

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 22 December 2019

MICA (P) No.: 048/10/2019

MEDITATION

✠ REV DR CHARLES TAN ✠

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Text: Isaiah 46

“ISRAEL, MY GLORY”

THE ORIGINAL PLAN OF GOD

God's original plan was to display His glory in and through Israel. Moses reminded Israel how the LORD had chosen Israel in the first place.

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

1. Not because of:

- a) Their size as a nation Deuteronomy 7:7
- b) Their power and might Deuteronomy 8:17
- c) Their righteousness Deuteronomy 9:6

2. The reality:

- a) Israel was but a small nation Deuteronomy 7:7
- b) It was weak compared to the Canaanites Deuteronomy 7:1
- c) The nation was rebellious and stubborn Deuteronomy 9:7

But despite God's original plan to make Israel glorious, the people sinned grievously and were disinherited!

A RESTORED PLAN

God still loved Israel. He made this wonderful statement.

"Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted,
Who *are* far from righteousness:

I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off;
My salvation shall not linger.
And I will place salvation in Zion,
For Israel My glory. Isaiah 46:12-13

1. God's plan declared to Israel

- a) A stubborn nation

(Continued on page 3)

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b) A nation far from righteousness

2. What God would do for Israel

a) He would bring His righteousness near

b) He would bring salvation to His people

c) He would give glory to Israel

OUR CHALLENGE

God's plan was not limited to Israel. He desires to give glory to all who truly trust in Him.

1. He would help us overcome our stubbornness

2. He would deliver us from evil

3. He would bring His salvation near

Our part is to believe and trust in the promises of the Lord our God. We can behold His glory as He works within us! ✠

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

We are glad you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May your heart be encouraged through worship and fellowship! ✠

*Welcome
to Bethany TV*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

1. The Prophecy Candle
2. The Bethlehem Candle
3. The Shepherds Candle
4. The Angels Candle

THE FOURTH CANDLE

We light the last of the Four Christmas Candles today. This is known as the Angels Candle. This Candle reminds us of:

1. The powerful presence of angelic beings
2. They have many functions:
 - a) They protect
 - b) They guide
 - c) They serve the heirs of salvation humbly
3. Let us thank God for angels who surround us! ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS AT SHANGRI LA

Date: 25 December 2019

Time: 10.30am

1. A wonderful Christmas tradition that has become more precious over time
 2. Things that have become precious Christmas memories:
 - a) Praise and worship from the righteous is beautiful Psalm 33:1
 - b) The Christmas Lunch fellowship around the tables
 - c) The Singalong after Lunch led by the Pines
 - d) The Bethany Orchestra that continues to improve and delight †
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DOWN MEMORY LANE

Date: 31 December 2019

Time: 8.00pm

1. Last worship for 2019
2. Let it be a time of special thanksgiving
 - a) As we remember the Lord's grace and mercy
 - b) As we remember the Lord's blessings †

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 104:19-23

*He appointed the moon for seasons;
The sun knows its going down.*

*You make darkness, and it is night,
In which all the beasts of the forest creep about.*

*The young lions roar after their prey,
And seek their food from God.*

*When the sun rises, they gather together
And lie down in their dens.*

*Man goes out to his work
And to his labor until the evening.*

1. The things that God has established

a) They apply to both man and beast

b) These are things implanted in His creatures

2. The order that God has established

a) It rules the celestial lights too

b) The power of God reflects His great glory ✠

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 22 DECEMBER 2019

TEXT: JOHN 1:14 AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

1. The Word became flesh

a) This is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ

b) This is called the Incarnation of Christ

i) The Divine Being of Christ

ii) He has donned flesh

2. Two outstanding features to be noted:

a) His grace

b) The Truth He epitomised

May we appreciate and treasure the Lord Jesus Christ for who He is!

NEXT SUNDAY: 29 DECEMBER 2019

TEXT: REVELATION 4:11

WORTHY TO RECEIVE GLORY AND HONOUR AND POWER

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created. †

ISRAEL, MY GLORY

Israel had been upheld by God from its inception;
But the nation sadly succumbed to evil deception.
God had carried Israel right from the start;
But the rebellious nation had a bad heart!

The Lord had promised to care for His people;
He would be there for them in all their troubles.
He had made them and He would deliver them;
He would rescue them though they were in a jam!

The Lord's word had been given to Israel as a promise;
His love for them would never ever diminish or perish.
The nation had been specially created by the Lord;
He would show them that there was no other God!

He would bring glory to His people that all may see;
The LORD their God was full of grace and mercy.
He would draw near to His people and give salvation;
He was committed to His people with deep affection!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Isaiah 46 †

Seeing God's Glory through the Baptismal Testimonies

Over the last two Sundays, we welcomed new members in.
Baptism - it's the external sign of change that's happened within.
Through the baptismal testimonies, we see how God works in our hearts.
Oh, what a glorious thing to behold - the salvation He imparts!

He calls us as a shepherd does, He calls us all by name.
He reaches out so personally, no two stories are the same.
Some are invited by family and friends, others respond to life's circumstances.
Above it all, God touches our spirit, and breaks through our defenses.

Our God is a faithful God, He never will forsake us.
Even when we stray and are faithless, He always remains steadfast.
He gently draws us back to His side, and stirs us from complacency.
And when we face life's painful trials, He shows to us His mercy.

As we come to church and take up the study of God's Word,
He reveals His truths to us, and always spurs us onward.
He corrects our misconceptions, and gives us a new perspective.
He helps us see our need for Him - our sin has made us defective!

How glorious it is to see, God drawing us together.
Our backgrounds may not be the same, but faith binds us forever.
We all once walked in darkness, going our own way,
But now we have a common hope - let's praise the Lord today!

Alvin Foo ✝

WE BEHELD HIS GLORY

Can we understand the glory of the Lord personally,
When we cannot see His glory manifested physically?
Yes, the glory of the Lord can be appreciated by all of us,
If we take time to ponder what has happened in the past.

The Lord Jesus was full of grace and truth most outstandingly,
He was the Word and He lived out the Scriptures perfectly.
He was gracious and merciful to everyone He encountered,
Even when others wronged Him, He never retaliated.

If we truly know the Lord Jesus and follow Him faithfully,
We will experience Him impacting our lives profoundly.
He will help us overcome sin and change us completely,
He will call us according to His purpose and use us in ministry.

Let us seek the Lord for spiritual comprehension,
To behold His glory in the Christmas celebration.
To perceive His grace and truth is true blessedness,
May the Lord grant us this gift of great happiness!

Yvette Seow
Inspiration: John 1:14 †

THEME : THE GLORY OF THE LORD

THIS WEEK @ WORSHIP

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

10.30AM | CHURCH SANCTUARY

“Manifested His glory” John 2

Chairmen

Dr Daniel Chia
Dr Quek Li Wei

Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

Organist

Mrs Sally Tan

Pianist

Mrs Amelia Toi

Interpreter

Dr Jane Tan

TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE

10.30AM | 3RD FLOOR AUDITORIUM (3-8)

NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE THIS WEEK

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

10.30AM

“Glorifying and praising God” Luke 2:1-20

CC I: P1—P3

3rd Floor Auditorium 3-1

CC II: P4—P6

4th Floor Auditorium 4-1

Speaker

Rev Benjamin Quah

Speaker

Rev Benjamin Chong

EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

4.00PM | 4TH FLOOR AUDITORIUM (4-7 & 4-8)

NO EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE THIS WEEK

Breakfast : Oliver Loh

Fellowship Lunch : Tan You Cai; Sherlyn

BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Children's Worship I (P1 – P3)			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Children's Worship II (P4 – P6)			Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor
Teens' Worship Service			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Evening-Bilingual Worship		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 th floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Green Turf	1 st floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	Auditorium 2-1	2 nd floor
Junior Sunday School I			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Junior Sunday School II			Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Senior Sunday School I			Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School II			Main Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Senior Sunday School III			Prayer Room 4-1	4 th floor
Senior Sunday School IV			Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School IV.II			Pastoral Office	3 rd floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-7	4 th floor
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2	3 rd floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
BIBLE STUDY				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 nd 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	Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
PRAYER MEETING				
	Mon	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group I	Sat	3.00 pm	Auditorium 2-1	2 nd floor
Young People's Group II			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 th floor
Young Married Group		Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor	
Adults' Ministry		4.00 pm	Auditorium 4-1	4 th 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
22 December 2019
Order of Worship

PREPARATION

Pre-Worship Singing

Pianist : Mrs Amelia Toi
Organist : Mrs Sally Tan

HWC No. 157

Away In A Manger

Prelude

Call to Worship

Dr Daniel Chia
Dr Quek Li Wei

Invocation

PRAISE

Hymns

VIP No. 758

Down From His Glory

VIP No. 769

When Love Was Born

HWC No. 152

I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day

“PREACH THE WORD”

Message: “Manifested His glory”

Text : John 2

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

RESPONSE

Offering

Hymn

Century Praise 143

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude



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SINGAPORE

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PASTORAL LETTER

22 DECEMBER 2019

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

Dear Brethren,

MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Traditions develop naturally in the process of time. Traditions are actually varied:

1. Country to country
2. Church to church
3. Family to family

BETHANY CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

There are special traditions that we have developed over the years at Bethany. May they bring special joy to the heart! These are fondly done and remembered!

1. Lighting of the Christmas Candles
From the 1st Advent Sunday leading up to Christmas Day!
2. The Christmas Caroling Service
This has effectively replaced the old Caroling practice of going from home to home.
3. The Christmas Baptismal Services
We now have two uplifting Baptismal Services each year.
4. The Christmas Concert Evenings
These have been such a source of outreach and blessing to many hearts!
5. The Christmas at Shangri La
This is the highlight, the culmination of our celebration of Christmas!

The keeping of meaningful Christmas Traditions helps us understand and appreciate the Season even more significantly.

KEEPING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ALIVE AND STRONG

Traditions face a common but deadly danger!

1. Any Tradition can become stale
2. Any Tradition can lose its glory

Our challenge is to keep the Christmas spirit alive and strong! Let's make every effort to ensure that the spirit of joy and love will never grow stale and perish! Let's seek the grace and power of the Lord to make every Christmas vibrant and beautiful!

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*