

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 31 May 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4

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“TAUGHT BY GOD TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

TAUGHT BY GOD

We come to the end of another month, where we have not been able to gather together for public worship. We have also missed the Fellowship Meetings, the Sunday School ministry etc. But we can still speak of being taught by God.

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

⁹ But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

¹⁰ and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

1. Paul had written on a number of subjects in 1 Thessalonians

a) The faith of the Thessalonians

b) Their hope

c) Their love

c) The tribulation they were experiencing (etc.)

2. There was something he did not elaborate on

a) The subject of "Love"

b) He had observed that the Thessalonians did not need to be taught by him

c) The reason was that Paul felt that they were already well taught

3. "Taught-by-God" (Greek "Theo-didaktoi")

a) The phrase "taught by God" in English would suggest

i) That God was teaching the Thessalonians

ii) This is not very accurate

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

b) The phrase should be "Taught-by-God people"

i) The phrase is actually a single word in the Greek text

ii) Paul was describing the Thessalonians in a special way

iii) They were highlighted as "people-taught-by-God"

4. What did God teach them?

a) To love and care for others (John 13:34-35)

b) This love was very evident and real among the Thessalonians
(1 Thessalonians 1:3)

5. How did God teach them?

a) In the heart

b) In the mind

c) He filled them with a love that is obviously expressive of God's
own heart of love

How wonderful to be called "people-taught-by-God" to love!

A CHALLENGE TO INCREASE THE FRUIT OF LOVE

Paul's challenge was to urge them to increase in this love more and more. This is a love that we must seek to increase too! May Bethany be a congregation made up of "Theodidaktoi!"

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. The Circuit Breaker ends shortly
2. Our Kindergarten will re-open in stages
3. Our part in readying the Kindergarten
 - a) The Kindergarten areas have been sanitized and disinfected by professional cleaners this week
 - b) Scanners have been bought and will be used at the Kindergarten
 - c) QR codes would be used for all who are sending their children to the Kindergarten
4. Church
 - a) We will continue to use the Video to keep in touch
 - b) Over 950 people use the Video on Sundays
5. AVA support
 - a) Thank God for all who are supporting our Website
 - b) Let us continue to minister out of a heart of love



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 112:4-5

⁴Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness;
He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

⁵A good man deals graciously and lends;
He will guide his affairs with discretion.

1. A DESCRIPTION OF THE UPRIGHT

- a) He is gracious
- b) Full of compassion
- c) Righteous
- d) He lends graciously
- e) He guides his affairs with discretion

2. The blessing he will have from the Lord

- a) He will have light
- b) Amidst great darkness, he will be given light

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 31 May 2020

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

⁴ 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.

1. Paul’s “boasting” about the Corinthians
 - a) He wrote with great boldness of speech
 - b) He spoke of them glowing
 - c) The meaning of the word “boasting”
 - i) Glorifying
 - ii) Glowing
2. The Corinthians had faced their Tribulation well
 - a) There was faith
 - b) There was hope
 - c) There was steadfastness
 - d) There was comfort

NEXT SUNDAY: 7 June 2020

*Text: Romans 5:3 Tribulation produces perseverance
And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations,
knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;*

POETRY CORNER

1

(This poem is dedicated to all who are truly “Taught-by-God”)

TAUGHT-BY-GOD PEOPLE (Greek: Theodidaktoi)

There are many lessons we must seek to learn;
To have a deep knowledge of God we must yearn.
Thus, we seek to read more of the Scriptures;
We hope to discover many inspiring features.

There are some who are specially “Taught-by-God;”
This is a wonderful work wrought by the LORD!
The result is that these may be called “Theodidaktoi!”
Their company is one that we may fully enjoy.

God has taught them how to have a good heart of love;
The LORD Himself has taught them from heaven above.
He opened their hearts and they show much compassion;
Their hearts are filled with deep and pure affection.

They express this God-given love by their giving;
Their offering is sacrificial and deeply moving.
Their love-gifts show they are truly “Theodidaktoi!”
May the LORD bless greatly, as their gifts they deploy!

Charles Tan

Inspiration: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

POETRY CORNER

2

THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PRAYER

When the days become dreary and the nights seem long;
I pray for the Lord to give my heart a song.
But when the heart becomes heavy and I feel I am losing the fight;
I wonder if God had heard my prayers to increase my strength and might.

Admittedly, we sometimes feel helpless and know not how to pray;
From where do we even begin and what words do we say?
We had expected events to unfold according to our wish;
Why had God not heard the prayer,
to save us from all the anguish?

Yet the Lord knows our hearts and what we want to convey;
He has provided us with the Holy Spirit to help us to pray.
In groanings and utterances beyond the human race;
He will make intercession for us in enigmatic ways.

The Spirit will align our prayers according to God's sovereign will;
He will avail our prayers to calm our nerves and keep our hearts still.
Lest we falter, stop praying and from the Good Lord, turn away;
Now, more than ever, we should be trusting, "The Spirit will help us to pray!"

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Romans 8:26-27

POETRY CORNER

#3

THE PRACTICE OF FAITH

To find a genuine Faith is a great blessing,
We must desire that Faith keeps growing.
Problems that hinder Faith must be addressed,
This is necessary as part of the growth process.

Jesus teaches us not to be judgmental,
It reflects a spirit which is evil and critical.
Before God, all of us are sinful and guilty,
Our focus must be to address our iniquity.

When we pray to our Father, we must believe,
He will bless and good gifts we will receive.
When the answer is not forthcoming,
In prayer, we must keep persevering.

A true disciple follows Jesus with conviction,
He does not give up, even amidst tribulation,
May we walk the path that leads to eternal life!
May our Faith help us to overcome and thrive!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Matthew 7:1-14

POETRY CORNER

4

Hope in God

What is hope?

A desire for something in the future;
Uncertainty prevails in the nature of such hope;
No guarantee of receiving a successful closure.

A disquieted soul;
Nagging thoughts, something is amiss;
Slowly descending into a hole;
Desperate need to overcome the restlessness.

Hope in God will be my prayer;
Certainty abounds when we hope in God;
He is faithful and delivers with care;
Though timing is the prerogative of the Lord.

Hope in God is uplifting;
It gives you strength and courage to last;
To persevere and keep going and going;
When our hope for the Lord is steadfast.

Jessie Quek

(Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 1: 7, Romans 15 :13)

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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