



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 27 January 2019

Theme for the Year: "Strength in Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	12 - <i>Praise Him! Praise Him!</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Revelation 6:1-17
Hymn	TP 46
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Joel 2:1-11
Hymn	655 - <i>Behold! the Mountain of the Lord</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"A Day of Darkness"
*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

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Grief Drives Us to God

My Grandmother Died

I remember the time when my grandmother died. My father and his siblings went into a time of great grief.

My grandmother had suffered greatly for a number of years - stricken with Alzheimer's disease.

She was no longer able to walk or to feed herself and she spent the better part of the day sleeping or staring at the ceiling.

We had a live-in carer for her who would take care of her - and so the burden of care on the family was lessened. Nevertheless, it was not easy to see her "live."

When she died, it was a relief that she was spared further agony. However, mingled with that relief was the realization that we would not see her again.

No matter how expected the death of a loved one is, we are never prepared for the grief that comes, once they are gone.

Grief Is Expected and Hard to Shake Off

All of us will experience grief. There will be loss in life - loss of life, loss of a job, loss of a friend, loss of trust, etc. If grief is not addressed, it leads to greater suffering.

And if we are not the ones going through loss, we can see grief in others.

Sometimes we are hard pressed to comfort people going through grief. Advice of solutions and things to do are often given - but they are not always received well. And sometimes they are not always appropriate.

While there are times we mourn and grieve, there must be a time to stop grieving (Ecclesiastes 3:4).

But this is especially hard when we are greatly attached to the object we have lost.

We Must Grieve

Grief is not sinful. In fact, the Bible insists we grieve because there is sin and brokenness in the world.

When Adam and Eve sinned, their relationship with God was broken. And the result of their sin on mankind multiplied.

In fact, God himself was said to grieve when he saw how sinful the world had become in the time of Noah.

Similarly, in James 4:8-9, James tells Christians to mourn when we see our sins. We should not rejoice, but rather, our laughter should be turned into mourning and joy into gloom because we are far from God. James wants his reads to understand how sinful they are.

But more than that, the reason for our suffering and loss on earth is due to the effects of sin. Loss is a result of sin.

Why did my grandmother die? It was because sin entered into the world.

Why did my grandmother have an illness that removed her cognitive abilities and dignity? It was because sin entered into the world.

Grieving is good. It reminds us of a holy God.

But grieving is good because it reminds us that although there is sin, God has given Jesus to be our Savior - and that he saves those who believe from their sins; that one day, he will make all things right again.

Grief Reminds Us of God's Grief

When God saw sin, he grieved. But he sent Jesus to be a solution to that sin. Jesus was a man of sorrows - he was acquainted with grief. The prophet Isaiah

wrote in the 53rd chapter that Christ would know grief.

He saw the unbelief in Jerusalem - and that gave him grief. He experienced suffering at the hands of his own people - and that gave him grief.

And he lost his friend Lazarus - and at his death in John 11, Jesus wept. God has experienced grief. And he knows when we suffer.

Hebrews 4:15-16 says, *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

Grief Drives Us to God

Grief draws us to God. It drives us to him. And we go to God for help in times of grief. Why? Because he has gone through his own grief, he can comfort us.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, *"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any*

trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

The Bible is filled with examples. When Job lost all his possessions, and his family, and his health, he was at a loss of words. He sat down and he mourned - he was silent in his grief and then he spoke out in grief to God.

When the Psalmist of Psalm 22, and Christ in his suffering, cried out to God - they were in grief - *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"*

In times of loss, grieving is good, because we will be comforted.

When Job grieved and went to the Lord, he found comfort. Job 19:25-26 - *"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."*

It was not easy for Job. He took time to grieve. But when his eyes turned heavenward, he found a balm for his grief.

We must grieve - but God gives us reason to stop grieving one day. He will make all things right. On that day, God will wipe away all tears and remove our grief once for all. ~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 79. Which is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

Q. 80. What is required in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.

Q. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (27.1.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (3.2.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Rex Sriharan, David Pang Vincent Chiu, Jansen Ng	Johnny Orchard, Micah Chiang Yen Fye Yap, Ken Hong
Ushers	Jemima Ng, Josephine Austin	August Ng, Rebecca Lee
Kitchen Duties	Aliza Chiu*, Jackie Hong Alison Wong	Carmel Sriharan*, Vincent Chiu Lydia Orchard, Angela Yap
PA Duty	Jacob Woo	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>1 February 2019</i>	<i>8 February 2019</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Jerome Ng

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: "Return to God" (Joel 2:12-27)
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Disagreements in Church" (Acts 14.27-15.12). Speaker: Grace Wang.
5. Our condolences to Ian Read on the home going of his wife, Merrill Read. Funeral Service on Tuesday, 29 January 2019, 11 am at Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church.
6. Bible Conference 2019. Dates: 22-25 April 2019. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Theme: Strength in Weakness. Speaker: Pastor Josh Williamson. Registration forms available at foyer. Payment by cash, cheque or direct deposit to CBPC General Fund: BSB: 036-031, Acct: 316942, Ref: BC(Surname)(Initial). Any enquiries, please contact Micah Chiang or Vincent Chiu.

Appointments for the Week

TUE 11:00 am Funeral Service
 WED 10:00 am Craft Group
 FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting
 SUN 9:00 am Sunday School
 10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2,174.10 (*DD - \$973.00). Missions Fund - \$148.40 (#845 - \$78.40). Building Fund - \$500.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #637 - \$200.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,822.50. Attendance - 92.

*DD: direct deposit