



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 19 May 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	44 - <i>Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 2:1-13
Hymn	Psalm 23b
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 6:3-13
Hymn	566 - <i>Channels Only</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"An Open Heart from a Wounded Apostle"
*Closing Hymn	521 - <i>My Times Are in Thy Hand</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

Righteousness and the Nation

Yesterday, the nation had its federal elections. The various election centers snaked with lines and citizens cast their ballots.

Perhaps the hope of Christians is that if the right government is voted in, the cause of Christ and the right values would be promoted in this country.

Is it right to think this way?

It is true that Proverbs 14:34 teaches us that righteousness exalts a nation.

But we need to remember that the duty of righteousness is not only incumbent upon the government.

It is also true that Proverbs 14:34 teaches us that sin is a reproach or a disgrace to any people.

But we need to remember that the duty to remove sin is not only incumbent upon the government.

All of us are duty bound to live righteously and to remove sin.

What Is Righteousness?

Righteousness is the standard of right according to God. This is not man's standard of right and wrong.

While we may all have our opinion of good political and fiscal governance, our opinions of what a righteous government does cannot be based on our opinions and our definition.

Since righteousness is according to God's standard, righteousness can only be defined by the Bible.

Deuteronomy 6:25 says, *"And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us."*

Righteousness is complete obedience to God's laws. But the Bible tells us that we can't be righteous by doing this because we can't do this.

Romans 3:10 says, *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."*

This is why we can't expect any government to do righteously.

But God's plan for righteousness is through faith and salvation. Romans 1:17 - *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."*

A Righteous Nation Is not Found in a Conservative Government

A nation is turned around not by a conservative government but a righteous government.

A nation is turned around by the increase of righteous people - of people who have been made righteous by Christ.

Proverbs 14:34 says, *"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."*

What is required to make a nation great? What exalts a nation? It requires righteous people.

When people are saved and trust in Jesus, only then can a nation be great.

But the flip side is scary - the second part of the proverb says that sin is a reproach.

We think of cities like Nineveh which received the condemnation of God. We think of cities like Sodom and Gomorrah which were actually destroyed for their sins.

When the Angel spoke to Abraham about the destruction of the city, He said that if there were 10 righteous people there, the city would not be destroyed.

We are not sure how large the population of Sodom and Gomorrah was - but we know that there probably only 1 righteous person - Lot.

And he was not enough to save the city. The more people who are righteous there are, the more God will preserve the city.

Australia's prosperity does not lie with the government. It lies with the church and with Christians preaching and living the gospel.

For with more people made righteous by Christ, the more God will prosper the nation.

While Sodom had 1 righteous man, Nineveh had none. But they repented. And when they repented, they were made righteous.

In Nineveh, the king wore sackcloth and he mourned. He got the entire nation to mourn. And all were saved.

This is why Christians in government are necessary.

But more than just Christians in government, Christians in the nation living righteously and trusting God will bring prosperity to the nation.

The just shall live by faith.

And living by faith will show itself in obedience. Micah 6:8 says, "*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*"

One of the problems of any nation today is the hypocrisy of Christians - we do not live as we should. And we don't repent as we should.

And one of the things we don't always do is to pray for the nation.

When Judah was carried off in exile to wicked Babylon, the instruction from God was to pray for that wicked nation.

Jeremiah 29:7 says, "*And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.*"

We ought not to put our trust in government, but in God. And that's why we pray for the Prime Minister and for his government.

The prosperity of a nation depends on how many Christians there are. It depends on the church ministering the gospel. It depends on Christians praying for the government.

If we do not do so, we should have no hope in any government to prosper the nation.

However we voted yesterday, it is in how we pray, preach, and promote righteousness that will lead to the greatness of the nation. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 99. What rule hath God given for our direction in Prayer?

A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called The Lord's Prayer.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (19.5.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (26.5.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Jairus Wong	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	Josephine Austin & Putri Harapan	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Chris Budiman, Jacob Woo David Pang, Jansen Ng	Vincent Chiu, Kim Leow Micah Chiang, Eugene Lim
Ushers	Jesslyn Leow, Joyce Ng	Faith Chiu, Putri Harapan
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Rebecca Lee Jackie Hong	Aliza Chiu*, Alison Wong Lydia Orchard
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>24 May 2019</i>	<i>31 May 2019</i>
Chairman	Vincent Chiu	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene 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. Next week's message: "A Heartfelt Plea to Be Separate and Holy" (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).
3. The church has ordered packed food today to encourage people to stay behind for fellowship. Availability will be on a first come first served basis.
4. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 28 May 2019, 10am. Message by Pastor Mark: "Solus Christus." Potluck lunch after meeting.
5. The next Ladies' Fellowship meeting is on Sunday 26th May, 12.30pm at church. Lunch and DVD "How People Change". Bring a dish to share. Ladies of all ages welcome. Please see Wendy for more details.
6. Church 9th anniversary dinner on Sunday 30 June 2019 at 6 pm at North Lake BBQ. Cost: \$25 (adults) and \$10 (children). Please register with Keng Hong or Micah Chiang.

Appointments for the Week

WED 10:00 am 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 - \$2,362.89 (DD - \$711.09). Missions Fund - \$190.00 (DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$300.00 (DD - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,852.89. Attendance - 128.

*DD: direct deposit