Can It Be?</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Amazing Grace of God"
*Closing Hymn	247 - <i>Amazing Grace</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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Don't Resist the Grace of God

Pressing on in a marriage is hard. The husband and wife vow to love one another.

And as Christians, when we believe in Christ, we vow to love him and our fellow Christians.

And when we feel we are waning in our passion towards God, wife, and brethren, we are to press on in love.

This is obedience to the gospel. But we will struggle to obey.

It is hard to love Christ. There's persecution, suffering, and temptation.

It is hard to love our spouses. Our spouses will wrong us. We may want to call it quits.

It is also hard to love our brethren. They may not meet our personal standards. We are tempted to complain against them and despise them.

And this is sinful.

But when we struggle with such obedience and softness of heart, what do we do?

Help Others to Overcome Sin

It is true that Christians are tempted to sin. We are tempted to wane in love toward God, spouses, and brethren.

Hebrews 12:12-13 speaks of this danger - *"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."*

We are tempted to *"turn out of the way"* - to drop out of the Christian race.

So in those times, what do we do? When we see others struggling, what do we do?

We are to strengthen one another not to sin. We are to lift up their hands. We are to help one another to walk righteously - to straighten the paths.

All of us have that difficult task, especially ministers, to instruct Christians not to despise or complain

against each other, to instruct spouses to love one other, and to instruct Christians to draw closer to God.

But often, the hardness of heart rejects the Word and Gospel. And when we are at odds with one another and God, we will drop out of the race.

Hence, to prevent dropping out of the race, the writer of Hebrews instructs Christians to pursue peace and holiness with God and all men (v 14).

We have all experienced issues with our spouses, with others, and also in our spiritual lives. And that is why we are to pursue peace and purity.

One of the keys to is to receive the grace of God and not to resist it.

Do Not Resist God's Grace

Hebrews 12:15 says, *"looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God."*

God supplies us with sufficient grace not to hate or despise our spouse. He gives grace that we may love our brethren and overlook their weaknesses. He gives us grace that we may press on in our walk with him, despite suffering and temptation.

In fact, grace encompasses every area of our Christian walk.

We are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8,9), God's grace is sufficient to help us overcome hardship (2 Corinthians 12:9), we can always pray for grace at the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16), God gives us grace so that we can serve him (Ephesians 4:7), and God's grace teaches us to turn away from sin (Titus 2:11,12).

And God freely offers this grace to us so that in our temptations and trials, we may have strength to overcome them and to obey God.

And so we are instructed not to fail or lack this grace by resisting it.

It's like a still small voice. Don't sin. Don't give up on your faith. Don't quit.

Keep on loving the brethren. Forgive your spouse. Don't judge.

But when we silence that voice, we are treating God's grace contemptuously.

There are warnings in Scripture not to resist God's grace. 2 Corinthians 6:1 - *"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."*

Therefore, we are to look diligently, to watch over others so they don't resist God's grace.

Alas, many resist that grace. Spouses refuse to be tender to each other. Brethren continue to complain against their brethren. And we forget God.

And what is the result of resisting that grace of God?

The Bitterness that Comes By Resisting God's Grace

If we are not diligent in receiving God's grace, there will be a *"root of bitterness springing up [that will] trouble you, and thereby many be defiled"* (v 15).

What is this root of bitterness? The author is quoting Deuteronomy 29:18. A root of bitterness refers to a person whose heart is turned away from God.

When our hearts are turned away from the grace of God we can bring trouble to many.

When a husband refuses to love his wife, or vice versa, when a Christian hates his brother, and when a Christian neglects God, it can lead to much trouble.

Cain brought trouble on himself and his brother when he didn't resist jealousy. There was murder.

Esau gave up his birthright when he couldn't control his hunger.

Korah hurt himself and others when he could not control his rebellion.

The 10 spies led the people into wandering when they couldn't control their fear. 40 years of wandering!

Judas led Christ to his death because he couldn't control his greed.

The rich young ruler would not give up all to follow Christ, but hung on to his covetousness.

In each of these cases, there was grace offered. Cain was warned not to give place to sin. The 10 spies were countered by Joshua and Caleb's faithful report.

In Judas' time of temptation, Christ offered him the sop. It was his plea to accept that grace.

The rich young ruler received Christ's words of instruction and love - *sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*

That is the grace of God given in the Gospel. Follow Christ. If we do not, many will be defiled.

Yes, we may fail of God's grace at times, but it is always there when we return to him. As in the case of Peter, who denied Christ, but was restored.

May our words, in accepting his grace be - *"Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee."*

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 36. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (26.8.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (2.9.18)</i>
Speaker	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jabez Huang
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	John Tan*, Vincent Chiu* Micah Chiang, Ken Chong	David Lim*, Johnny Orchard* Ken Hong, Paul Butler
Ushers	Jesslyn Leow, Josephine Austin	Jemima Ng, Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Merilyn Woo*, Val Withnell Vincent Chiu	Florence Orchard*, Eileen Tay Mary-Anne Chan, Ken Hong
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>31 August 2018</i>	<i>7 September 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	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. We will be celebrating Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship lunch.
3. Next week's message: "Every Light Has a Shadow" (Ecclesiastes 7:1-14).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "The Temple of God" (Acts 7:44-53). Speaker: John Tan.
5. Pastor Mark Chen is in Melbourne (24-28 August 2018) as part of a pastoral commission to Ebenezer Bible-Presbyterian Church.
6. Ministry reports for ACM 2018. Please submit by 1 October 2018 - email Jacob Woo (jacob.woo@gmail.com).

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$3,222.50 (*DD - \$975.00, #814 - \$6.30). Missions Fund - \$320.00 (*DD - 100.00, #813 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$1,600.00 (*DD - \$1,300.00, #607 - \$100.00, #608 - \$200.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,142.50. Attendance - 111. *DD: direct deposit
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

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.