

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 24 May 2020

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MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meditation	1
Announcements	4
Worship	5
Bible Memory Work	6
Poetry Corner	7
This Week @ Worship	11

Text: 1 Thessalonians 3

"NIGHT AND DAY PRAYING EXCEEDINGLY"

THE PRAYER LIFE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

We have a wonderful glimpse of the prayer-life of the Apostle Paul in this text:

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

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

¹¹Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, ¹³so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

1. Prayer and people linked strongly

- a) The relationship between Paul and his readers affected his prayer life
- b) This is not only true with reference to the Thessalonians
- c) This may be observed in all his prayers noted in his epistles
- d) The Thessalonians had brought much joy to Paul's heart
 - i) Their sincerity
 - ii) Their faith
 - iii) Their love

2. Prayer efforts

- a) In the giving of thanks

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

- b) Night and day prayers were offered up to the Lord
 - c) The word “exceedingly” was used to describe the prayers that went up on behalf of the Thessalonian church
3. What were some of the things prayed for:
- a) There were some areas that were lacking
 - b) Paul hoped to meet some of these needs
 - c) Love to increase and to abound
 - d) Establishing of a blameless heart

OUR CHALLENGE TO DEEPEN OUR PRAYER LIFE

Let us be challenged to improve our prayer life:

- 1. In frequency
- 2. In intensity
- 3. With greater focus and determination

May the Lord hear our prayers that we bring to Him! May we grow stronger in our prayer life!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. The spread of Covid-19 is alarming
Over 4 million have been infected!

2. Our challenge:

a) Not to lose faith

b) Not to be disheartened

c) But "Night and day praying exceedingly" 1 Thessalonians 3:10



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 112:1-3

1 Praise the LORD!

*Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
Who delights greatly in His commandments.*

*² His descendants will be mighty on earth;
The generation of the upright will be blessed.*

*³ Wealth and riches will be in his house,
And his righteousness endures forever.*

1. In praise of God

This ought to be our constant response as we offer worship!

2. An example of a righteous man

a) He fears the LORD

b) He delights in His commandments

3. The blessing of the LORD

a) His descendants will be blessed with might

b) God would also provide amply for him
(Wealth and riches)

c) His righteousness will endure

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Today: 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.

1. Tribulation was forewarned
2. And then it happened to the Thessalonians
3. They were not caught by surprise
4. They were prepared to suffer for their faith
5. Good to be prepared for any tribulation that may come our way

NEXT SUNDAY: 31 May 2020

Text: 2 Corinthians 7:4 “Exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation”

Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.

POETRY CORNER

1

“NIGHT AND DAY PRAYING EXCEEDINGLY”

What would motivate us to pray “night and day?”
Prayer must first have become a reality along the way.
To pray in this manner would require much motivation;
There must be a firm faith in God who dwells in heaven.

What would move us to “pray exceedingly?”
The heart must be filled with love deeply.
A strong relationship that brings a joy that is true;
This provides reason to offer prayers that are due.

What would it take to learn how to pray in this manner?
The Lord would help us discover a profound pleasure.
There is great uplift to the heart when God hears prayer;
Many need to believe a flesh that the Lord really cares.

A lack of prayer would see us end up powerless;
We must never let our sins overtake any of us!
A significant life and ministry are to be found in prayer;
Let us learn how to cast upon the Lord all our cares!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

POETRY CORNER

2

The Virtual Church

For some, this prolonged “stay at home” period may be a mere inconvenience;
Yet for others, loss of economic activity means financial hardships will be experienced.
There have been reports of people succumbing to mental distress and family violence;
But the majority are likely to be suffering in silence.

We try to keep in touch digitally with family and friends;
There are also online classrooms, webinars and fora we can attend.
But video messages and virtual fellowship meetings just cannot the same emotions lend;
When compared to what our sorely-missed weekly congregation can.

But as Christians, we need to be clear about why we want to gather;
It is to worship God, read His Word and minister to one another.
But the truths in the Bible can still be read alone and internalized;
So that we glean patience, comfort and a hope which we must realize.

May our God of patience and comfort grant the Church one mind and one voice;
To praise and glorify Him whichever the medium of choice.
May this temporary separation of the brethren not serve to curtail our faith;
But instead to encourage and unify us until we are able to meet face to face.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Romans 15:4-6

POETRY CORNER

3

Glory in Tribulation

Paul said that perseverance, character and hope arise from experiences of life's tribulations;

So, there is good reason to embrace it when it knocks on our doors.

Like rites of passage usually marked by ceremonies to celebrate life's transitions;

Commemoration of life's hardships may be in order and not something to abhor.

Dark periods in our lives can be overwhelming resulting in helplessness;

Despite concerned family and friends it is a path we undertake alone.

Draw upon the Lord's strength and courage to overcome the darkness;

Supporting our need to persevere through tough times grappling with the unknown.

Meanwhile the process of our transformation has begun its development;

Though in the midst of suffering we are not conscious of changes in behaviour.

The ability to withstand hard knocks and punishment leads to character development;

Our character then not only becomes stronger but assimilates values of our Saviour.

Tribulations also lead to hope, realising God's love resides in our hearts;

The Lord is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort and consolation.

While we do not wish it, fear not, for blessings tribulations do impart;

Glory to God for His grace enabling us to see glory in tribulations!

Jessie Quek

(Inspiration: Romans 5:1-5)

POETRY CORNER

4

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Born again and ushered into the kingdom of light,
We must seek to live by faith and walk aright.
Faith must be cultivated till it is significant,
The practice of faith is also vital and important.

Our focus is to seek eternal treasures above,
That which is earthly, the heart must not love.
We need the right perspective to discern wisely,
So that we will serve God as our Master loyally.

Jesus urges us not to worry nor be anxious,
Worrying does no good and it is pointless.
We must learn to trust God as our Heavenly Father,
He cares for us and all our needs, He remembers.

Let us walk as people who have been set apart,
The Lord Jesus must be the Treasure of our heart.
May we exercise faith as good disciples of Jesus!
May we seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness!

Yvette Seow
Inspiration: Matthew 6:19-34

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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