



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 3 March 2019

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

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| Prelude | <i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i> |
| Call to Worship | |
| *Opening Hymn | TP 122:1-9 |
| *Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i> | |
| Scripture Reading | Ephesians 5:1-16 |
| The Lord's Supper | |
| Hymn | 228 - <i>Communion Hymn</i> |
| Hymn | 84 - <i>Jesus the Very Thought of Thee</i> |
| Tithes & Offering | |
| *†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer | |
| Scripture Reading | 2 Corinthians 2:1-17 |
| Hymn | 623 - <i>Footprints of Jesus</i> |
| Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer | |
| Sermon | "A Perfume to God" |
| *Closing Hymn | 576 - <i>Above Thine Own Ambitions Here</i> |

*Benediction & *Threefold Amen*

Silent Prayer & Postlude

Announcements

**Congregation standing*

†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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The Charismatic Glue in Unbiblical Ecumenism

Unbiblical Ecumenism

Last week, I wrote about the coming together of Pope Francis I and Imam Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb to sign a historic interfaith covenant.

It was applauded by the World Council of Churches - an organization that promotes the visible unity of all groups that claim to be Christian, even though they have differing views on the Gospel.

It is a worrying thing when representatives of Christianity would support such a cooperation between professing believers and unbelievers.

While it is worrying, it is not surprising. When one neglects the truth of the gospel and when one neglects the clear lines of separation between truth and error; there will be cooperation.

This started years ago when the World Council of Churches (WCC) started in 1948. It was an attempt to bring together churches in a mistaken obedience to Christ's prayer that his disciples be one (John 17:21).

However, Christ's command was for the oneness of his true disciples. After all, Christ warned *"there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect"* (Matthew 24:24).

As such, there will be false churches and synagogues of Satan (Revelation 2:9, 3:9).

But one of the glues that has seemed to bring churches together is the Charismatic movements.

The Charismatic Movement and Ecumenism

In the 1950s, David du Plessis, the secretary of the Pentecostal World Fellowship, contacted the WCC. Since then, the Charismatic movement has penetrated Protestant and even Eastern Orthodox churches.

James Dunn, British theologian, wrote that the acceptance of Pentecostalism by the WCC has urged traditional Christianity to welcome it as a valid expression of Christianity.

And hence, the Charismatic movement broke down many barriers. The assumption was this - if liberal Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians can manifest the gifts of the Holy Spirit, then they must be true believers - even though they reject the true Gospel of Christ.

And this is no where seen clearer than in Charismatic Catholicism.

Charismatic Catholics

The Catholic Charismatic Movement began in 1967 in the USA and has spread to other countries. All the popes since then have endorsed it, including Pope Francis I.

Pope John Paul II even declared it to be integral to the renewal of the Catholic church.

He said that the charismatic gifts are sacramental and special graces. That they are *"oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church."*

And this has borne fruit. Charismatic Catholicism has led to an increase in reverence of papal authority, reverence of Mary, and faithfulness to Catholic doctrine.

This should sound the alarm in our minds. For if the Holy Spirit is given as a gift to true believers who believe the true Christ and the true gospel; how can the Holy Spirit be given to those who do not worship the true Christ nor believe in the true gospel?

It would therefore mean that the modern Charismatic gifts are not the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately, instead of alarm, there was a lack of discernment. When evangelical believers first examined the

Catholic Charismatic movement, there was a lot of enthusiasm.

One of the reasons was this - they saw that Charismaticism would unite Catholics and Christians. This has always been the hope of Rome.

Roman Catholicism and Ecumenism

In 1965, the Roman Catholic Church completed a 3 year council called Vatican II, where they officially declared that they would seek to unite with Hindus, Muslims, and other religions.

They were also committed to uniting with Christians whom they called "separated brethren." And many Christians are wowed back in, forgetting the work of the Reformation.

And Charismaticism has played a major role. Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens gave direction to how the Catholic charismatic movement should be forefront in ecumenical activities. He wrote - *"Catholics should operate on the principle that to be Catholic is to be ecumenical, in accordance with the intention of Vatican Council II: all Catholics should exhibit an ecumenical concern and openness."*

Following these directives, there have been numerous combined rallies between Catholic and Christian charismatics - with church leaders in attendance.

In 1979, on Pentecost Sunday, 55,000 Catholic and Protestant charismatics participated in a rally in Rutherford, New Jersey. In 1977 there was a rally where Catholic and Christian charismatics worshiped and celebrated the Mass together in Kansas City.

In that meeting, there were apparently spirit baptisms, healings, speaking in tongues. But there was an interesting testimony of a Capuchin friar - Father Raniero Cantalamessa. There, in Kansas City, he was baptized in the Holy Spirit and manifested the Charismatic sign gifts.

He went on to be Preacher to the Papal Household - where he provides meditations and devotions to the Pope and other officials. And, according to the BBC, he is the only person allowed to preach to the Pope.

One wonders why, that if he is imbued with the Spirit of God, that the true gospel of Christ is not preached?

Conclusion

There are many thoughts to consider when this issue of ecumenism is brought up.

If the true gospel taught by the Bible and the Reformers is truly the gospel, then why is there a drift back to spiritual cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church?

And if the Roman Catholic Church manifests the same modern Charismatic signs, what does this tell us about Charismaticism itself?

Unfortunately, there is a lack of discernment among Christians today - as there was before. May the Lord help us to discern our own associations and to be guarded against these things in these last days.

Next week, I will consider the Charismatic movement itself.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 88. What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, Sacraments, and Prayer; all of which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

Worship Service Roster

| <i>Service</i> | <i>This Week (3.3.19)</i> | <i>Next Week (10.3.19)</i> |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Speaker | Mark Chen | Mark Chen |
| Worship Leader | Mark Chen | Chris Budiman |
| Pianist | Merilyn Woo | Edward Lim |
| Welcomers | Danny & Susie Tan | Kim & Jesslyn Leow |
| Offering Stewards | Chris Budiman, Micah Chiang David Lim, Ken Chong | Paul Butler, Kim Leow Rex Sriharan, Vincent Chiu |
| Ushers | Jerome Ng, Putri Harapan | Wendy Gong, Josephine Austin |
| Kitchen Duties | Peggy Woo*, Josephine Austin Dina Portillo, Putri Harapan | Mary Anne Chan*, Nancy Lim Florence Orchard |
| PA Duty | Raymond Woo | Ian Tay |
| <i>Prayer Meeting</i> | <i>8 March 2019</i> | <i>15 March 2019</i> |
| Chairman | Jimmy Orchard | Johnson Lim |
| Pianist | Ian Tay | Nancy 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. 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 message: "Confidence in the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:1-11).
4. Busy Bee. Saturday, 16 March 2019. 8:30 am. Please avail yourself to tidy up the church compound. Please bring your garden tools.
5. Presentation on the Israel and Jordan Bible Study Tour. Friday, 15 March 2019. 7:30 pm. There will be a slide show, testimonies, and refreshments.
6. Bible Conference 2019. Dates: 22-25 April 2019. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Theme: Strength in Weakness. Speaker: Pastor Steven Tan. 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 | Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance |
|----------------------------------|--|
| WED 10:00 am Craft Group | General Fund - \$2,640.70 (*DD - \$978.00). Missions Fund - \$190.00. (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$300.00 (*DD - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,130.70. Attendance - 115. |
| FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting | *DD: direct deposit |
| 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. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.