

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 3 May 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: 1 Thessalonians 1

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“RECEIVED THE WORD IN MUCH AFFLICTION”

THE CHURCH UNDER ATTACK

The first century Church was under attack right from the beginning. A quick look at the Book of Acts would reveal the following lines:

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

1. The Apostles

- a) They were the first to come under attack
- b) They were harassed
- c) They were arrested
- d) They were warned not to proclaim the name of the Lord
- e) But the Apostles remained strong and committed (Acts 1-4)

2. The Church

- a) The next set of leaders were attacked
- b) Stephen, a lay leader was slain
- c) The persecution began in earnest
- d) They faced severe tribulation (Acts 6-8)

3. In the Mission field

- a) Barnabas and Paul were the first missionaries sent out
- b) They won many to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- c) But they also faced severe persecution
- d) Again, the Apostles stood firm and rallied the churches to remain strong and resolute in their faith (Acts 13-19)

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH

One of the most severely attacked church was founded by Paul in Thessalonica (Acts 17).

1. The word was preached amidst “much affliction” 1 Thessalonians 1:6
2. They had learned from Paul
 - a) Paul had been spitefully treated at Philippi
1 Thessalonians 2:2a
 - b) They learned how Paul coped amidst “much conflict”
1 Thessalonians 2:2b
3. They determined that they would hold fast to the truth they had received
 - a) They would continue with their “work of faith”
1 Thessalonians 1:3a
 - b) They would continue in their “labour of love”
1 Thessalonians 1:3b
 - c) They would seek to maintain “their patience of hope”
1 Thessalonians 1:3c

OUR CHALLENGE

Let us also determine that we would continue to be steadfast and true to our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have many heroic examples mentioned in the Scriptures. Let us emulate them!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW PULPIT THEME

1. "In all our tribulation" 2 Corinthians 1:4
2. Goals
 - a) To learn much about how we can cope in affliction
 - b) To be strengthened in the knowledge that God is with us at all times
 - c) Let us seek to encourage those who are suffering in any way



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. We will do our part in supporting Migrant Workers with meals
2. We will also support our brethren overseas who are facing hardship
3. Let us stand together in these trying times
4. Thank God for all who continue to give faithfully to support the Lord's work



CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S A GIRL!

Heartfelt congratulations to Intern-Pastor Moses Kwek and Gan Ann on the gift of a baby girl. Baby Kyra was born on 27 April 2020. Both mother and baby are doing well.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

1

Our condolences to Hazel Koh on the passing away of her father,
Mr. Koh Boon Khui. He was born in 1920. He passed away on
29 April 2020. He had just passed his 101st birthday!

2

Also condolences to Beng Hoe on the passing away of his father,
Mr. Chia Poh Swee. He was 90 when he passed away on 2 May 2020.



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 111:5-6

⁵He has given food to those who fear Him;
He will ever be mindful of His covenant.

⁶He has declared to His people the power of His works,
In giving them the heritage of the nations.

MINDFUL OF HIS COVENANT

1. God's covenant was ever on His mind
2. Those who fear Him, He remembers particularly
3. He will provide for them

THE POWER OF HIS WORKS

1. The power of God undergirded all His mighty works
2. He has shown them (declared) His power
3. He gave them the heritage of the nations (Canaan)

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 3 May 2020

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:4 "Who comforts us in all our tribulation"

*Who comforts us in all our tribulation,
that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble,
with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

1. It is God who comforts us
2. So that we may be able to comfort others
3. We can make use of the lessons we have learned to encourage people in affliction
4. The Lord is with us in all our tribulation!
5. Let us never lose heart!

NEXT SUNDAY:10 May 2020

Text: John 16:33 "In the world you shall have tribulation"

*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer,
I have overcome the world.*

POETRY CORNER

1

IN MUCH AFFLICTION

Affliction is a very real part of human life;
Illness, trauma, setback and much strife.
They need not cause us to feel dreary;
God is there in every single difficulty.

Tribulation must not ever be feared;
Tears can cause God to be more endeared.
To know that He is with us in tribulation;
This must bring much cheer and jubilation.

We need not lose our faith in the Lord;
We have been given the very Word of God.
A new sense of life and hope has been given;
The Lord looks on us with love from heaven.

We can determine not to lose our labour of love;
The Comforter was sent to be with us, from above.
How wonderful it is to find a deeper identification;
Amidst our suffering, we will find Christ's consolation.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: 1 Thessalonians 1; 2 Corinthians 1:4

POETRY CORNER

#2

THE REVELATION OF CHRIST

God foreknew and foreordained the First Coming of Christ,
Christ came to bring salvation through His death and sacrifice.

He was resurrected and a living hope we have been given,
He has also given us eternal joy and an inheritance in heaven.

The Second Coming of Christ is not well understood by Man,
Many fear the catastrophic events that would occur then.
As believers, we must consider an outlook which is positive,
Let us seek to understand and cultivate a Biblical perspective.

Christ Jesus will return to complete God's salvation plan,
God will reveal Jesus in a new and glorious way to Man.
The Apostle Peter believed in this doctrine with certainty,
He emphasized it in his writing, lest we forget it too easily.

Let us eagerly anticipate the Revelation of Jesus Christ,
He will test and refine our faith through the trials of life.
Together, may we grow as a church which is strong and living!
When Christ returns, may our faith be found well-pleasing!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: 1 Peter 1:1-13

POETRY CORNER

#3

The Spirit of God

There was a time when to me, the Bible was about the stories of the prophets of old;
I had no idea about their significance, let truth be told.
Even now, as I try to fathom their spiritual truths and lessons;
I have learnt that understanding comes from the Spirit of God from Heaven.

Life's opportunities impel us to resolve to do our best;
Yet, the slightest failure can cause us to despair and unabashedly forego the rest.
The state of our spiritual walk with God is another case in point;
"The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak" and so we disappoint.

We are confused and the Holy Spirit and the human spirit are mistaken for the same;
But whilst the former enlightens and empowers, the latter is often lame.
The human spirit may be determined but many a time it tires;
Only the Spirit of God can sustainably enable, convict and inspire.

We need to acknowledge the Holy Spirit given to each of us;
And allow Him into our lives to do a good work which lasts.
He will transform us to become loving, faithful, gentle and kind;
And lead us to the true peace and glorious joy we all yearn to find.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: 1 Peter 1-4; Matthew 26:41;
Galatians 5:22-23

POETRY CORNER

4

A Closer walk with God

Let us choose to have a closer walk with God
May the Holy Spirit accede to and grant our desire
And help us to develop a loving relationship with the Lord
Who is mysterious, invisible and yet His omnipresence inspires

As we walk a little closer to Him, perhaps
He will allow us a little glimpse of His plan
So that we can better understand and not relapse
In our roles as His servants endowed with gifts of His intent

Only the Holy Spirit can get us close to God
He was sent as a teacher to dwell in us, after our rebirth
To serve as a mentor while we seek the Face of the Lord
A coach who is by our side throughout our life on earth

Another of the many blessings from the Lord whose love is not spared
Our hearts are overcome with emotions as we think of His Grace
An attempt to return His love will be at best, feeble when compared
Nevertheless, we should still loudly exalt and sing His praise

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: 1 Peter 1, Amos 3:3, Galatians 5:16

POETRY CORNER

5

Jesus, A Living Stone

Jesus is a Living Stone, our Saviour who is alive!
He rose victoriously from the dead, to give to us new life.
We are no longer enslaved to sin, unable to overcome temptation,
But set free to pursue God's righteousness, this is our wondrous salvation!

We are called to be living stones, alive just like our Saviour,
Desiring to learn the Word of God, its glorious truths to savour.
This living Word, which abides forever, will enable us to grow,
As we seek to obey the Lord, He will purify our souls.

As living stones, we are being built into a spiritual house of God,
A living church where each one plays his part to serve the Lord.
Coming together to worship God, for He is truly praiseworthy,
He ordained salvation for sinners like us - such is His abundant mercy!

The Chief Cornerstone of this spiritual house is Jesus our Redeemer,
Without Him we would have no hope, lost in sin forever.
How precious He is, our dearest Saviour, Him we must always treasure.
Allowing Him to correct us, as our Teacher and our Master.

Alvin Foo

Inspiration: 1 Pet. 1-2, Rom. 6

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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