



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 25 August 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	Psalm 41
Hymn	408 – <i>Blessed Assurance</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 11:16-33
Hymn	468 – <i>Draw Me Nearer</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Just As I Am Without One Plea"
*Closing Hymn	396 – <i>Only a Sinner!</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

Losing Their Religion! A Purity Movement Guru and a Hillsong Worship Leader

News that Rocked the Christian World

The Christian world was rocked not once, but twice, by influential leaders who recently renounced their Christian faith, within weeks of one another. One was a Calvinist and the other a Charismatic.

The first was Joshua Harris. He was the author of the popular book on purity "I Kissed Dating Goodbye." The book taught that Christians should not fall into the dating culture of the world but strive to build intentional relationships that would lead to marriage.

The second was Marty Sampson. He was a prolific worship music writer - writing worship songs for Hillsong Church, such as "Savior King," "Take All of Me," and his recently popular songs "Forever" and "Came to My Rescue."

How They Renounced Their Faith

In mid-July 2019, Joshua Harris took to Instagram to announce his separation from his wife. This was followed by another announcement that he had renounced his faith.

He wrote - "I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. The popular phrase for this is "deconstruction," the biblical phrase is "falling away." By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian."

He did not view his renunciation with sadness however. And he was clear about this when addressing Christians.

"To my Christians friends, I am grateful for your prayers. Don't take it personally if I don't immediately return calls. I can't join in your mourning. I don't view this moment negatively. I feel very much alive, and awake, and surprisingly hopeful."

This was followed by posts and pictures of Harris taking part in a Gay Pride parade.

A few weeks later, Marty Sampson announced his own doubts over Instagram

- stating that he was not sure if he truly believed in Christianity.

"Time for some real talk. I'm genuinely losing my faith, and it doesn't bother me. Like, what bothers me now is nothing. I am so happy now, so at peace with the world. It's crazy...All I know is what's true to me right now, and Christianity just seems to me like another religion at this point."

The reason for his loss of faith was because of the contradictions he saw in the Bible and the inconsistency of a loving God with eternal judgment.

Losing Faith Is Nothing New

While it is sad that these leaders have renounced or questioned their faith, it is nothing new. The Bible has examples of prominent people losing their faith - even rejecting God.

In Numbers 13, Moses instructed each tribe to send out a man to spy out the Promised Land. Each of these men was to be a ruler (verse 2). After spying the land, 10 concluded that Israel would fail, while only 2 believed that God would help them succeed.

Israel believed the 10 and decided to return to Egypt. As a result, God let them perish. Why? Because of unbelief. Hebrews 3:19 comments - "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

Similarly, Judas Iscariot had seen Jesus' miracles and heard his teachings. He spent 3 years with Christ. But in the end, he betrayed Jesus and died an unbeliever. We learn in Acts 1:25 that "Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

Similarly, Paul had a ministry worker - Demas - who abandoned the work and returned to the world, possibly referring to losing his faith.

John the Apostle witnessed much of this. In 1 John 2:18-19, he wrote about Anti-Christ. And he revealed that many of

them had once been in the faith - "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

Once Genuinely Saved Always Saved

Christians will backslide and doubt. Christians may fall into grievous sins and continue in them for a time.

Whereas Abraham was strong in faith and did not disbelieve God (Romans 4:19-20), Peter waned in his belief (Matthew 14:31). But a true believer will always get the victory in the end (John 5:4-5).

Only those truly saved will never lose their salvation. Our Confession of Faith states that true believers "can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved."

An Evaluation

We do not know where Harris and Sampson stand before the Lord. But by their testimonies, they have renounced Christ. But what are we to make of their ministries?

It is important to note that where truth is found, it is truth. While Joshua Harris has renounced Christ, it does not make what he wrote wrong. This goes for Sampson - wherever truth was found in his songs, they are truth. But it is truth possessed that saves, not only truth professed (Romans 10:9).

But what is unfortunate is this - they found it alright to proclaim their unbelief in such a bold manner - knowing what kind of influence they had and continue to have.

But there is an important lesson for us in this.

Both Harris and Sampson were influencers - especially of young people. We must always be careful of making worship or thought leaders the most influential leaders in Christianity. It's dangerous to look to such as sources of truth.

According to one critic - himself an influencer and a Christian rocker - "we now have a church culture that learns who God is from singing modern praise songs rather than from the teachings of the Word...singers are not always the best people to write solid bible truth and doctrine. Sometimes we are too young, too ignorant of scripture, too unaware, or too unconcerned about the purity of scripture and the holiness of the God we are singing to. Have you ever considered the disrespect of singing songs to God that are untrue of His character?...It is time for the church to rediscover the preeminence of the Word...We need to value truth over feeling."

Given what we know about losing faith from the Bible - that even leaders fall away, it is important for all of us - not just the young - to study the Bible and to look to Jesus alone.

Our faith and relationship with God must not depend on emotions, or formulas, or the opinions of influencers. We need deeper grounding in the Word - not just to be moved by emotive words. ~ *Pastor*



Catechism for Younger Children

16. Who were our first parents? Adam and Eve.

17. How did God create man? God created man, male and female, after his own image.

18. Of what were our first parents made? God made Adam's body out of the ground and Eve's body out of a rib from Adam.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (25.8.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (1.9.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Magdalene Tay	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	John Chandran, Chris Budiman Ken Chong, Kim Leow	Chris Budiman, Ken Hong Jacob Woo, Jansen Ng
Ushers	Jemima Ng & Sharon Sriharan	Heng Qi Ban & Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Florence Orchard, Josephine Austin Putri Harapan	Sarah Siew, Hui Min Lim Mary Loh, Rebecca Lee
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>30 Aug 2019</i>	<i>6 Sept 2019</i>
Chairman	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Mark Chen

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: "Our Father's Love" (Luke 15:11-32).
4. Retirees' Bible Study: Tuesday, 27 August 2019, 10am. Potluck lunch after meeting. Come along and share your favourite hymn.
5. Bread Collection Ministry: More helpers are needed to assist in collecting bread on Saturday afternoons. Please see Bro Ian Tay if you are able to serve in this area.

Appointments for the Week

WED 10:00am 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 - \$2,094.60 (ET- \$600.00)
 Missions Fund - \$180.00 (ET- \$100,00)
 Building Fund - \$500.00 (#654 \$200.00,
 ET - \$300.00)
 Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,774.60.

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 117.

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.