

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 8 March 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: 1 Peter 1

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THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

A GLORIOUS TRUTH

The doctrine of "Election" is a truly glorious truth that must bring joy to our heart. The Apostle Peter wrote about this right at the beginning of his first Epistle.

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

*Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...
1 Peter 1:2a*

1. Immediate context

- a) Peter was writing to the Diaspora
- b) These were believers who were scattered far and wide
- c) Many had lost possessions and family because of persecution

2. Importance of this Doctrine of Election

- a) Peter's first thought was on God's election
- b) This truth mattered so greatly that it was given first place
- c) This was how Peter began writing his epistle

3. Essence of "Election"

- a) It has to do with God's choice
 - i) He chose us
 - ii) Not because we are potentially good
 - iii) Not because we are intrinsically good either
- b) God's choice and His foreknowledge
 - i) Only God has such deep foreknowledge
 - ii) In this foreknowledge, God planned salvation
 - iii) This is a profound thought indeed

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

c) The doctrine of Election is more than just a promise of God

HOW WOULD ELECTION HELP THE DIASPORA?

There are a number of ramifications that we can think of:

1. The mind must dwell on God

a) Who has foreknowledge

b) Who has such depth of comprehension of everything

2. The heart must dwell on God as Father

a) He is not just God but Father as well

b) And He is described as Father to help us know that He is deeply concerned

i) As a Father

ii) Natural and loving concern

3. The soul must take heart

a) That the Spirit of God is involved and He sanctifies us

b) That the Lord Jesus Christ made our salvation possible because He shed His precious blood for us!

OUR CHALLENGE

Let us dwell on this marvelous doctrine of Election. Let us draw even nearer to the Lord our Heavenly Father. May we learn to trust Him in all things!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER 2020

DATE: 12 APRIL 2020

God willing, we will hold our Easter Sunday Service.

Special feature: The consecration of 3 people who would become our Intern-Pastors

1. Moses Kwek
2. Eugene Seow
3. Simon Nagaraj



COVID-19

Let us watch and pray as this virus threatens to become pandemic.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 109:21-25

²¹ But You, O GOD the Lord,
Deal with me for Your name's sake;
Because Your mercy *is* good, deliver me.

²² For I *am* poor and needy,
And my heart is wounded within me.

²³ I am gone like a shadow when it lengthens;
I am shaken off like a locust.

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WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

(Continued from page 4)

²⁴ My knees are weak through fasting,
And my flesh is feeble from lack of fatness.

²⁵ I also have become a reproach to them;
When they look at me, they shake their heads.

1. The plight of the Psalmist

- a) He is poor and needy
- b) His heart is wounded (not necessarily literally)
- c) His life is like a shadow
- d) He feels like a locust that is shrugged off
- e) He feels weak because he has been fasting
- f) His enemies hold him in derision

2. The prayer of the Psalmist

- a) He cries out to the LORD his God
- b) He pleads the mercy of the Lord
- c) He pleads for deliverance for the sake of the Lord's own name
- d) He exercises trust that his prayer would be heard and answered

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 8 March 2020

*Text: Ephesians 2:20 Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone
Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ
Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

1. The Church of the Lord

- a) It is living
- b) It is strong
- c) It is well-founded

2. The foundation of the Church

- a) The Lord Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone
- b) The servants of the Lord played significant roles in laying the foundation
(The apostles and the prophets)

NEXT SUNDAY: 15 March 2020

*Text: Ephesians 2:21 The whole building, fitted together
In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in
the Lord.*

POETRY CORNER

#1

ELECT OF GOD

In life there may be trials and tribulations;
But the heart need not lose its jubilation.
One may lose possessions and even family,
And the heart is aggrieved in pain's reality.

How wonderful to understand the doctrine of "Election;"
We may be weak and sinful, but we are chosen with affection.
God, in His profound foreknowledge planned Salvation;
He planned and sent Jesus Christ to give us Redemption.

The Spirit of God was there to give sanctification;
He will keep us in His power and offer protection.
The doctrine of Election must bring encouragement;
We need never give in to fear and discouragement.

The doctrine of Election helps us to draw nearer,
To the LORD whom we may call "Our Father."
He who planned our Salvation with such affection;
He would surely grant us much-needed protection.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: 1 Peter 1:2

POETRY CORNER

#2

Faith In the Face of Fear

The COVID-19 virus can do extensive damage to our health;
It is no wonder the fear it conjures up has few parallels.
But morbid fear itself hurts us much more than we realize;
It can cause economies to collapse and whole nations to become paralyzed!

How do we, as Christians, respond to this plight?
It does seem like more is needed than the reactions of “fight or flight”.
No one should be flippant or foolhardy in the face of danger;
But succumbing to servile fear is never going to help the matter.

God has promised to be our refuge and present help in trouble;
Our part is to truly know Him and call upon Him as Saviour.
He will answer and deliver him who has set his love upon the Father;
From terror and pestilence the Lord will provide shelter.

Circumstances we see around us may instill much fright;
But be reminded that we ought to walk by faith and not by sight.
Let not death and disease hold us ransom nor overwhelm us;
May the challenges we face serve as opportunities to strengthen our faith and trust.

Dr. Sng Li Wah

Inspiration: Psalm 46:1; Psalm 91; 2 Corinthians 5:7

POETRY CORNER

#3

FEAR NOT, I WILL HELP YOU

In life, we are bound to encounter difficulties,
They can bring feelings of fear and anxiety.
Avoiding or dismissing fears are not good options,
We must address Fear without procrastination.

The best approach is to turn to our Redeemer,
He offers the most assuring and helpful answer.
He says, "Fear not, I will help you" time and again,
With the Lord's help, we need not feel weak or faint.

We must remember our relationship with the Lord,
And the precious promises given by our loving God.
He will be with us, so that, challenges we can withstand,
He will also uphold us personally with His right hand.

We must seek to respond well to the Holy One,
By remembering all the works which He has done.
May we pray for eyes to perceive and understand,
So that there will not be Fear but Faith in His plan!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Isaiah 41:10-20

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

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SINGAPORE

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And people care for people.*

PASTORAL LETTER

8 MARCH 2020

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

Dear Brethren,

HOLDING FAST TO THE LORD'S WORD

Thank God for His wonderful word. Let us draw much encouragement from the Scriptures. Precious texts that may bring much encouragement to our heart. Romans 8:26-39 comes to mind readily. The following truths will bring such encouragement and hope to the heart.

1. The wonderful prayer support of the Holy Spirit

- a) He knows our weaknesses
- b) He prays alongside Romans 8:25-27

2. Our confidence in the Lord

- a) He has called us
- b) He has foreknown us
- c) He has predestined us
- d) He has justified us
- e) He has glorified us Romans 8:28-30

3. God is indeed for us

- a) No one will prevail against us
- b) We are more than conquerors Romans 8:31-37

4. The Love of God

- a) It is an immense love
- b) It is an unsurpassable love
- c) Nothing will separate us from God's love

APPLYING HIS WORD TO OUR LIFE

Let us humbly and consciously apply these great truths to our life's circumstances. May the word of the Lord come alive to us in these challenging circumstances (Covid-19).

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*