

# Welcome to Rosedale

Sunday July 9, 2017

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Praise & Worship

Family Prayer

Scripture ..... 1 Corinthians 5:9 – 6:11

Message..... Pastor John Bellingham

## IN CONTEMPT OF GOD'S COURT

Final Song

Benediction

“I think that this passage [1 Corinthians 6] has something to say about the proper Christian attitude toward civil litigation. Paul is making two points. Paul says that the mediation of a mutual friend, such as the parish priest, should be sought before parties run off to the law courts... I think we are too ready today to see vindication or vengeance through adversary proceedings, rather than peace through mediation... Good Christians, just as they are slow to anger, should be slow to sue.”

- Hon. Anton Scalia (Former US Supreme Court Justice)

# Missionary of the Week

**The Meadows Church – Graeme & Julie Melvin**

“Please pray for Cathy. She is a young widow with two children who have been coming out to The Meadows since the start of this year. She has an extremely broken past, but God has used the Church to build her up on the foundation of Jesus. We are so excited to be planning a baptism service for her and maybe one other person this summer. Please pray for our two upcoming sports camps. Last year we ran one camp and this year we are running two. We have almost 40 kids signed up for each camp so far. I am also excited for a few of our volunteers as they are some key youth we have been reaching out to in the community. We hope they are impacted by the gospel as much, if not more, than the kids will be.”

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## Families of the Week

**Please remember to pray for and to encourage the following people this week**

- Monday**      Jones, Gerry & Mary
- Tuesday**     Jones, Ronald
- Wednesday**    Kaczmarek, Huguet & Tom
- Thursday**      Kaune, Ashley
- Friday**         Kirkpatrick, Derek & Melissa
- Saturday**      Koncewicz, Brian & Estella

# ROSEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH



**Reaching up....**

**Reaching in....**

**Reaching out...**

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Welland, ON L3B 1J2  
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Pastor: Rev. John C. Bellingham

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## This Week at Rosedale

Tuesday: Men's Bible Study – 9:30 am

Wednesday: Hopeful Hearts – 12:00 pm  
Prayer Meeting – 7:00 pm

Saturday: Ladies' Bible Study – 8:00 am

Sunday: Christian Foundations – 9:00 am  
Corporate Worship – 10:30 am

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**Prayer Meeting:** Every Wednesday at 7pm we gather for corporate prayer. If you are not yet in the habit of praying regularly with your brothers and sisters in Christ please consider joining us and making it a regular part of your week.

**Christian Foundations:** Next Sunday we begin a new series in Christian Foundations: 'Marks of a Healthy Church'. Join us at 9am for this important time of teaching and group discussion.

**Summer Kids Club:** Our week long kid's club will run from July 31- August 4. Flyers are available from Anita Nagy.

**Outdoor Service & Picnic:** Our annual outdoor service and Church picnic will be happening on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Please mark this date on your calendar.

**Blue Jays Social:** We are planning a trip to Toronto on August 26<sup>th</sup> to watch the Blue Jays play the Twins. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer. If at least 20 people commit to coming the ticket price will be \$25 for Adults and \$14 for Children (14 and under). If you own a minivan and are able to drive please let Pastor John know.

## Contempt of God's Court 1 Cor 5:9 - 6:11

### **I. To Judge or Not to Judge? (5:9-13)**

- 1) The Corinthian Misunderstanding
  - a. In a previous letter Paul had instructed the Corinthian Christians not to associate with sexually immoral people inside the Church
    - i. A persistent problem in Corinth
    - ii. Paul's teaching on discipline was not new
  - b. The Corinthians mistakenly thought Paul was referring to non-believers outside the Church
- 2) Paul's Clarification
  - a. The Danger of Isolationism
    - i. Paul warns the Church not to isolate itself from immoral people outside the Church
      - Isolation usually occurs when Christians feel threatened by a hostile culture
      - Isolation may give us a sense of comfort, but hinders the fulfillment of our mission
    - ii. The Church of Christ is to be in the world, but not of the world – *cf.* John 17:14-19
  - b. The Danger of Dominionism
    - i. Dominion Theology (aka. Theonomy, Reconstructionism) seeks to 'Christianize' society by coercion/ force of law
    - ii. It is good for Christians to engage politically and to seek the welfare of society, but we must never make politics into a 'saviour'
  - c. Paul tells the Church not to 'judge' unbelievers
    - i. By 'judge' Paul isn't saying that we should never denounce the sin of our society
    - ii. Paul is saying that we shouldn't separate from a non-believer in the way we would from a rebellious, unrepentant Christian

### **Application:**

- It is far easier to berate the sin and immorality of non-believers outside the Church than it is to deal biblically with sin and immorality inside the Church. We must be on guard against the sin of hypocrisy

- If we isolate ourselves from non-believers we will fail in our duty to evangelize, but if we seek to 'Christianize' our society by coercion/ rule of law we will also fail. Genuine transformation of the heart comes from the inside out, not from the outside in.  
- Our job is to preach the gospel, call sinners to repent and to leave the judgment of non-believers to God

### **II. To Sue or Not to Sue? (6:1-11)**

- 1) The Wrong Place for Dirty Laundry
  - a. Ancient Greek culture was extremely litigious. Going to court was a form of entertainment.
  - b. The Church in Corinth was resolving their internal conflicts through litigation
    - i. They were not following the Biblical process for conflict resolution - Matthew 18:15-20
    - ii. Guilty parties were not being disciplined
    - iii. Their gospel witness was being ruined in the Corinthian courthouse
  - c. Paul is horrified by their conduct!
    - i. Christians who will one day judge fallen angels must settle internal disagreements!
    - ii. Paul sarcastically mocks their 'wisdom'
- 2) A Guaranteed Way to Lose
  - a. To win a verdict at the expense of your Christian witness is always a loss
  - b. Better to sacrifice your 'rights' and suffer loss than to bring disgrace on Christ and His Church

### **Application:**

- As a general principle Christians should resolve their disputes in the Church rather than in the Courthouse  
- Paul is not in any way deprecating civil authority or saying it is unnecessary – *cf.* Romans 13:1-7  
- This text is about civil disputes, not criminal cases. Criminals are to be turned over to the civil authority  
- There are times when a Christian has no choice but to go to Court (ie. divorce, lawsuit with a non-believer)  
- We must adjust our attitude toward personal 'rights', following the example of Christ – *cf.* 1 Peter 2:21-25