



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 30 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	52 - <i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 2:1-11
Hymn	140 - <i>At the Cross</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 10:12-18
Hymn	550 - <i>Search Me, O God</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"An Apostle's Proud Integrity"
*Closing Hymn	576 - <i>Above Thine Own Ambitions Here</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Choir Presentation	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>
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

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Difficulties in Building God's Kingdom

Nehemiah embarked on one of the greatest projects in Israel's history of rebuilding the kingdom.

In fact, there has never been a time when the kingdom did not have to be built and rebuilt. From the time of Moses, there was always building and rebuilding.

And it was especially hard during Nehemiah's time due to the opposition the kingdom experienced. While there will always be opposition from without, it is especially sad when there are difficulties within.

Nehemiah 5 describes open sin among the people of Israel. And when there is open sin, the kingdom of God can't advance.

Open Sin Hinders Kingdom Growth

The people of God were nearly finished building the wall of Jerusalem. They had half of the wall left to build. They worked hard and responded to the challenge to build.

But an unresolved issue hindered the work. And it was an issue between brethren. They were oppressing one another.

Verse 1 says that the people cried out against their brothers - not their enemies - but their brothers.

Why?

Because they didn't have enough to survive. The men were involved in building the city and didn't have the time to farm.

As a result, to buy food, some had mortgaged their lands, vineyards, and houses so that they might have money to buy grain. Some had even borrowed money to buy food (vv 3-4).

As a result, when it came time to repay, they couldn't and their lands were repossessed.

So their only resource left was their children. They sold their children to indentured servitude to work off their debt.

This had been taking place for years - even before Nehemiah had returned. The rich were exploiting the people. As a result, there were issues within the kingdom.

Open, tolerated, and long standing sin eventually led to the disunity of God's people.

Difficulties in churches don't happen because of outside oppression. They happen because of open sin among God's people that is not addressed.

Satan is always wanting to destroy unity and he does that through scandal. And that kind of scandal can be anything.

Grief Is an Appropriate Response

When Nehemiah heard this it grieved him. In fact, his reaction was much stronger than grief - it was anger.

He said in verse 6 - "And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words."

It would be hard to continue building if this erosion was there. So the first thing Nehemiah did was to address the situation.

Huge dykes are built in the Netherlands to keep seawater from flooding farmland. But dykes can often be breached by cracks. And a crack that is ignored can lead to serious consequences. So rather than continue farming, the dyke should be fixed.

Nehemiah's grief and anger were appropriate. The Bible commands anger - Ephesians 4:26 says, "Be ye angry."

When Moses descended from Mount Sinai and saw the people worshiping the golden calf, he was so angry that he smashed the two tablets.

When David came to the valley of Elah, and heard Goliath's insulting words, David got angry.

When Jesus encountered the lack of faith among the Jews of Bethany at Lazarus' grave, he wept.

While it is right to be outraged, we must not sin. Be ye angry, and sin not.

Address Open Sin and Scandal

We often get angry and grieved, but we never confront the issue.

But what did Nehemiah do? Verse 7 - "Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them."

He took time to think it through. And then he rebuked the ones involved. He told them how he took great pains to rescue the Jews from Persia and to bring them to Jerusalem - but now, it was the Jews in Jerusalem who were oppressing them.

He tells them to correct what they had done - to pay back, to return the lands, vineyards, olive yards, houses, and the interest they took (vv 10-11).

To rebuke is love. For 90 years, nothing had been done. The Bible instructs us to maintain unity and love.

Ephesians 4:2 - "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love."

We also love when we overlook people's sins. 1 Peter 4:8 - "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

But when we ignore scandal, that is wrong. Galatians 6:1-2 - "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one

another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Nehemiah dealt with the sin and those who sinned responded. Verse 12 - "Then said they, We will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest..."

Personal Investment Needed

When the people cried out, Nehemiah addressed it. Not only by rebuking the oppressors, but he met the immediate need by his own resources.

Verse 10 says that he lent the people money and grain, but without interest.

Verses 17-18 tell us that he fed people out of his own pocket.

When he received food - which was a lot - one cow, 6 sheep, chicken, duck, pheasant, and wine - he fed 150 people regularly out of his own pockets.

It was not just getting other people to do what they were supposed to do - he did what they were supposed to do.

Why did he do these things? It was because he feared God (v 15) and felt for the people (v 18).

Conclusion

In kingdom building, there will be difficulties. There will be scandal. These will hinder kingdom growth. And we must grieve over them - not ignore them.

And we must address them but be personally involved.

Everyone wants a great church, but it takes effort to be involved and to invest in it. And part of this includes addressing problems and playing your part. ~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 105. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

A. In the fifth petition, which is, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, we pray, that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (30.6.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (7.7.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Magdalene Tay	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Chris Budiman, Jansen Ng John Chandran, Vincent Chiu	David Lim, Paul Butler Ken Chong, David Pang
Ushers	Jemima Ng, Jerome Ng	Faith Chiu, Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Angela Yap*, Mary-Anne Chan Florence Orchard	Eileen Tay*, Putri Harapan Ida Lee, Jemima Ng
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>5 July 2019</i>	<i>12 July 2019</i>
Chairman	Jacob Woo	In Recess
Pianist	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. 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: "Angels of Light" (2 Corinthians 11:1-15).
4. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (July-September 2019) are available in the foyer.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Pastor will be on annual leave from 19 July to 18 August 2019.
8. Church 9th anniversary dinner tonight at 6 pm at North Lake BBQ.

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 - \$10,162.24 (DD - \$7,955.74, #869 - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$220.00 (DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$1,300.00 (DD - \$1,300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$11,682.24. Attendance - 119.

*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.