

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 17 May 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: 1 Thessalonians 3

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"IN ALL OUR AFFLICTION AND DISTRESS"

SUFFERING FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

The Apostle Paul suffered much for the sake of the Gospel. Some of his sufferings may be noted as:

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

1. Physical suffering

- a) Stoned
- b) Jailed
- c) Beatings

2. Emotional suffering

- a) He was anxious about the churches
- b) He was distressed about their suffering for the Lord
- c) He was concerned that some may fall away

DRAWING ENCOURAGEMENT

How then did the Apostle Paul find personal encouragement?

⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also *to see you—*

⁷ therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. ⁸ For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith? 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

1. Prayer really helps

- a) Prayer was made to the Lord
- b) Night and day praying exceedingly

2. Good news will help too

- a) Timothy brought back good news about the Thessalonians
- b) The report given to Paul:
 - i) Their faith and love had not diminished
 - ii) They remembered Paul fondly and gratefully

OUR CHALLENGE DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME

Let us attempt to do the following:

1. Let us pray much for each other
2. Let us have good thoughts of each other
3. Let's share things that are uplifting and encouraging

May our faith in the Lord and our love for the brethren continue to be well-sustained! Let us be a blessing to others!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. Wisdom and Caution

Let us exercise these at all times.

2. Watch and Pray

These go together closely.

3. Faith and Hope

We have another pair that need to be carefully nurtured.

Let us seek to cultivate and practise these things prayerfully.



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 111:9-10

⁹ He has sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever:
Holy and awesome *is* His name.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom;
A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*.
His praise endures forever.

1. What God has done must not be taken for granted

- a) His redemption
- b) His covenant

2. What these things teach us about the LORD

- a) He is holy
- b) He is awesome

3. Appropriate response to God

- a) To fear the LORD
- b) To have understanding and wisdom
- c) To praise Him always

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 17 May 2020

Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:3 "These afflictions"

*That no one should be shaken by these afflictions;
for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this*

1. Afflictions

- a) General reference
- b) Afflictions related to suffering for Christ

2. Important response

- a) We need not be shaken
- b) We are appointed to suffer for the Lord

NEXT SUNDAY: 24 May 2020

Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:4 "Suffer tribulation"

*For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you
that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.*

POETRY CORNER

1

COMFORTED BY YOUR FAITH

There are many ways we can find consolation;
We can seek the Lord who is full of compassion.
Prayer, night and day, will bring some release;
Distress need not become a mental disease.

We can draw encouragement when we keep in touch;
There are ways and means to say that we care much.
A word or two, well-spoken and with good intention;
That can lift the heart and release tight tension.

Being human, we can draw comfort from stories;
These can be in the form of true testimonies.
The knowledge that sufferers remain strong;
This brings to the heart a courageous song.

We all need a word of consolation now and then;
Let us care for people as consistently as we can.
This is how we can maintain a spirit that is joyful;
May the Lord help us find a faith that is meaningful!

Charles Tan

Inspiration: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

POETRY CORNER

2

CORRECTION

The Lord Jesus Himself had set goals for His disciples,
For all who believe in Him, these are also applicable.
We are to be salt of the earth, distinct in character,
We are to be light of the world and shine as believers.

Correction is necessary for us to achieve these goals,
The Lord must purge many impurities from our soul.
Our part is to learn to accept and embrace correction,
We must seek to overcome resistance and rejection.

How should we address our wrong ideas and thinking?
We must compare and contrast them to Jesus' teaching.
Let us put in effort to check the Holy Scriptures carefully,
And be challenged to apply the lessons appropriately.

Correction is difficult and it takes a heart which is humble,
Learning the Word aright is key to becoming true disciples.
The Lord promises to transform our heart, soul and mind,
He will produce genuine faith that is of the finest kind!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Matthew 5:13-48

POETRY CORNER

3

Foresight – A Mother's Necessity

The magnanimity of mothers lives through the ages and seasons.
A mother's love and care are precious gifts of blessings, beyond reasons.
Expressed in many ways are her advice from hindsight.
These become imbued in us over time as great insight.

But today, the world is no longer the same.
A mother has to adapt to disruptors and that's the game!
Let's rise up to the challenge so that our children's future will be bright.
A new skill mothers must quickly acquire and it is called "Foresight" :

We must endeavour to strengthen our health and increase our knowledge.
We must learn contemplation by giving ourselves more quiet time with God;
our souls a little more edge.
We must collaborate and help one another in motherhood.
Only then can we stand strong and able to bring up the next generation for good!

(Lai Mun, a mother still learning to be a better one at 62)

POETRY CORNER

4

God's grace abounds much more

Beloved Father, once again you are trying to redeem us from destruction
We are forced to acknowledge Your power unleashed through this virus
How long do we have to wait for the end of the affliction?
The world has come to a standstill, people are dying around us

We are suffering but You Lord have been suffering longer
Dealing with recalcitrants who are stiff necked and prone to vanity
We are proud believing that conquering the world is within our power
You have certainly brought us to our knees teaching a lesson in humility

But You are merciful in allowing us to isolate ourselves in this crisis
To go into our inner room to reflect on our tribal and divisive ways
How our lives are out of balance and skewed towards self-righteousness
Neglecting to care for the disadvantaged and planet earth, much to Your dismay

Apostle Paul had said "Where sins abound, grace abounds much more"
How true it is ...You are slow to anger, full of mercy and grace
Let us aim to be more self-less and kind to the core
With God's grace forge ahead to make this world a better place

Jessie Quek
Inspiration: Romans 5:20

POETRY CORNER

5

Our Comfort in Affliction

At times we feel fulfilled and life seems easy and great;
Until opportunities are denied us or our relationships start to break.
Sorrow is most fervently felt when our health begins to fail;
And death seems imminent as the physical body continues to be frail.

It is when the glibness of life has been removed from under our feet;
That we begin a serious search for God because only He can meet our need.
Perhaps it is when we are brought closer to the fellowship of suffering with Christ;
That we begin to see the world through somewhat different eyes.

There is none on earth who sails through life ever so smoothly;
Life without affliction and suffering there will never be.
But God has promised to be our comfort in all our tribulation;
Our part is to seek Him without further hesitation.

Before we know God, we might have gone astray;
But now, we must seek and obey Him in all of our ways.
And God will make all mercy and grace toward us abound;
So take courage and rejoice! Let songs of praise to Him resound.

Dr. Sng Li Wah

Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 1:4; 9:8; Psalm 119:67

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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