



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 27 October 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	52 – <i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Numbers 25:1-13
Hymn	457 – <i>Day By Day</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Revelation 2:12-17
Hymn	517 – <i>Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Pergamos: The Compromising Church"
*Closing Hymn	221 – <i>The Church's One Foundation</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)

# Giving Thanks for God's Providence in Uncertain Times

## *What Is Providence?*

God orders all events in the universe, according to his counsel, so that he may receive all the glory. This is God's providence. Whatever happens is directed by God.

The Westminster Confession says, "God, the great Creator of all things, doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge and the free and immutable counsel of his own will, to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy."

Nothing is by accident. God uses the good and the evil in the world to bring about his plans.

Naturally, we have no problem if God's providence works in our immediate favor. But we often have a problem when it doesn't!

## *God Accomplishes His Will Even in Calamity*

In Zechariah 6 and Revelation 6, God describes 4 chariots with horsemen. These horsemen represent difficult times for people in the world. The horses are red, black, white, and dappled.

These horsemen are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from before God into the world.

The rider of the white horse conquers. The rider of the red horse spills blood. The rider of the black horse brings economic catastrophe. And the rider of the pale or dappled horse brings famine and disease.

These are calamitous occasions.

## *God Is in Control*

But what we learn from this is that God is in control. Nothing happens without God's permission.

These four horsemen were before the Lord. In other words, they had their station and their place. And they remained there until the Lord of all the earth sent

them out. In other words, calamity does come from God.

Isaiah 45:7 says that the God that forms the light is the one that creates darkness and the God that makes peace is the one who creates calamity.

And God does it at his own time, for his own purpose.

And we see that God's timing is perfect. He is the one who sends out calamity. He is not hurried and he is never late. And God sends it wherever he pleases. The black horseman goes north and the dappled goes south.

They are directed.

But when God sets it in motion, his will is accomplished decisively. When these horsemen were sent, they came with swiftness. Zechariah 6:1 uses the word "behold" to indicate the decisiveness of God. Revelation 6 describes these horsemen as having power and strength.

When God decides to act, he accomplishes his purposes.

But until the horsemen were sent out and before Zechariah asked God, God's purposes were hidden from man. We live trusting that God will work out his purposes - but until they are worked out, we do not know what would happen.

## *We Can Give Thanks for This Providence*

These are circumstances in which we can give thanks even though we may be adversely affected by it.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 is a reminder that even in such calamitous circumstances, God's people can give thanks. It doesn't say that we give thanks for these terrible things; but that we can give thanks despite these things.

When Job experienced calamity - his children were struck down, his possessions were struck off, and his health was stricken by disease, yet, he gave thanks. "The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

When Jonah experienced calamity, yet in the belly of the whale, he prayed, "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving..."

On the night when Jesus was about to be betrayed, he broke bread and gave thanks to God.

Calamities should not cause us to gripe - but we can even give thanks in the midst of it. God is in control of all things.

And while we find it hard to give thanks for the calamities, we can give thanks that God has a purpose for them. As believers, we are accepted by him in Christ.

We also have an inheritance that can never be lost. So while Job lost everything on earth, he still had his eternal soul.

Christ is also the head of his people. Despite difficulties from time to time, we know that the Lord never leaves nor forsakes his people.

### *All Things Work for Good*

Because all things work together for the good of God's people, we can give thanks in times of calamity. Here's a tongue in cheek story.

A Chinese man lived on the border of China and Mongolia. He had a beautiful mare. But one day, the Mongolians stole the horse. The Chinese man's friends consoled him, "O what terrible news!" Yet he said, "Why do you think it's bad news? Maybe it's a good thing."

After a few days, the mare returned, together with a stallion. His friends exclaimed, "What great news!" He replied - "Why do you think it's good news? Maybe it's bad news."

One day, when the Chinese man's son was riding the stallion, it bucked and he fell

and broke his leg. His friends lamented, "O what terrible news!" Again, he asked, "Why do you think it's bad news? Maybe it's a good thing."

A week after, war broke out between China and Mongolia. The army came to conscript all able bodied men. The man's son was spared because of his broken leg. Many of them became casualties. The man said to his friends - "See? The things you thought were bad were actually good, and the things you thought were good were bad."

So while the black, white, red, and dappled horsemen wrecked havoc in the life of the Chinese man, yet they were all for a purpose.

We cannot read providence accurately. We can only give thanks to God for his wise providence.

We give thanks because of God's will concerning us. While calamity does come to God's people, nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

### Conclusion

Whatever the future may bring, whatever calamities may come upon us - yet we know that these will never separate us from God's love. And besides that, these are works of God's providence. He is accomplishing his will - and while we do not understand it - we know it is perfect. ~  
*Pastor*



## **Catechism for Younger Children**

39. What is the sinful nature that we inherit from Adam called Original sin.
40. Can anyone go to heaven with this sinful nature? No. Our hearts must be changed before we can believe in Jesus and go to heaven.

## Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (27.10.2019)</i>	<i>Next Week (3.11.2019)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jairus Wong	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Putri Harapan & Rebecca Lee	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Josephine Austin, David Pang Sharon Sriharan, Steven Lim	Rex Sriharan, John Tan John Chandran, Johnny Orchard
Ushers	Heng Qi Ban & Faith Chiu	Jemima Ng & Sharon Sriharan
Kitchen Duties	Debbie Blake, Angela Yap Jenni Budiman	Eileen Tay, Alison Wong Putri Harapan, Ida Lee
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Raymond Woo

### 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: A Perfect and Upright Man (Job 1:1-22).
4. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 29 October 2019 at 10am. Please see Bro Yen Fye Yap for more information.
5. **10th Annual General Meeting:** Today at 11:30am sharp.

#### Appointments for the Week

SUN 9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship Service

#### Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2186.50 (ET - \$200.00). Mission Fund - \$414.00 (#890 - \$204.00, ET - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$300.00 (ET - \$300.00)  
Total Tithes & Offerings - \$2900.50

\*ET: Electronic Transfer    Attendance - 106.