



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

**Order of Worship – 16 June 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	16 - <i>To God Be the Glory</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 25:31-46
Hymn	TP 41:1-4
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Hymn	704 - <i>We Plough the Fields</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"People Are Blessed and God Is Praised by Our Generosity"
*Closing Hymn	560 - <i>Take My Life</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](http://www.covenantbpc.org.au)

Contact: [pastor@covenantbpc.org.au](mailto:pastor@covenantbpc.org.au)

## Changing the Lord's Prayer?

### *The Pope Changes Prayer on a Whim*

On May 22, Pope Francis I changed the words of the Lord's Prayer. Instead of the Biblical words - "*Lead us not into temptation,*" he changed them to "*Do not let us fall into temptation.*" The Pope had been contemplating this change since 2018.

The reason why is because he believes the Lord's Prayer is mistaken - it is against God's nature to lead people into temptation. He said, "*A father doesn't do that, a father helps you to get up immediately...it's Satan who leads us into temptation, that's his department.*"

These revisions are unfortunately based not on textual evidence or theological facts, but on personal discomfort. But it is very clear. Jesus taught his disciples to pray - "*lead us not into temptation.*"

### *Textual Evidence*

This prayer is found in the gospels. Matthew 6:13 and Luke 11:4 record these words for us in Greek. And in every Greek manuscript, the words are exactly the same - "*lead us not into temptation.*"

And these Greek words are preserved in ancient Christian writings. They are found in writings by Polycarp - disciple of the apostle John. They are also found in the *Didache* - an early church document outlining church order. They are also found in many early hymns.

Clearly, there is no evidence that the words can mean anything other than "*lead us not into temptation.*"

But is the translation from the Greek correct? Can those Greek words be translated as "*do not allow us to be led into temptation?*"

Ancient Bibles in Latin and Syrian translate it as "*lead us not into temptation.*" Reformation Bibles by

Luther and Tyndale translate it as "*lead us not into temptation.*" In fact, all Bibles - liberal, evangelical, and even Roman Catholic ones translate the phrase as "*lead us not into temptation.*"

And in all other verses, the Greek word for "*to lead*" is always translated "*to lead*" and not "*to allow to be led.*" This word is used to describe how the friends of the paralyzed man of Luke 5, "brought" him to Jesus. It is active.

Similarly, in 1 Timothy 6:7, when Paul was speaking about not being able to take riches out of this world because we "brought" nothing in in the first place.

The word cannot be translated as "*allowing to be led.*" If that were the case, it would be very strange that the paralyzed man's friends were trying to find a way to let him bring himself in. Or that Paul was saying since we were not allowed to bring anything into the world, we can't carry anything out. This changes the whole meaning.

By textual evidence and the meaning of the word, there can be no other way to translate it than "*lead us not into temptation.*"

### *Theology*

The question remains whether God leads us into temptation. Because a prayer for God not to lead us into temptation, implies that God does lead us into temptation.

To be clear, God does not tempt us. James 1:13-14 teaches us - "*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*"

When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, he was not asking them to pray that God would not tempt them. Rather, the

prayer is specific that God would not lead them into temptation. And we cannot forget the second phrase - "but deliver us from [the] evil [one]."

It is Satan who tempts. But while God does not tempt - does God lead us into temptation?

Yes. In the case of Jesus, he was certainly led into temptation by God. In Matthew 4:1, we learn "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."

It was God's Spirit that led Jesus to be tempted - but it was Satan who tempted Jesus. God purposefully led Jesus there so that he could face Satan on our behalf.

So while the Pope says that God does not lead his children into temptation, the Bible clearly teaches that God did lead his Son into temptation; just as God smote Jesus (Isaiah 53:4) and sent him to the cross to die; just as it was ultimately God who took away the lives of Job's children. Job recognized this in Job 1:21 - "...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away..."

So what are we praying when we ask God not to lead us into temptation? Simply this - that God would not lead us into temptation! We are asking that we may be spared from both trials and situations where we face temptation.

We know that God sovereignly leads us into trials. God allows testings so that we might rely on him and to grow spiritually from those occasions. James

1:2-3 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

But this did not stop Paul from praying three times for God to remove his trials in 2 Corinthians 12.

Similarly, God may sovereignly lead us into occasions where we are tempted by the Devil - like Jesus. But why does God do that? So that we may rely on him to resist temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). When King David saw the prosperity of the wicked in Psalm 73:3, he was tempted to sin. But when he remembered their end, he resisted sin.

But this does not stop us from praying that God would not lead us into temptation. In fact, we are to - we want to avoid temptation!

*Conclusion*

The Bible text cannot be changed on a whim. There is no textual evidence to change it. And there is no theological reason why we should either.

God does sovereignly lead us into trial and temptations. He brings us through these things to grow us and to make us rely on him. This is his prerogative.

And in praying, we are asking to be spared from temptation - but if we do go through it, that we would be delivered from Satan - the one who truly tempts us.

~ Pastor



## **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. In the third petition, which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven, we pray, that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

## Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (16.6.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (23.6.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Chris Budiman
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	Josephine Austen & Wendy Gong	Rebecca Lee & Putri Harapan
Offering Stewards	Vincent Chiu, Eugene Lim Johnny Orchard, Rex Sriharan	Paul Butler, David Pang Ken Hong, Kim Leow
Ushers	Angela Yap, August Ng	Josephine Austin, Nicole Tan
Kitchen Duties	Lisa Lim*, Val Withnell Ken Hong	Jenni Budiman*, Debbie Blake Josephine Austin
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>21 June 2019</i>	<i>28 June 2019</i>
Chairman	Mark Chen	Eugene Lim
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Mark Chen

### 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 message: "Bold Authority and Proud Integrity" (2 Corinthians 10:1-18).
3. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 25 June 2019, 10 am. Message by Pastor on "Soli Deo Gloria - To God Alone Be the Glory." Potluck lunch after meeting.
4. Teens Retreat. Topic: "The Worship of God" Speaker: Pastor Mark Chen. Dates: 10-13 July 2019. Venue: Como. Fees: \$100. Please see Min Chen for more information.
5. Junior Fellowship and Teens Fellowship will commence on Saturday, 22 June 2019 at 4:30 pm. This will be followed by Cottage Meeting on Saturday, 29 June 2019 at 5 pm for dinner and Bible Study.
6. Integrated Fellowship Retreat for people aged 15 to 35, organized by Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church. Topic: "The Opportunities and Perils of Youth" Speaker: Pastor William Yap. Dates: 4-7 October 2019. Venue: Glenhaven Park in Stockport, SA 5410. Camp fees: \$130 (working adults) and \$75 (students). Please see Wendy Gong for more information.
7. Church 9th anniversary dinner on Sunday 30 June 2019 at 6 pm at North Lake BBQ. Cost: \$20 (adults) and \$10 (children). Please register with Ken Hong or Micah Chiang.

#### Appointments for the Week

WED 10:00 am Craft Group  
 FRI 7:45 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 - \$2,395.94 (DD - \$212.44, #867 - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$220.00 (DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$1,300.00 (DD - \$1,300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,915.94. Attendance - 126.

\*DD: direct deposit

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.