



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 9 June 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	41 - <i>Blessed Be the Name</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 112
Hymn	TP 112:1-6
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 8:1-24
Hymn	566 - Channels Only
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"A Heartfelt Plea for Generous Giving and Stewardship"
*Closing Hymn	538 - <i>Give of Your Best</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

Christians and Legal Action

Two weeks' ago, I wrote about Israel Folau and his dismissal from Rugby Australia because of his social media post about sin and repentance.

This week, he has applied to have his case heard in the Fair Work Commission. He is seeking substantial damages for income loss. The number specified is \$5 million.

It naturally brings up the question - if Israel Folau, as a believer, is doing this; can believers sue for such income loss? Can believers take legal action?

Lawful Legal Action

When Paul was wrongly arrested and almost subjected to a beating, he made an appeal.

Since it was against the law for Roman citizens to be treated this way, Paul, who was a Roman citizen, used the law to question his captors.

Acts 22:25 - "*Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?*"

This shows that it is not a sin to use the existing legal system to protect yourself and to obtain what is rightfully yours under the law.

Similarly, when he was struck by the Sanhedrin - which was illegal - he used the law against the High Priest.

Acts 23:3 - "*Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?*"

What they did against Paul was illegal, and Paul was not afraid to use the law back against them.

Turn the Other Cheek?

But would doing this be against the principle of turning the other cheek?

When Jesus taught this principle, he was not promoting pacifism. Rather, what he taught was putting aside personal retaliation when you are personally offended.

We see this in Westerns, in Kung Fu movies, and even in period dramas. When someone is insulted, he issues a call to arms.

For Westerns, the offender and the offended will load a gun, and they will walk a few paces before turning around, drawing their guns, and firing. This was to settle personal scores.

Likewise, when Mr Wickham dishonored the ward of Colonel Brandon, a duel was fought.

Samuel Johnson, the 18th century writer and journalist, wrote, "*A man may shoot the man who invades his character, as he may shoot him who attempts to break into his house.*"

This is what Jesus was against. But Jesus was not implementing national defense policy or throwing off the principles of a judicial system.

Legal Action and Motives

It is therefore right for a Christian to use means under the law to protect himself and to bring to justice, those who would break the law.

So if a person has been cheated in business and suffered as a result by another, there is nothing wrong with seeking legal recourse for compensation.

The question would be - does \$5 million qualify as reasonable compensation for a man? Is it not more about retaliation?

While I do not know all the details of the case, I can only say that if that which is sought is compensation for losses incurred when a law was broken, then it would not be an unfair compensation.

But the motive must be clear - it is not for retaliation or revenge. We do not return evil for evil.

Christians vs Christians

As Christians, we do not sue one another in front of the judges of the world. It is foolish to do so.

1 Corinthians 6:1,5 ask *"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?...Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?"*

Paul says that there is no need to go to the pagans for justice between Christians because there is sufficient wisdom in the church to deal with conflicts between Christians - provided these processes are followed and exercised.

Very often, the failure to do these things result in a lack of problem resolution. And the judgment is decided, not privately by overseers, but often decided by public sentiment.

Sadly there is an unwillingness to deal with conflicts according to the processes of the Scriptures. And this is particularly hard and difficult on the church when overseers fail to do this.

I heard once that two members of a church were suing one another in court; but there was no oversight of this by their pastor - and they even continued to partake of the Lord's Supper. The table was defiled.

In another case, when the pastors of a church rightly refused to attend the wrongful wedding of a member to an idolator; another pastor, without respect to the other two or the Scriptures, not only attended it, but gave God's blessings to that unholy union.

There is a process - but if Christians do not follow the process; and if overseers do not follow it, we do not make use of God's ordained processes for justice and reconciliation.

Conclusion

In the world, there is a process that Christians can make use of. It may not always be perfect, but Christians may, out of a right motive, use it to obtain justice.

In the church, there is a perfect process we can follow. Unfortunately, we are imperfect people. But perhaps this is why we need to follow the processes ordained in the Word, done with a right motive. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 102. What do we pray for in the second petition?

A. In the second petition, which is, Thy kingdom come, we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it, and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (9.6.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (16.6.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Jerome Ng
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Josephine Austen & Wendy Gong
Offering Stewards	David Lim, Chris Budiman Steven Lim, Jacob Woo	Vincent Chiu, Eugene Lim Johnny Orchard, Rex Sriharan
Ushers	Heng Qi Ban, Wendy Gong	Angela Yap, August Ng
Kitchen Duties	August Ng*, Rosemary Fitzpatrick Peggy Woo	Lisa Lim*, Val Withnell Ken Hong
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>14 June 2019</i>	<i>21 June 2019</i>
Chairman	Johnson Lim	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Jerome Ng

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: "People Are Blessed and God Is Praised by Our Generosity" (2 Corinthians 9:1-15).
3. Teens Retreat. Topic: "The Worship of God" Speaker: Pastor Mark Chen. Dates: 10-13 July 2019. Venue: Como. Fees: \$100. Please see Min Chen for more information.
4. Junior Fellowship and Teens Fellowship will commence on Saturday, 22 June 2019 at 4:30 pm. More details will follow.
5. 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.
6. Church 9th anniversary dinner on Sunday 30 June 2019 at 6 pm at North Lake BBQ. Cost: \$20 (adults) and \$10 (children). Please register with Ken 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 - \$2,257.65 (DD - \$275.00).
 Missions Fund - \$290.00 (DD - \$100.00, #866 - \$80.00). Building Fund - \$600.00 (DD - \$300.00, #646 - \$100.00, #647 - \$200.00).
 Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,147.65.
 Attendance - 129.

*DD: direct deposit

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.