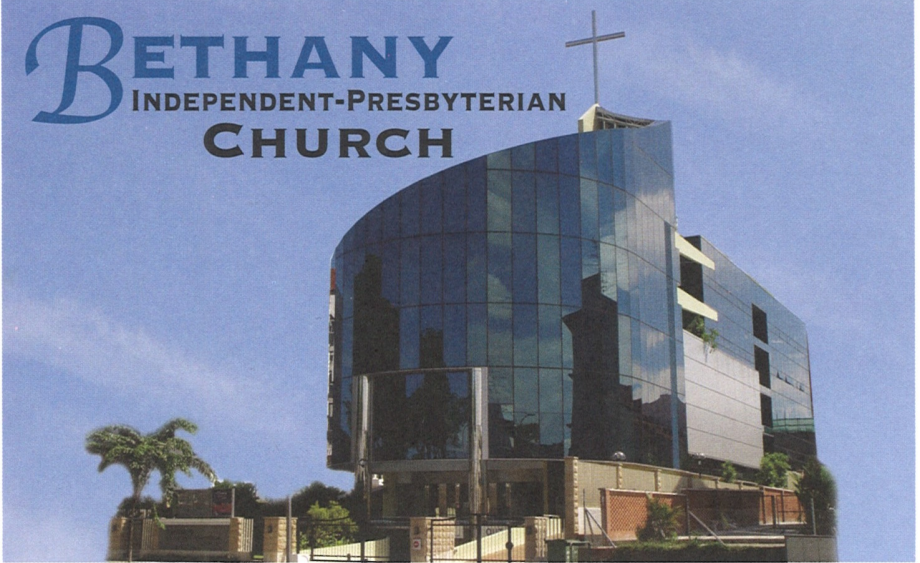


BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



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

Bethany III ... 30 October 2016

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

MEDITATION

by Rev Dr Charles Tan

Text: Psalm 25



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“TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT UP MY SOUL”

LESSONS ON PRAYER

We conclude our Pulpit Messages on the subject of Prayer today. Let us do our part in practising what we have learned about prayer.

(continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

VITAL PRAYERS

Psalm 25 offers significant insights as to how we should be praying to the Lord.

1. Lifting up our souls to the Lord

“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul”

Psalm 25:1

- a) This is what prayer really is
- b) We seek the Lord with our soul
- c) We lift up not just our eyes to the Lord but our very soul

2. Trust in the LORD

“O my God, I trust in You”

Psalm 25:2

- a) There must be a relationship of trust in the Lord
- b) Let us seek to cultivate our trust in God

3. Important requests

a) To ask the Lord to show us His ways

“Show me Your ways, O LORD”

Psalm 25:4a

b) To ask the LORD to teach us

“Teach me your paths”

Psalm 25:4b

c) To ask the Lord to lead us

“Lead me in Your truth”

Psalm 25:5a

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

d) To ask the Lord to remember His tender mercies

“Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old.” Psalm 25:6

e) To ask the Lord for pardon

*“For Your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great”
Psalm 25:11*

f) To ask the Lord to keep our souls

“Keep my soul, and deliver me” Psalm 25:20a

EXERCISING OUR FAITH IN THE LORD

Let us remember what we have learned about the LORD. These precious truths must ever be in our heart and mind.

1. Good and upright is the LORD Psalm 25:8

2. God will indeed do the following: -

a) He will teach sinners in the way Psalm 25:8

b) He will guide/teach the humble Psalm 25:9

c) He will show them His covenant Psalm 25:14

Let us ever seek the Lord our God in humble prayer efforts. Let us exercise our faith that He will loom upon us with tender mercies and with lovingkindness. †

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

COMBINED WORSHIP

We will be having a Combined Worship service today.
We will be having Combined Worship for the rest of the year. †

CATECHISM CLASS TODAY

Time: 1.00pm
Venue: 4th Floor Auditorium †

NEXT SUNDAY

We will be observing The Lord's Supper next Sunday.
Let us come with prepared hearts and minds. †

PRAYER MEETING/ BIBLE STUDY

We will be in recess for the rest of the year. We resume in January 2017. †



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY IN BETHEL

Pastor Charles Tan will be ministering in Bethel this week (Monday-Thursday, 31 October- 3 November 2016). ☩

WEDDING INVITATIONS

The following will be married the following weeks:

5 November 2016

11.00 am

Jonathan Jacob and Michelle Chan

12 November 2016

11.00 am

Chiam Daohua and Peh Shi Yun

19 November 2016

11.00 am

Eugene Seow and Yvette Chua

All are cordially invited.☩

A & A PROJECT

1. Let us pray earnestly for the Lord's mercies to be bestowed
2. Let us continue to support the Project as are able ☩

TESTIMONY

A TESTIMONY TO ENCOURAGE THE HEART

Kai Lam shares an encouraging testimony of what it means to trust the Lord in a difficult time. May his testimony bring much encouragement to the heart!

A HEART OF THANKFULNESS

Dear Pastor,

I am writing with a heart of thanksgiving and gratitude.

2016 has been a most difficult year for the family and me. In February this year, I was informed by my Vice President that my department functions in the shipping company would be transferred back to the head office in Dubai. With this realignment of duties, our positions were made redundant and therefore we would be retrenched.

I was shocked by this news for never in my life did I expect to be retrenched. More so since I am the sole breadwinner of the family. After I broke the news to my wife, Kalen, we struggled with fear because of the uncertainties that lay ahead of us and the anxieties on how to provide for the family since our children are still young.

It is said that one would take at least 6 months to a year to find employment; or longer given the current back drop of industries laying off workers and companies being financially stressed. Having met a number of recruitment agencies, the general feedback was that the employment market is soft because companies are either on hiring freeze or are looking for specific skill sets within their industry.

Yet in this storm of life, we have a God who cares and hears prayers. Thank God for His grace and mercy that I have found employment with a logistics company handling supply chain management and have just started work. These past 8 months have been most challenging mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It has been a spiritual journey from receiving the news of retrenchment to acceptance of reality to yielding our lives and learning to trust and obey The Lord instead. On hindsight, we could see the involvement of The Lord's Hands in every step of the way despite the setback.

1. Although we have been served notice, the company allowed us to remain employed until end of November and thereby giving us time to seek employment elsewhere.
2. Soon after the closure of my department was announced, news flooded the market that our company would be merging with a German shipping company. This created great uncertainties across the company globally.
3. When the retrenchment package was announced to the rest of the company, their benefits would only be effective if they remain in employment with the company until

the merger exercise is completed. In effect, this placed a constraint amongst the colleagues from seeking new employment.

We could neither see this nor appreciate it until later for our hearts and minds then were drawn towards the circumstances of life instead. I was reminded of the passage from **Isaiah 55: 8-9**

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

We would like to thank you for your spiritual guidance and for praying alongside us during this time. I would like to share some of the lessons that I have learnt:

- ◆ We need to have faith to believe on the authority of God’s words and His promises.
- ◆ It is ever so easy to focus our attention and energy on the circumstances of life. We must turn and set our eyes upon our Lord Jesus instead.
- ◆ The state of our heart and relationship with God must be strong enough to trust and obey Him.
- ◆ We need to turn to God in prayer and supplication.
- ◆ Silence of God pushes us to seek to relate to God even more earnestly.

Truly, our God is Almighty. He is our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, who is forever worthy of worship and praise!

Psalm 28

Blessed be the Lord,
Because He has heard the voice of my supplications!
The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,
And with my song I will praise Him.

Humbly,
Kai Lam



WORSHIP

PSALM 69:16-17

*Hear me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness is good;
Turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies.
And do not hide Your face from Your servant, for I am in trouble; hear me speedily.*

(Continued on page 8)

1. Pleading with the Lord to hear prayers
 - a) According to the Lord's lovingkindness
 - b) According to the multitude of His tender mercies
2. Problems in life
 - a) Troubles in life
 - b) They are admitted
3. Powerful Fears expressed
 - a) Fear of the Lord hiding His face
 - b) Fear of the Lord not answering his prayer requests †

POETRY CORNER

Two Poems are shared today. They conclude the series of Poems written to help us understand and appreciate the Pulpit Theme for September and October 2016.

I WILL GUIDE YOU WITH MY EYE

Three precious words are given from God above,
Three wonderful and precious words of great love.
They bring such an uplift to the burdened soul,
The outlook is brighter, the heart is made whole.

"I will instruct you..." the Lord knows all our needs!
He looks upon us with tender mercies indeed.
He has revealed His word to give us instruction for life,
We do need to live in despair, or be consumed by strife.

"I will teach you..." the Lord graciously adds,
The heart listens and the soul is made glad.
The Lord will be there to teach us His ways,
We can walk in wisdom, there is no need to stray.

"I will guide you..." the Lord concludes with love,
How the heart is cheered by such words from above.
The heart must desire to do its part in praying to God,
It must cultivate faith and hope in a wonderful Lord!

Inspiration: Psalm 32:8
Charles Tan

I WILL LOVE YOU, O LORD

“I will love You, O Lord...” so the Psalmist declared.
But of course! To express love to God makes one glad!
The Lord deserves all the love that we can give,
Without His mercy, we could not even live!

The Lord gives us His strength when we are weak,
How we need His grace and mercy, when we are sick.
The Lord is our strong Fortress and our solid Rock,
We never need fear our enemies, never be in shock.

How wonderful it is to dwell on our salvation in the Lord,
There is no Deliverer like our glorious Almighty God.
He is our Shield, and we are safe in His Stronghold,
Love must well up in our heart, it must not be cold.

Love for the Lord should see us turn to Him in prayer,
Let us ever call on Him for we will always find Him there.
The Lord our God is truly worthy of the greatest praise,
May many songs of love, from our hearts, be raised!

Inspiration: Psalm 18:1-3

Charles Tan †

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 30 October 2016

PSALM 28:9 SAVE YOUR PEOPLE

*Save Your people, and bless Your inheritance;
Shepherd them also, and bear them up forever.*

1. An earnest Plea
 - a) To have God save His people
 - b) To have God bless His inheritance (His people)
 - c) To shepherd them
 - d) To bear them up forever
2. This should be our prayer too
 - a) We need to seek the Lord for similar things
 - b) Let us make prayer a very integral part of our life

NEXT SUNDAY: 6 November 2016

We will embark on a new Pulpit Theme. This is inspired by Isaiah 12:2. Our focus in November-December is on the subject of Salvation. Let us not take our salvation for granted!

ISAIAH 12:2 BEHOLD, GOD IS MY SALVATION

*Behold, God is my salvation,
I will trust and not be afraid;
For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song;
He also has become my salvation. †*

THEME : FOR TO YOU I WILL PRAY

This Week @ Worship

— COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE —
10.30 AM . FELLOWSHIP HALL
“Lord, make me to know my end”
Psalm 39

Chairman
Deacon
George Thomas

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
“That it might be fulfilled”
Matthew 8:16-17

COMBINED CC (P1—P6)

Speaker
Rev Mark Tan
4th Floor Auditorium

— COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE —

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Elvin & Pat
Fellowship Lunch : Alicia Foo; Jane Tan;
Kevin Kwok; Alvin & Shirley Lim

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

301 Upper Paya Lebar Road, Singapore 534934
 tel : 65-62877713 . fax : 65-62877980 . website URL : bethanyipc.sg

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE
30 October 2016
Order of Worship

PREPARATION

Pre-Worship Singing HWC No. 410	My Faith Looks Up To Thee
Prelude	<i>Pianist : Mrs Esther Ang</i>
Call to Worship	<i>Deacon George Thomas</i>
Invocation	

PRAISE

Hymns	
Century Praise 53	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Century Praise 445	Moment By Moment
VIP No. 20	Declare His Glory

“PREACH THE WORD”

Message: “Lord, make me to know my end”
Text : Psalm 39
Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

RESPONSE

Offering

Hymn
HWC No. 438 Cleanse Me

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude

PASTORAL LETTER

Senior Pastor : Rev Dr Charles Tan

30 October 2016

Dear Brethren,

CONSCIOUSNESS

Praying to the Lord meaningfully involves much conscious effort on our part. Psalm 25 is highly instructive as to how we may practise consciousness.

1. Consciousness of our human weaknesses

Let us be honest and candid about our humanness. These weaknesses are with us and they can plague us badly.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a) Consciousness of our sins and our transgressions | Psalm 25:7 |
| b) Consciousness of our iniquity is great | Psalm 25:11 |
| c) Consciousness of our affliction and desolation | Psalm 25:16 |
| d) Consciousness of our troubles and distresses | Psalm 25:17 |

2. Consciousness of the greatness of the Lord

Let us be even more conscious of how much greater the Lord really is! He is even greater than our sins!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| a) He has great tender mercies | Psalm 25:6 |
| b) He is full of lovingkindness | Psalm 25:6 |
| c) He is full of goodness | Psalm 25:7 |
| d) He is good and upright | Psalm 25:8 |

3. Conscious effort is needed to live for the Lord meaningfully

Let us do more than pray to the Lord for forgiveness. Let us seek to live in righteousness and uprightness.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| a) Let us seek to be humble | Psalm 25:9 |
| b) Let us ever fear the Lord | Psalm 25:12,14 |
| c) Let us walk in integrity | Psalm 25:21 |
| d) Let us seek to walk in uprightness | Psalm 25:21 |

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*