



COVENANT Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 14 July 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	20 – <i>Abba Father! We Approach Thee</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 116:12-17
Hymn	<i>Psalm 116b</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 25:31-46
Hymn	583 – <i>We Face a Task Unfinished</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"What Does God Require of Us?"
*Closing Hymn	Insert – <i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</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.

Samaritanical Religion

A Right Form and a False Heart; A Right Heart but a False Form

This past week at the Teens Retreat, we spoke on the theme "The Worship of God."

It is an important theme not only for teens, but for everyone. We may worship God correctly in form, but not in the heart. This was the mistake of the Pharisees.

Or we may worship God neither sincerely but not get the form right. This is what the Samaritans did.

We want to look at the religion of the Samaritans in this article.

Historical Background

In 2 Kings 17:24-41, the Assyrian king had moved all kinds of people from all over his newly conquered kingdom into Israel.

He brought in Babylonians, Cuthahites, Avaites, Hamathites, & Sepharvaimites.

These people were brought in and many of the children of Israel were deported to other places in the Assyrian kingdom.

So these aliens settled into Samaria, the capital, and its surrounding cities. They "*possessed Samaria and dwelt in the cities thereof.*"

And these people brought with them their various religions. And these religions mixed with the already corrupt religion of Israel, the northern kingdom.

What was their religions like?

A Religion Characterized by a Lack of Devotion

They feared God (v 32) but they also served their own gods (v 33). They feared God but served their graven images (v 41). But how can they fear God when they feared their other gods? Jesus said that no man can serve two masters.

Fearing God is a term that also speaks about the form of worship. In other words,

they offered their sacrifices and went through the motions. However, they were not completely devoted to God.

Which is why, the Bible also states that "*they fear not the Lord*" (v 34). There is no contradiction here - they feared God by serving him outwardly, but they did not fear him inwardly.

There was no true devotion to God. They only turned to God when there was trouble.

When they first moved in, they worshipped their own gods. God sent lions to attack them. Only when that happened, did they worship God - alongside their idols.

Is this not what we often do? We worship God and come to church, but often we only go to him in times of trouble.

And at other times, we worship at the altar of work and leisure.

A Religions Characterized by Form

Although the Samaritans had no true devotion to God, they continued to serve God. In other words, they went to offer him sacrifices.

In the worship of the Old Testament, many elements of worship were physical such as sacrifices. But when the form is done without the substance - without the right devotion - it is hypocritical.

The Pharisees were no better - they had the right form and no heart.

Jesus said of them in Matthew 15:7-8, "*Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, this people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*"

Similarly, we may sing, "The Bible Stands" but never read it. Or we sing "Go Labor On" but are not willing to serve God.

We utter the words of "Be Thou My Vision" but do not understand the words "*Nought be all else to me save that thou art!*"

We are to worship with our whole hearts. David said in Psalm 138:1 - "*I will praise thee with my whole heart.*"

He says again in Psalm 146:1,2 - "*Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.*"

David loved praise because he loved God. It was not just a form to him.

Psalm 147:1 says, "*Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.*"

A Religion Characterized by Compromise

While they feared God, but they also had their other gods. But they preferred to worship their gods more than Jehovah.

It was said of them - "*So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day*"(2 Kings 17:41).

They may have feared God, but it was their idols that they *served*.

They paid lip service to God, but they gave their gods their true service. It was a religion of compromise.

Such things can happen to us today. We may seek to serve God, but we may also try to serve the world.



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 107. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him; and, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.

When we try to serve both, the world always wins. Matthew 6:24 says, "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*"

Evidence of this kind of Samaritanical Religion will show up in how our jobs and leisure takes precedence over our relationship with God.

Conclusion

The worship of God is far more than just the mere form - it requires a heart of devotion.

God is grieved with compromise - because he is not first. And spiritual compromise is adultery.

James 4:4 tells us this - "*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*"

Do we only seek God when trouble comes? Do we only serve him outwardly but not inwardly?

May the Lord speak to us and help us to love him with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength; and to serve him only.

~ Pastor

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (14.7.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (21.7.19)</i>
Speaker	John Barlow	John Barlow
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jerome Ng
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Jacob Woo, Johnny Orchard Eugene Lim, John Chandra	Micah Chiang, John Tan Vincent Chiu, Ken Hong
Ushers	Josephine Austin, Rebecca Lee	Angela Yap, Heng Qi Ban
Kitchen Duties	Nancy Lim*, Sarah Siew Andressa Carvalho	Rebecca Lee*, Siew Kim Mary Loh
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>19 July 2019</i>	<i>26 July 2019</i>
Chairman	Jansen Ng	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Ian Tay	Nancy 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. Cottage Meeting on Saturday, 20 July 2019 at 5 pm for dinner and Bible Study at the Hong's residence. All ages welcome. Please see Pastor for more details.
3. The Lord's messenger for next Lord's Day is Pastor John Barlow. He will be speaking on "The Balanced Christian Life" (John 1:1-14).
4. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (July-September 2019) is available in the foyer.
5. Next Ladies Fellowship Meeting is on Sunday 28 July at 12:30pm. Lunch and continuation of the DVD "How People Change". Please bring a dish to share. Ladies of all ages are welcome! Please see Sis Wendy Gong for more details.
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. Pastor will be on annual leave from 19 July to 18 August 2019

Appointments for the Week

FRI	7:45 pm	CBI & Prayer Meeting
SAT	5:00 pm	Cottage Meeting
SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2,360.70 (DD - \$200.00, #877 - \$200.00, #878 - \$300.00). Missions Fund - \$420.00 (DD - \$300.00). Building Fund - \$100.00 (DD - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,880.70. Attendance - 136.

*DD: direct deposit