



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 2 September 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	156 - <i>Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 53:1-12
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	309 - <i>Softly and Tenderly</i>
Hymn	482 - <i>A Heart Like Thine</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 7:1-14
Hymn	TP 78:1-8
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Every Light Has a Shadow"
*Closing Hymn	55 - <i>God Moves in a Mysterious Way</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

Quit You Like Men!

Be a Man!

Have you ever heard the expression - "Be a man!?" Yes, it's a bit sexist, especially in today's gender fluid climate.

But the expression presupposes certain characteristics that men ought to have.

Likewise, the Bible has an expression that is very similar. "*Quit you like men.*" It is found in 1 Corinthians 16:13.

It was written to the problematic Corinthian Church. And Paul's advice to them was to man up - "*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*"

There were things they weren't doing but should have. And there were things they did which they should not have.

This is a lesson especially to all men on this Father's Day. How does Paul's advice apply to us men in church?

"*Quit you like men*" basically means to acquit yourself or prove yourself to be a man. A man is the opposite of being a boy.

Hence, the point of this word is to indicate maturity and boldness. To have the courage to do what is right and not to run from difficult situations.

Just because we grow up and have families and jobs, it does not make us manly or grown up.

What are some qualities of being grown up as a Christian man?

Ephesians 4:13 speaks of this maturity as being grown up in Christ. "*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*"

As Christ was, so should every man in Christ be - to bear forth the fruit of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering,

gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal 5:22-23).

Be Strengthened!

One of the ways we mature is to be strengthened by God - "*be strong.*"

There are 2 words in Greek for strength - one speaks of possessed strength and the other speaks of active strength.

A body-builder possesses great strength, but it is latent unless he uses it.

The Christian needs to use the strength he has been given from God to resist temptation. We are to use this strength to resist discouragement. We are to work hard to grow. We are to apply ourselves not to be vengeful, selfish, proud, or bitter.

The moment our hearts start to give in to discouragement, we are to arrest it. The moment our eyes start to wander and lust, we are to avert our gaze.

And this strength does not come from within - it comes from without. If we are to be strong, we are to surrender ourselves to God.

Paul prayed in Ephesians 3:16 that we would be "*strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.*"

And the only way to have this strength is to abide in God. 1 John 2:14 says, "*I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*"

Perhaps we are weak because we men are not spending time with God nor obeying him.

Be Watchful!

Yes, we ought to mature - to be Christlike. Yes, we ought to be strengthened by Christ to resist sin. But if we do not know in which areas we need to mature or which sins we are

most susceptible to, then it will be hard to change.

This is why Paul encourages us to "watch ye."

This is a military term to refer to vigilance - to watch out for weak spots in our lives.

Yes, we are good in seeing the weak spots in others - but not often in ourselves.

We need to know because the devil knows what are our weak spots.

1 Peter 5:8 says that we are to be "sober, be vigilant (that's the same word as watch); because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

If we don't watch, things that we think we are strong in, can become our weaknesses.

Do we know what our weaknesses are? I do not always know and need people to tell me. And that requires surrender.

Charles Spurgeon said, "The way to grow strong in Christ is to become weak in yourself. God pours no power into man's heart till man's power is all poured out. The Christian's life is one of daily dependence on the grace and strength of God."

And the best way to watch is to pray. The word "watch" is seldom without the word "pray." Colossians 4:2 says, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."

Be Unmovable!

In verse 13, Paul told them to stand fast in the faith. Stand fast basically means

to stand firm, and to be unmovable, to hold their ground.

And what we men are to stand firm in is the faith. The faith refers to the Christian faith, but also our own trust in the Lord.

While we are to pursue maturity, there are many things that would hinder us. There will be spiritual aspirations we have for ourselves, for our families, and for our churches.

But there are hindrances - these come from the world - like work; from our own families - like our spouses and children; from ourselves - like our own sinful impulses and fears, etc.

How unmovable are we in carrying out our convictions and bearing fruit? How unmovable are we in leading our families in Christ? How unmovable are we in resisting our own sinful impulses?

This is frequently where we fail. We do not keep our convictions. Because keeping them disrupts equilibrium. But equilibrium is not always pleasing to God.

Conclusion

Being a man does not make us a man of God.

To man up and be courageous to be like Christ, to be surrendered men through which the Lord works his strength, to be watchful of our weaknesses and prayerful, and to be firm in our spiritual convictions are hard.

Fathers, in which areas do you need to work on?

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (2.9.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (9.9.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Glen Lock
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	David Lim*, Johnny Orchard* Ken Hong, Paul Butler	Ken Chong*, Ethan Huang* David Pang, Micah Chiang
Ushers	Jemima Ng, Jerome Ng	Jesslyn Leow, Putri Harapan
Kitchen Duties	Florence Orchard*, Eileen Tay Mary-Anne Chan, Ken Hong	Angela Yap*, Adeline Ng Jemima Ng
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ian Tay
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>7 September 2018</i>	<i>14 September 2018</i>
Facilitator	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Ian Tay

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 are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. Next week's speaker is Pastor Glen Lock.
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "The First Christian to Die" (Acts 7:54-8:4). Speaker: Tee Xuan.
5. Pastor Mark Chen will be overseas for a conference from 6 to 11 September 2018. Worshipers needing pastoral care can contact Elder Jimmy Orchard.
6. Visitation this week by Pastor Mark Chen and Deacon Vincent Chiu.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>WED 10:00 am Craft Group</p> <p>FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:30 pm Men's Bible Study</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>General Fund - \$3,439.90 (*DD - \$1,200.00). Missions Fund - \$250.00 (*DD - \$100.00, #815 - \$30.00).</p> <p>Building Fund - \$1,400.00 (*DD - \$1,300.00, #608 - \$100.00).</p> <p>Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,089.90.</p> <p>Attendance - 117.</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.

Every Light Has a Shadow

Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

One of the joys and privileges of fathers, is the responsibility of comforting their family members. But one of the great privileges of fathers, is the responsibility of teaching sobriety to their family. And it's hard because many fathers want to protect their children and family. But failure to teach how realistic life is under the sun, fails to prepare our family for disappointment.

1. The Honesty Needed About Our Suffering
 - a. Past
 - b. Present
 - c. Future
2. Your Behavior During Times of Suffering
 - a. Be godly
 - b. Be humble
 - c. Be patient and gentle
3. The Wisdom Needed to Suffer Well
 - a. The value of wisdom
 - b. The wisdom to consider and learn

Suffering and opposition come from God - they are opportunities to learn obedience. But as the Lord Jesus Christ learned obedience through his suffering (Hebrews 5:8), we learn obedience through suffering. And it was his Father that brought him through that suffering. When we go through our suffering with wisdom, wisdom gives life.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Fathers, do you over-protect your children? How are you teaching your children to go through disappointment with grace in Christ?
2. Fathers, how have you been an example of godliness, humility, patience and gentleness in the midst of suffering? Or do you tend to run away from problems?
3. Which behavior and fruit of grace do you think you and your family members need to cultivate?