



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 24 November 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	46 – <i>O Worship The King</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 55:1-13
Hymn	TP – 90:1-4 & 10-14
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Job 4:1-21
Hymn	526 – <i>I Need Thee Every Hour</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Round 1: Fight"
*Closing Hymn	55 – <i>God Moves in a Mysterious Way</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

I Will Never Leave You Nor Forsake You

Sometimes the church of Christ suffers greatly. The Hebrew Christians in Rome was one such church. They had endured a great fight of afflictions, were ridiculed, and had their possessions confiscated (Hebrews 10:32-34).

But Christ had a promise for that church going through difficulty - "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

This was something the Christians needed to know.

To Whom Are the Promises Made

This promise to the Hebrew Christians was a promise repeated from the Old Testament.

Moses reminded the people of Israel that God would not forsake them (Deuteronomy 31:6). This was a promise made to Joshua when he became leader (Joshua 1:5). Similarly, David reminded Solomon of this promise (1 Chronicles 28:20). Isaiah reminded the soon be exiles of God's presence with them (Isaiah 41:10-13).

This was a promise made to God's people in all ages. So it's a promise made to Christ's church today. I will never leave you nor forsake you.

It is true that the Hebrew Christians had different circumstances to Joshua - but they too were given this promise.

Whatever our difficulty today, whether it be anxiety or uncertainty, God gives us this promise. God has promised not to leave us comfortless.

When Israel was crossing the wilderness, they had the presence of God with them - cooling them in the day and warming them in the night.

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were cast into the fire, they had the Son of God with them. Similarly, after Jesus died, 2 downcast disciples were returning home to Emmaus, but Christ was there to warm their hearts.

When Christ went physically to heaven, he left his Spirit behind and assured them that he would be with them until the end of the world.

The promise is made to God's people in Christ - to his church, especially as we go through difficulty.

Who Makes the Promises?

It is God that makes the promises to his people. He was the one who assured Joshua of his continued presence. It was not Moses or a prophet - it was the omnipotent God.

When Christ said to the disciples that he would be with them to the end of the world, he assured them that "all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

This means that Christ has all the power in heaven and earth. He can do anything to help his people. He has no limits on his resources.

Annie Johnson Flint, who wrote the hymn "He Giveth More Grace," said in the chorus - "His love has no limit, his grace has no measure, his power no boundary known unto men. For out of his infinite riches in Jesus, he giveth and giveth and giveth again."

This is the God who says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

What Is the Promise?

There are 2 parts to this promise.

The first part is - I will never leave you. This literally means "I will never send you back." It means that God will never leave us behind. We are always there beside him.

When Moses was to lead the people to the Promised Land, God told him that his presence will go with Moses.

When a mother brings a toddler out, she walks beside the toddler, holding his hand. She does not walk in front, nor leaves the child behind.

The second part is - I will never forsake you. This literally means that God "will never leave you down in..."

When Joseph was cast into a pit, God eventually lifted him out. When he was sold into slavery, he was eventually lifted to a high post in Potiphar's household. When he was cast into prison, he was eventually released.

God does not leave us to fend for ourselves. He will never forsake us.

There are many of us that carry burdens that we don't share with others. But there is a God to whom we can bring these burdens.

How Sure is the Promise?

When God made the promise, he meant every word of it. Unfortunately, we don't understand every word of it because it is in Greek.

I never leave you nor forsake you in Greek is οὐ μὴ σε ἀνῶ οὐδ' οὐ μὴ σε ἐγκαταλίπω.

It has 5 negatives in it. Literally, it can be read - I will never, never, leave you; never, never, never forsake you.

In other words, in our pain, suffering, anxiety, uncertainty; God is saying that he will never, never leave us; never, never, never forsake us.

And this idea comes out in the hymn "How Firm a Foundation" even more. "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose; I will not, I will not desert to its foes; That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake; I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

When God warned Adam and Eve in the garden not to eat of the fruit, lest they surely die - the warning was given with double strength - you will die die! But the assurance of God not to leave those who love him is a five fold strength - I will never never never never never leave nor forsake you.

What Do We Do with this Promise?

We are to believe it. When we consider how faithful the God who made the promise, we should work hard at believing it. God is not slack concerning his promise (2 Peter 3:9) and he doesn't change (Malachi 3:6). Because he has

told us his promises, they are true (John 14:2).

David, in all of his suffering, chose still to hang on to the promise that God would never forsake him. This was something that his son Solomon also believed - that God fails not in one word of all his promises (1 Kings 8:56).

There are times when we falter in our belief. That is when we lose hope. But Abraham never staggered at the promise of God (Romans 4:20).

We are also to believe it in whatever trials we are going through. We may feel very alone. David was feeling very cast down and disquieted in himself. But his solution was not to turn inward; his solution was to turn upward to God - "hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance" (Psalm 42:5). When Satan tempts us, we don't have to despair.

Conclusion

This promise made to believers, is not only for the individual - it is also for the church of God. God was with the Old Covenant Church in the wilderness. He will be with Covenant Church in Perth. If God helped the New Covenant Church in Acts, he will be with Covenant Church in Perth.

The church may be placed in a furnace, cast in a pit, or be subjected to Satan's roar; but Christ is with us. He has promised - I will never never never never never leave nor forsake you.

~ *Pastor*

Catechism for Younger Children

47. Whom did Christ represent in the covenant of grace? His elect people.

48. How did Christ fulfill the covenant of grace? Christ obeyed the whole law for his people, and then suffered the punishment due for their sins.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (24.11.2019)</i>	<i>Next Week (1.12.2019)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Putri Harapan & Rebecca Lee	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Kim Leow, Steven Lim Ken Chong, Jacob Woo	Jansen Ng, Rex Sriharan John Tan, Faith Chiu
Ushers	August Ng & Angela Yap	Sharon Sriharan & Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Dina Portillo, Adeline Ng Carmel Sriharan	Jenni Budiman, August Ng Helen Wong, Peggy Woo
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. Next week's message: "Round 2: Fight" (Job 8:1-22).
3. **Church Family BBQ**, 12pm on Sunday 1st December at Bicton Quarantine Park. Cost: \$5 for everyone except children under 6 years old. Please register and pay with Bro Micah Chiang or Bro David Pang immediately after the service. Registration closes today.
4. Ladies Fellowship Today. Lunch and DVD on "How People Change" at 12:15pm. Ladies of all ages welcome. Please see Sis Wendy Gong for more details.

Appointments for the Week

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

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2451.65 (#895 - \$400.00, ET - \$200.00).
Mission Fund - \$220.00 (ET - \$100.00)
Building Fund - \$300.00 (ET - \$300.00)
Total Tithes & Offerings - \$2971.65

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 113.