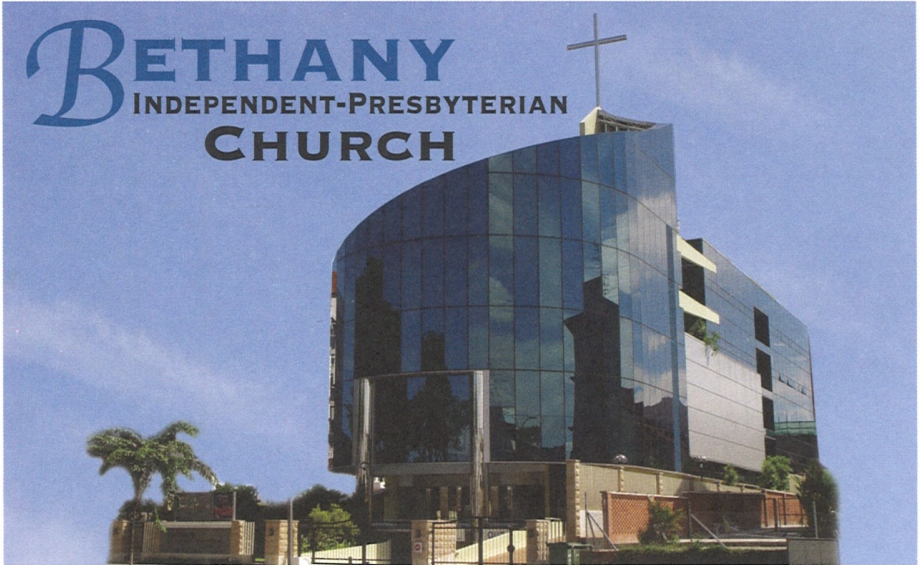


BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH



God's kind of Church...where God is touching lives...and people care for people

Bethany III ... 24 April 2016

MICA (P) No.: 030/10/2012

MEDITATION

by Rev Dr Charles Tan

Text: John 3



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THE SORROW OF REJECTION

THE PROMISE OF LIFE ETERNAL

The promise of eternal life should appeal to the heart, mind and even more the soul! Everything that the gospel writers presented about the Lord Jesus Christ brings such hope and delight! What is there not to like in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

THE SAD REALITY OF REJECTION

The sad reality is that there will be people who will reject the Gospel no matter how carefully it may be presented. The Gospel of John gives us some insight as to why some people reject the Lord Jesus Christ.

*And this is the condemnation,
That the light has come into the world,
And men loved darkness rather than light,
Because their deeds were evil.*

*For everyone practising evil hates the light
And does not come to the light,
Lest his deeds should be exposed.*

*But he who does the truth comes to the light,
That his deeds may be clearly seen,
That they have been done in God.*

John 3:19-21

1. Men loved darkness rather than light
 - a) This is a sobering statement indeed
 - b) There will be those who will not come to the light of the Lord
 - c) They have learned to love darkness more than light
2. Because their deeds were evil
 - a) Evil can penetrate deep into the heart

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- b) Evil can cause people to do wicked deeds
 - c) Many prefer to hide their evil deeds than to confess them and be cleansed
3. Everyone who practises evil hates the light
- a) Evil may be compared with darkness
 - b) Darkness will never come to the light
 - c) This is the nature of evil

BEING A LIGHT TO THE WORLD

The Lord Jesus declared that He was the light of the world. Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we too become lights of the world. Let us continue to shine for the Lord even if there is deepening darkness in the world.

*You are the light of the world.
A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

*Let your light so shine before men,
That they may see your good works
And glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14, 16 †*

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today! May your heart be lifted up through worship and fellowship! †

WELCOME

to Bethany III

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will be celebrating The Lord's Supper next Sunday.
Let us come prepared to partake of Holy Communion meaningfully. †

CATECHISM CLASS TODAY

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: 4th Floor Auditorium †

SUNDAY SCHOOL (COMBINED)

Singspiration: 8.15am

Sunday School Class: 8.30am- 9.15am

Class fellowship: 9.15am-9.30am †

NEXT TWO SUNDAYS

1. We will be having Combined Worship
2. There will not be Evening-Bilingual worship

1 May is May Day (Public holiday)

8 May is Mother's Day †



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOTHER'S DAY

The children will not be joining the Main Congregation this year. The Fellowship Hall is unable to accommodate all the children. They will have their own Worship program. †

BETHEL FAMILY CAMP

Thank God for His grace and mercy. The Camp turned out very well. Thank God for all who prayed for the Lord's blessings. †

MINISTRY IN MYANMAR

Pastor Charles Tan ministers in Yangon this week (25-29 April 2016). †

A & A PROJECT

1. Prayer support

Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessings

2. Practical support

Let us continue to give as the Lord enables. †

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2016

God willing, we will be holding our Youth Conference in December. Much depends on whether we will be able to have our TOP by then. †



SALVATION IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The following texts may be used meaningfully when we attempt to share our faith in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-10 may be used effectively).

1. Salvation made possible because of the grace of God
Ephesians 2:8-9
2. Salvation is to be received through the exercise of faith
Ephesians 2:8-9
3. What happens when we receive the Lord Jesus as our Saviour
 - a) We have the gift of salvation
 - b) God begins a special work in our life
 - c) We become His workmanship Ephesians 2:10
4. Good works
 - a) They do not earn salvation
 - b) But the true believer will ever seek to maintain good works as a natural evidence of salvation Ephesians 2:10



WEEKDAY MINISTRIES

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

Monday, 25 April 2016

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: TUR †

PRAYER MEETING

Monday, 25 April 2016

Time: 8.00pm

Venue: 4th Floor Auditorium †

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, 26 April 2016

Time: 8.00pm

Venue: 4th Floor Auditorium †

THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE

The nature of the life Jesus promised was always clear,
His promises must first be understood and held dear.
How precious are the words that promises eternal life,
In Heaven, the abode of God, there will be no strife!

Life on earth was not meant to be bogged down by sin,
Jesus promised that He would make us truly clean.
The truth that He has given will truly make us free,
We do not need to be shackled, we can have liberty!

The abundant life Jesus promised offers provision,
He will meet all our needs, and grant to us protection.
The heart is stirred and deeply moved indeed,
This is our faith in Jesus, His love is our great Creed.

How wonderful it is to know such great love from God,
Jesus was sent to give us this promise from the Lord.
How foolish we would be to reject this salvation!
What would we stand to gain in our rejection?

There is no salvation given to man outside Christ the Lord,
What answer would we give when, one day, we stand before God?
Choosing the world will truly result in a life of great ruin,
Walking in darkness will only harden our heart in sin.

John 3:16-36
Charles Tan †

TESTIMONY OF VALERIE TAN

My name is Valerie Tan. I first got to know about God when I was in my teenage years when I met Christians sharing the gospel and also from my secondary school classmates. Although I dismissed them, they still got me thinking about this God they believed in. Who is He? Why are there so many people believing in Him? How is He different?

I first came into direct contact with Christianity during a school learning journey in 2014. I decided to read the Bible for the first time. With no idea how to start, I flipped it open to Psalm 121. As I read, I found the verses very meaningful. I was reminded that He who has been watching over me assured me that He will always be there for me. The words seemed to be just the right words to address me. It seemed like He was speaking to me! It was then I decided to put my trust in Him and continue to learn more about Him. I started to be more curious about Christianity. Why does God love us? Consequently, I decided to start attending church; I wanted to know more about the faith. Going to church and attending service gives me an inner peace; an unexplainable calmness that motivates me. The people in church are so welcoming and warm. After most services, there is much to reflect on, how can I apply God's word to my life, how can I be the person that He wants me to be. He has constantly shown me that He is listening and He is faithful. In the same way, I hope to be faithful and learn more about Him.

Attending Catechism class and the Alpha course helped me to clarify and understand the faith better. It is encouraging to have so many people willing to share their experiences and testimonies about God and also people who are like me, learning more about the faith. Reading the Bible also helps me to understand the ways of Jesus and what he has done. His actions

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TESTIMONY OF VALERIE TAN

(Continued from page 9)

and words made so much sense. The Lord Jesus Christ has taught and inspired me in so many ways. His wisdom has changed the way I live and constantly reminds me to be more patient just as how He was with so many people He had met. Before I was a believer, I chose to just do good and believe that was sufficient. After all, which religion does not encourage one to do good? How wrong I was! Doing good is not enough. Reading and watching documentaries of Jesus' life on Earth touched me deeply. No matter how much good we can do, we are still sinners. Doing good will not redeem us. Yet, through Jesus' blood we are redeemed. This has given me hope, a second chance and that this God is a loving and forgiving one. It is my hope to continue to seek His Word and learn more about God and Jesus Christ .

*"I will lift up my eyes to the hills,
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth."
Psalm 121:1-2*

The first time I prayed, a peace overtook me. How amazing is His grace that He has shown me that He has always been with me. He knows my problems and shortcomings and I need not fear. God gives me peace whenever I pray. Through prayer, I have learnt to surrender my problems to God. He has always been a great and powerful God who works things out for me in His time and ways. When I was in university, I found great peace and strength to say a prayer to the Lord before the start of each exam. It always gives me the calmness and assures me that I am not alone. With God, I know

(Continued on page 11)

TESTIMONY OF VALERIE TAN

(Continued from page 10)

I will be well taken care of and I am able to put what I have learnt through the exam well.

*“The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
He shall preserve your soul.*

*The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in
From this time forth, and even forevermore.”*

Psalms 121: 7-8

Even though my love for the Lord is in its infant stages, He has never stopped watching over me. I am grateful for all that He has done for me. He has been faithful even when I was faithless. Why would He choose to save a wretch like me? But no, God is gracious and kind. The sacrifice of Jesus is not just for me but for all who believe in Him. It has taken me years to come to Him, yet I am assured that He will always be with me. I do not need to rely on my own strength because of Him. Procrastination and impatience are but just two of the many challenges that I face each day and slowly, I find that I am changing and trying to walk with Jesus.

I believe that God has plans for me and I want to follow His plan. As I say my grace over meals and during Quiet Time, I am constantly reminded of His everlasting love through the sacrifice of His own beloved son, Jesus Christ. It is here I have decided to commit my life to Him through baptism. Just as how the word Christian is formed, without Christ, I am nothing. Jesus' life has been such an amazing story. He is everything that I wish I could be but am not. But I pray that with time, I can learn more and grow in my faith

(Continued on page 12)

TESTIMONY OF VALERIE TAN

(Continued from page 11)

so I can become a stronger Christian.

It is because of this acceptance of Jesus into my life, I was inspired to pen a poem to remember this milestone in my life.

Faith

Who is this God who is so patient?
He who understands my every situation.
Gentle and persevering,
His grace is amazing.

His precious Son, Jesus, He sent,
On the third day He did ascend.
Redeemer of our sins,
There is no greater win.

Through all my trials, He is there with me
Granting me peace and serenity.
The Lord is with me forevermore,
My Father whose face I long for. †

PSALM 62:1-2

*Truly my soul silently waits for God;
From Him comes my salvation.*

*He only is my rock and my salvation;
He is my defense;
I shall not be greatly moved.*

1. Waiting upon the Lord
 - a) For salvation
 - b) For defence

2. Choosing to wait upon the Lord
 - a) We will find Refuge
 - b) We will not be easily moved by the tough circumstances of life †

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Today, 24 April 2016

John 8:32 The truth shall make you free

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

1. The truth

- a) The Scriptures
- b) The teachings of Jesus (in this particular context)

2. The power of the truth

- a) It may be known and understood
- b) It has power to make a person free from the power of sin

Next Sunday, 1 May 2016

Jeremiah 9:24 Glorifying in our knowledge of God

*“But let him who glories glory in this,
That he understands and knows Me,
That I am the LORD,
Exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth.
For in these I delight,” says the LORD. †*

THEME : I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE

This Week @ Worship

— COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE —
10.30 AM . FELLOWSHIP HALL
“He loved them to the end”
John 13

Chairman
Rev Mitchell Tan

Pianist
Mrs Esther Ang

Speaker
Rev Dr Charles Tan

Interpreter
Dr Jane Tan

— TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —

NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE

— CHILDREN'S CHURCH —
10.30 AM
“Blessed are those who mourn”
Matthew 5:4

COMBINED CC (P1—P6)

Speaker
Rev Mark Tan
4th Floor Auditorium

Chairman
Mr Dominic Cheng
Student-Pastor
Benjamin Chong

Pianist
Ms Tay Soo Leng

Speaker
Rev Mark Tan

Interpreter
Deacon
Dr Tan Peng Hui

— COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE —
4.00 PM . FELLOWSHIP HALL
“That you may believe that Jesus is the
Christ”
John 20

BREAKFAST: Darren
LUNCH: Eugene Seow & Yvette Chua
EVENING TEA: Elliott Chan

Bethany Church Activities

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Children's Worship (P1 – P6)		10.30 am	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Evening-Bilingual Worship Service		4.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Church Office	3 rd floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	3 rd Floor Auditorium	3 rd floor
Junior Sunday School		8.30am	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Combined		8.30am	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School		8.30am	BTS	4 th floor
Senior Sunday School III				
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Sanctuary II	2 nd floor
BIBLE STUDY				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Home Bible Study	2 nd and 4 th Thurs	3.00 pm	-	-
Mandarin Bible Study	1 st and 3 rd Fri	7.30 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
CATECHISM CLASS				
	Sun	1.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
PRAYER MEETING				
	Mon	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group	Sat	3.00 pm	3 rd and 4 th Floor Auditorium	3 rd & 4 th floor
Young Adults' Group	Sat	3.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor

Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

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SPECIAL BAPTISMAL SERVICE
24 April 2016
Order of Worship

PREPARATION

Pre-Worship Singing Century Praise 100	Fairest Lord Jesus
Prelude	<i>Pianist : Mrs Esther Ang</i>
Call to Worship	<i>Rev Mitchell Tan</i>
Invocation	

PRAISE

Hymns Century Praise 2	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
HWC No. 505	Love Lifted Me
Century Praise 68	The Love Of God
Song No. 4 [New Song]	Man Of Sorrows

BAPTISM

Miss Valerie Tan

SPECIAL SONG ITEM

“Behold The Lamb Of God” *Bethany Youth Choir*

PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

“PREACH THE WORD”

Message: “He loved them to the end”
“爱他们到底”
Text : John 13
约翰福音 13
Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

RESPONSE

Offering

Hymn
Century Praise 459 Blest Be The Tie

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude

EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

24 April 2016

Order of Worship

PREPARATION 预备

Prelude 前奏

Pianist : Ms Tay Soo Leng

Call to Worship 齐来称颂

Mr Dominic Cheng
Student-Pastor Benjamin Chong

Invocation 祈祷

PRAISE 赞美诗

Hymns

Century Praise 91

Praise Him! Praise Him!
赞美耶稣

Century Praise 301

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart
自耶稣在我心中

Century Praise 270

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
当转眼仰望耶稣

PRAYER 牧祷

“PREACH THE WORD” 证道

Message: “That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ”
“要叫你们信耶稣是基督”

Text : John 20 约翰福音 20

Speaker: Rev Mark Tan

Interpreter : Deacon Dr Tan Peng Hui

RESPONSE

Offering 奉献

Hymn

Century Praise 350

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
我已经决定

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude

PASTORAL LETTER

Senior Pastor : Rev Dr Charles Tan

24 April 2016

Dear Brethren,



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CHURCH

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LIVING WITH A GREAT SENSE OF PURPOSE

We conclude our series of Pulpit Messages today. How wonderful it is to reflect on the reason why the Lord Jesus came to earth.

1. He came to offer Life through faith in Him
2. Wonderful features
 - a) A new life in exchange for an old one
 - b) A life set free from the power of sin and Satan
 - c) A life that is abundant
 - d) A life that is eternal

If anyone lived with a great sense of purpose, the Lord Jesus certainly did! Let us be challenged to live as purposely as He did.

CONSCIOUS AND POWERFUL AWARENESS

The Lord Jesus lived with a tremendous sense of consciousness of His purpose in life. May the following words of the Lord Jesus impact our hearts!

1. Sharing His sense of purpose with His disciples

*But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns,
that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."
Mark 1:38*

2. Keeping the same sense of purpose towards the end of His life

*Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say then?
'Father, save Me from this hour?'
But for this purpose I came to this hour. John 12:27*

NO EASY JOURNEY

Life is not an easy journey. The human part of us crave for comfort and ease. It will take prayer and faith to remain focused! But how wonderful it is to be able to live significantly and with a tremendous sense of purpose!

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*