

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 23 February 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Isaiah 8

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"LET HIM BE YOUR FEAR"

A FORMAL RELIGION

Ancient Israel had a formal religion. The following features were there for all to see.

1. There was a Temple

a) People went to the Temple for worship

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

- b) Many Temple activities were carried out
- 2. There was a religious order
 - a) There was a High Priest
 - b) There were priests
 - c) There were Levites who assisted the priests
- 3. There were worship programs
 - a) Sacrifices were made
 - b) Hymns were sung
 - c) Prayers were offered

WHAT WAS MISSING?

In a word, "The fear of the LORD." Ancient Israel did not have a high regard for their God. This absence had adverse effects on true spirituality!

REGAINING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

This was a word that Isaiah proclaimed to the people of the land.

The LORD of hosts,
Him you shall hallow;
Let Him be your fear;
Let Him be your dread.

He will be as a sanctuary,
But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense
To both the houses of Israel,
As a trap and as a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Isaiah 8:13-14

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

1. A Call to regain the Fear of the LORD
 - a) He is the LORD of hosts
 - b) He is indeed to be hallowed
 - c) He is to be feared for who He is
 - d) God would then be a Sanctuary to those who fear Him
2. A Danger to be noted if the Fear of the LORD is absent
 - a) The Lord would be like a stone that would cause people to stumble
 - b) Faith in God would be an offense
 - i) To Israel
 - ii) To Judah
 - c) To all the inhabitants who reject this Word to fear the Lord
 - i) They would be ensnared
 - ii) They would be entrapped

Let us learn how to fear the LORD our God. Great blessings attend those who genuinely practise the fear of the LORD!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

We are not able to have Services at this current time. We would like to invite you to view our On-Line Message (23 February 2020).

*Welcome
to Bethany TV*
ON-LINE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTPONEMENT OF ACM

As we are unable to have our regular Worship Service, we will have to postpone the ACM until we are able to resume normal Sunday activities.



COVID-19

We are taking all necessary precautions. Let us pray for our nation's leaders as they steer our country through this pandemic crisis that is affecting the whole world.



THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will not be observing The Lord's Supper till the Covid-19 crisis blows over.



SUSPENSION OF MINISTRY

We will be suspending our normal activities as our nation battles Covid-19 diligently. Let us pray for:

1. Those who have been seriously affected by Covid-19 (China especially)
2. Our nation's leaders
May they be given wisdom and prudence



IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

1. All who have written to express support for Bethany
2. All who have continued to give to support Bethany's ministries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Local
- b) International

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 105:7-8

⁷He *is* the LORD our God;

His judgments *are* in all the earth.

⁸He remembers His covenant forever,

The word *which* He commanded, for a thousand generations

1. Appreciating God

- a) He is addressed as LORD
- b) He may be thought of as "Our God"

2. The Judgments of God

- a) God upholds justice
- b) His judgments are evidenced all over the earth

3. The Covenant of God

- a) He will always remember His covenant
- b) The word that He has given would last a thousand generations

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY : 23 February 2020

*Text: Isaiah 8:13 Let Him be your fear
The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow;
Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread.*

1. The LORD of hosts

- a) This is a title that speaks of God in power
- b) He leads a host of angels

2. The LORD

- a) He is to be hallowed
- b) He is to be feared

3. This high reverence for God

- a) This is as it should be
- b) This is the fear of the LORD

NEXT SUNDAY : 1 March 2020

*Text: Psalm 118:22 The chief cornerstone
The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

POETRY CORNER

1

LET HIM BE YOUR FEAR

The LORD of hosts should be given due reverence;
A proper regard is obviously of great significance.
In life, we give honour to human dignitaries;
Why should the LORD not be accorded Glory?

The LORD of hosts ought to be hallowed in heart and soul;
He is the Creator, the Redeemer who makes us whole.
When the LORD is truly our Dread and our Fear;
He will be our Sanctuary to whom we may draw near.

Sadly, there are those who will reject this holy teaching;
Formal religion is chosen with all its traditional trappings.
The LORD would then become a Stone that would stumble;
Many would be ensnared and the end result would be terrible.

The Call to fear the LORD was diligently proclaimed;
Those who truly fear Him would truly praise His name.
The LORD will honour all who take the time to understand;
That the holy Fear of God was in His original Plan.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Isaiah 8:13-14

POETRY CORNER

2

Faith Will Have Fear Reeled In

Self-preservation is part and parcel of our human nature;
It is not wrong to protect oneself and one's family from potential danger.

But fear and anxiety can inspire irrational behavior;
Be it anger, selfishness or mindless xenophobia.

Amidst the chaos, we look to authority for guiding principles;
Who better than our very own Jesus, to serve as our example?!
Jesus reached out his hand to touch an untouchable;
The compassion He showed brought healing and comfort to the leper.

Granted, there is little we can offer to sufferers in Wuhan, China.
Even as our hearts go out to the multitudes of patients and their carers.
But we can exercise compassion just like the Lord Jesus did;
We can pray for them and think and speak kind words to those in need.

The deluge of negative news in social media is seemingly endless;
So how can we remain faithful and fearless?
Let us be reminded that the Lord is our keeper who preserves our going out and coming in;
Trust in the Lord and faith will have our fears reeled in.

Dr. Sng Li Wah

Inspiration: Luke 5:12-14; Psalm 121

POETRY CORNER

3

Fullness of Faith

Fullness of faith can help us to deal with difficult situations,
In times of trouble, of turmoil and even of tribulations.
When uncertainty arises, we can find certainty in our Lord,
We can place our trust and hope in our wonderfully great God!

Fullness of faith can help us understand better who God is,
Through His word given to us, doubts and fears in our hearts may cease;
With a strong understanding of God and His promises given to us,
We can stand unfazed against life's challenges until the storms by us pass!

Fullness of faith can teach us that God's love exists truly,
The love of God is everlasting; He can help us through tough times surely!
Through God's love we can be more than conquerors in adversity,
And trust that all things will work out for good in His purpose eventually.

Fullness of faith can inspire us to stand together from strength to strength,
We can show support and bring encouragement to one another at length,
As a church family let us seek to apply the fear of the Lord more and more;
We can trust God wholeheartedly and see our faith grow stronger than before!

Tang Hong Wee
Thoughts taken from Romans 8:26-39

4

If God is for us, who can be against us?

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

How do we hold steadfast to this belief in our daily lives?

While we are mired in our struggles with earthly threats and foes,
That cloud and thwart our sensibilities when trying to survive

We have to be mindful of the Lord’s tremendous love;

Know that God is for us as He gave us His only Son.

Aware that flesh is weak, He sent His Son from heaven above,
Sacrificed Him to release us from sin and death with no condemnation.

It is clear that to succumb to human fears is unwise;

Though it is a challenge to transcend into the spiritual realm.

Let us seek His grace and mercy for strength and devise

Ways to overcome the slippery slope into our fears which can overwhelm

Jesus taught that we should fear only the Lord;

For if we continue to disobey, into hell He has power to cast.

So, know that “all things work together for good to those who love God”

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Romans 8:28-31, Luke 12:5

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			Auditorium 2M	2 nd 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

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SINGAPORE

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And people care for people.*

PASTORAL LETTER

23 FEBRUARY 2020

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

Dear Brethren,

ON-LINE BETHANY

Thank God for modern technology! We have been able to do the following new things:

1. On-Line Sunday Message
Time: 10.30am

2. ZOOM
This has recently been employed to help the Pastoral Team to study the Lord's word together

3. Special ICARE Readings

DEEPLY ENCOURAGING SUPPORT

What is deeply moving and uplifting to the heart:

1. Prayer support from our churches overseas:

- a) India
- b) Myanmar
- c) Perth, Western Australia

All have expressed deep concern and they have assured us that prayers are being lifted up for Bethany!

2. Practical Support from our Church members and friends

- a) Gifts have come in via cheques
- b) Some have also transferred funds directly to our Church account

3. Special Support from the Web Team

- a) Audio Team
- b) Video Team

Through their efforts, the ministries are being sustained. I borrow the words of the Apostle Paul as I write this Pastoral Letter. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" Philippians 1:3.

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*