

Opposition Then and Now

The Christian Institute warns of legal action over possible ban on prayer

The Christian Institute has threatened the Government with judicial review if a proposed ban on so-called conversion therapy outlaws prayer which breaches the tenets of LGBT theology.

In a detailed legal opinion for the Institute, Jason Coppel QC confirmed that activists' proposed definitions would criminalise the ordinary work of churches.

He warned that prayer, evangelism, church membership, baptism and communion could all breach a broad conversion therapy law.

Mr Coppel pointed



out that such legislation would go against UK human rights law, which protects the freedom of churches to preach and "require conformity" to their beliefs on sexual ethics and gender identity.

In May, Women and Equalities Minister Liz Truss informed Parliament that the Government will

consult on how to ban 'conversion therapy' in the autumn. The consultation is expected to consider the effect of such a ban on religious freedom in England and Wales.

The announcement prompted an outcry from LGBT activists angered by the decision to consult the public. Jayne Ozanne, a prominent supporter of a wide-ranging ban subsequently called for "gentle non-coercive prayer" on sexual ethics to be included in the legislation.

The Institute has also threatened the Northern Ireland Executive with legal action if it introduces a similarly broad ban in the Province.



Read our update leaflet on conversion therapy

the.ci/con-therapy-update



Opposition Now

Taking the elements of the title in reverse order, opposition to *ministers of the word* Luke 1:2 and *able ministers of the new testament* 2 Corinthians 3:6 persists¹.

Provisionally, so does resistance, as the work of the Christian Institute indicates. That said, the Victorian ruling is cause for particular concern. This writer attended a nation-wide Navigator Summer Conference circa 1975 held at the Australian National University, Canberra A.C.T.

AUSTRALIAN STATE OUTLAWES BIBLICAL PRAYER

Pastoral advice and prayer that uphold biblical teaching on sexual ethics have been criminalised in the Australian state of Victoria. Any practice that seeks to change or suppress "sexual orientation or gender identity" is outlawed – including "prayer based practice". Offenders face up to ten years in prison and a maximum fine of over £100,000.

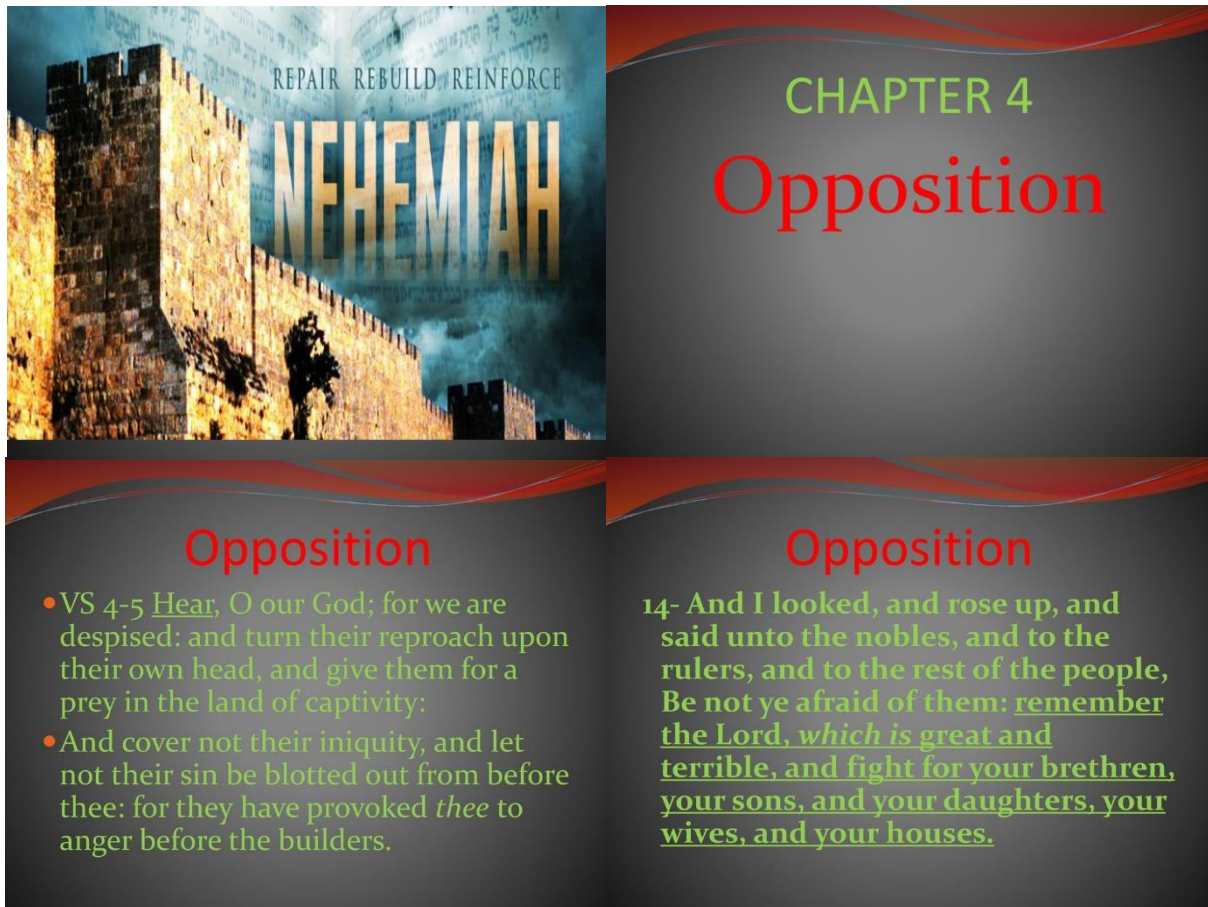
The state Attorney General said church ministers will be re-educated by the state to prevent them breaking the law.¹⁰ British Conservative MP Alicia Kearns says: "The model that's been passed in Victoria is a good one".¹¹



References at the.ci/con-therapy-update-ref

Australian Capital Territory. The sizable contingent of Melbourne Navigators, of whom this writer was one, sang a testimony to the Lord's work in their area featuring The Navigators Wheel Illustration² emblazoned on their T-shirts. Opposition now via the current Victorian ruling calls for resistance such as Nehemiah mounted against opposition then³.

Opposition Then



REPAIR REBUILD REINFORCE
NEHEMIAH

CHAPTER 4
Opposition

Opposition

- VS 4-5 Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:
- And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked *thee* to anger before the builders.

Opposition

14- And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

Conclusion⁴

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"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

2 Corinthians 2:14 KJV

References

¹ www.christian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/news_summer21_engwales.pdf The Christian Institute *Newsletter Summer 2021*

² www.christian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/conversion-therapy-update-may21.pdf The Christian Institute *Conversion Therapy Update May 2021*

³ www.navigators.org/resource/the-wheel-illustration *The Wheel Illustration*

⁴ slideplayer.com/slide/15863330/ *The State of our People In Great Affliction In Reproach* Slides 15, 16, 20, 25

⁴ www.2tim215truth.com/2019/09/verse-of-day-2-corinthians-214-kjv.html