

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 9 August 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Psalm 48

“GREATLY TO BE PRAISED”

A PSALM FROM THE SONS OF KORAH

The Sons of Korah were Levites. They assisted the priests in their work in the Temple. One of their duties was to help teach Israel about the Lord. Some of them wrote Psalms.

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

Some of the Psalms they wrote were laced with tinges of anxiety and sadness. Others were much brighter. Psalm 48 is one of the brighter Psalms written.

Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised
In the city of our God,
In His holy mountain.
² Beautiful in elevation,
The joy of the whole earth,
Is Mount Zion *on* the sides of the north,
The city of the great King.
³ God *is* in her palaces;
He is known as her refuge.

¹⁴ For this *is* God,
Our God forever and ever;
He will be our guide
Even to death.

Psalm 48:1-3, 14

FEATURES OF THE LORD TO BE EXTOLLED

The following features about the LORD deserve much consideration.

1. Greatness of God

- a) The first thing noticed about the LORD is His greatness
- b) His greatness is to be found in His being

2. Great King

- a) This is the next feature noticed about the LORD
- b) He is a great Sovereign

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

3. God's Presence

- a) God's presence was also noted with much joy
- b) He is wonderfully involved with His people

4. God as a Refuge

- a) God was not aloof from the needs of His people
- b) He was a wonderful refuge or shelter for all in need

5. God as our Guide

- a) Mercifully, God is also our Guide
- b) And He will guide us all the way to the time of our death

GREATLY TO BE PRAISED

As we look at all these reasons listed, we cannot but recognize that God is indeed to be praised greatly. Let this Anniversary month be one where we extol the Lord for all that He is and all that He has done for us!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May the Lord be worshiped with much joy and gratitude in our heart!



40+7TH ANNIVERSARY MONTH **August 2020**

1. Praise

- a) Let there be great praise in our hearts!
- b) Let there be wonderful praise on our lips

2. Personal and Corporate

- a) Let us thank God for His personal blessings
- b) Let us thank God for His blessings on us as a Church corporately



CELEBRATING OUR 55TH NATIONAL DAY

Thank God for His grace and mercy bestowed on our nation for the past 55 years! Let us praise the Lord for His blessings given!
Let us pray for our nation and our leaders!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRTUAL ACM

Date: 23 August 2020 | Time: 11.15am

Let us pray for the Lord's blessings!

Dear Brethren

This year, ACM will be held online via ZOOM on Sunday, 23 August 2020 at 11.15am.

We would like to encourage each member to participate in the ACM, and here is how you can do so:

1. Voting

- a) Members can indicate their vote for the matters to be voted on at the ACM*
- b) This can be done through the proxy form that has been sent to you via email*
- c) You can also collect the proxy form from church (however, please inform us before you come)*

2. Attending ACM

- a) ACM will be held via ZOOM*
- b) Instructions on how to download the ZOOM app have been sent via email*

If you need further assistance, please reach out to either of us at benjaminchong@bethanyipc.sg or benjaminquah@bethanyipc.sg.

We look forward to seeing you at ACM!

*Gratefully,
Ben and Ben*



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 115:14-15

*¹⁴ May the LORD give you increase more and more,
You and your children.*

*¹⁵ May you be blessed by the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.*

1. A Request that is wonderful to note

- a) That God's blessings may increase more and more
- b) That these blessings may be personal and relevant

2. A Request addressed to the LORD

- a) He is our Creator-God
- b) His blessings are to be humbly sought

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 9 August 2020

TEXT: PSALM 103:1-2 BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL

Bless the LORD, O my soul;

And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

*² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:*

1. Blessing of the LORD

- a) This must not just be from our lips
- b) It must come from the depths of our soul

2. Benefits of the Lord

- a) The word “benefit” is another word for “blessing”
- b) This is often associated with personal blessings

3. Blessing the Lord’s name

- a) This is a wonderful practice
- b) The example of King David should be emulated

Next Sunday: 16 August 2020

TEXT: PSALM 104:1 O LORD, MY GOD, YOU ARE VERY GREAT

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, You are very great:

You are clothed with honour and majesty,

POETRY CORNER

1

GREATLY TO BE PRAISED

How wonderful it is to know the LORD;
There is so much to appreciate about God!
He is to be greatly praised for all that He is;
May we find knowledge of the Lord to be bliss!

The LORD is truly to be praised for His greatness;
As King, He has provided with much graciousness!
He has protected His people with great power;
He has kept them carefully, hour after hour!

The LORD is to be praised for being our Shelter;
He is our refuge; we need not run helter-skelter.
He will always be close to the people He has chosen;
He will make Himself known to every generation!

The LORD is to be praised for being our Guide;
We have no one greater who walks alongside.
He will lead us bring us safely to our heavenly Home;
And there in His full presence, we would never roam.

Charles Tan
Psalm 48:1-3, 14

POETRY CORNER

2

Spiritual Fatigue

Our material and emotional lives are not perfect if we were to be realistic;
So too is our spiritual life which is amenable to fatigue.
The pressures and challenges of life we face are not unique;
Yet they do adversely affect our faith in God indeed!

Our desire to be blessed and walk closely with God is so natural;
We envy the people who seem able to enjoy such spiritual revival.
But first we must acknowledge our sins and seek cleansing from God;
Our choice must be clear and our determination steadfast when following the Lord.

To contemplate God's Word is where we can begin;
To reveal secret sins and to effect necessary change from within.
And as we persist in the Word to meditate and take delight;
God will give wisdom and understanding to live our lives right.

God's blessings have been promised and His faithfulness endures forever;
He is the shield under which we are protected from danger.
So whenever we experience spiritual fatigue or falter;
Remember to go back to God's Word, our treasure beyond measure.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Psalm 119

POETRY CORNER

3

Bless the Lord

The Lord showers us with so many blessings, that I sometimes wonder;
If we are truly deserving of His loving kindness evoking my sensibility?

However, it is not due to our good works that pander;
Do swallow our pride and accept His grace and mercy in humility!

How then do mere mortals communicate gratitude to His Lordship;
In what form should our offer of thanksgiving impart?
We bow our heads, get down on our knees before Him in daily worship;
He should be in the forefront of our minds and fill our hearts.

Sing high praises of the Lord, exalt Him and declare His kindness;
Boast in Him unashamedly as He rains blessings on us.
To one and all, come, see and taste the Lord's goodness;
Seek Him every moment as we go about our daily lives!

Bless the Lord for He hears our cries and knows our fears;
He stations His angels around to guard and protect us.
The mercy of the Lord is everlasting and it will not disappear;
Bless the Lord for sacrificing His only begotten Son to save us!

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Psalm 34

POETRY CORNER

4

I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU

We have a great God who loves and cares,
He faithfully hears and answers our prayers.
As we take time to remember His blessings,
We cannot but offer heartfelt thanksgiving.

God has lifted us up from fears and struggles,
He grants grace and mercy amidst troubles.
Sadly, we make God angry when we are sinful,
But He forgives and the heart is so grateful!

We rejoice that God has shown Bethany His favor,
For 47 years, He has led us and been our Helper.
This year, He has blessed our virtual ministries,
Thank God for all who support His work willingly!

Without the LORD, we would not survive,
He preserves us, helps us and keeps us alive.
How we must extol the holy name of God!
May we joyfully sing praise to the LORD!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Psalm 30

FINDING RESILIENCE, NO MATTER WHAT ADVERSITY

DR TAN KOK YANG

The year 2020 will no doubt be one of the most memorable years for the most of us and it is only less than two thirds through. Just with a blink of the eye, many months of 2020 have come and gone. There remain many challenges ahead. We look at the backlog of work to be done and feel a sense of trepidation. Some of the things that we have endeavoured to achieve prior to the start of 2020, may have been put on hold, how do we get back on track? How do we look forward and embrace a new normal? On the home front, how do we deal with the multiple disruptions? How do we help our families get through the rest of 2020? How does the economic gloom affect us ultimately? With so many uncertainties, it is important not to remain paralysed, search deep within ourselves and find that strength that will get us through the ongoing challenges.

For me personally, the last year or so have been filled with sorrows and challenges over and over again. During the recent Father's Day, Joie, my elder daughter drew this for me:



This picture holds special meaning to me as music from the piano had kept me comforted and the little lamb is our symbol of affection for our late Chloe. But above all that, Joie had been a lesson of resilience to me. How she picked herself up and went back to school last year, how she honoured her younger sister with little gestures yet be determined to carry on with positivity and wanting to live for both herself and her sister. During the lock down period this year, the introverted Joie's creative juices flourished.

Resilience comes in all shapes and forms, helping us see the light even on the gloomiest days. I would like to share with everyone my perspectives of fostering resilience. I feel that the key ingredient of resilience is a mindset with these 3 features.

The first feature is an understanding that bad things do happen. Whenever we perceive a negative occurrence in our lives, we ask ourselves why these things happen, people around us try to find meaning through the same questions as well. Often, we conclude that we are 'unlucky' or that what we are experiencing is due to a series of events where other people could have done better. We search for behaviours around us that we feel directly impact us negatively. We may feel that it is unfair for us to bear these sufferings. The reality is that bad things just happen. We often do not have a choice, there is no control, there is no fairness. Most of us have very analytical minds and we pursue a reason for everything that happens. Nonetheless, many events in our lives are beyond analysis, we just need to find the strength to accept it whether it is fair or not. We need to find peace to accept that whatever happens is God's will. We need to find trust beyond our own comprehension.

The second features a heart of thankfulness. While it is easy for one to focus on what one does not have, it is much more difficult for one to appreciate what we do have. On a personal level, for the past year, it has been difficult to get past the final 2 nights of my dear Chloe's life, how she was suffering in pain and the trauma she had to go through in ICU. But as the first anniversary of her death draws closer this Aug, I try to focus more and more on my time with her, how she had made me feel loved, how she had made me smile. I will forever be thankful for the time that we had. Through this, I was better able to see what I have in my life as I know it now and be deeply grateful for each encouragement that comes my way.

The third feature of this mindset is that of the willingness to find our bigger, spiritual self. Challenging ourselves to be able to see beyond our individual needs and self-interests. This January, I was involved in a car accident. I had tried to change lane from a queue in front of me. After getting into the lane, a car had swerved out from a van behind me and struck me at the back of my car. Initially I had thought that a car who had struck me from behind must be at fault. I was surprised that the opposing insurance company insisted that the fault was mine. Initially, I was upset by this, I had shown the in-car video to people, trying to get their concurrence that I was not wrong. My own insurance company put it into perspective for me: regardless of whether there was a car in that lane, the act of pulling the car out into another lane is not safe and if there is any collision, at least partial blame will have to be borne. It was then that I was reminded how easy it was for one's judgement to be clouded when one could only see self. Thus, I found peace accepting part of the blame for that accident. Finding our bigger self may also go beyond certain incidences but bear meaning on the way we conduct our lives, finding the heart to give no matter what the returns are, yet daring to make decisions for the sake of a bigger picture no matter how uncomfortable it may be for ourselves.

Finding my spiritual self will remain a journey for me for the rest of my life. I look forward to a better understanding of God's greatness and goodness, I look forward to a deeper trust in His will, I look forward to a deeper faith that is tangible through my actions and purposeful prayer. This is a commitment that I will have to own. How can I not take ownership of this faith? I have come to believe wholeheartedly the concept of heaven. How can I squander the only chance that I have in this life to see my Chloe once again? This hope will strengthen me, this hope will convict me, with God's grace...

As we dive into August of 2020, Bethany's 40 + 7th anniversary, 1 year of missing Chloe. There are full of uncertainties. There will be ongoing challenges, there will be frustrations, there will be sorrow and heartaches. How do we cope and find that resilience? My take is, find that trust and acceptance, nurture a heart of thankfulness, search for our bigger, spiritual self. May we all have a meaningful journey ahead!

The Blessing of A Cherished Spring

It was on a spring day of May when I first glanced at your face,
Your coming told the story of prayers answered with much grace.
With your birth, vanquished were anxieties and deep-seated fear,
With your cries, awakening of a new hope, a new beginning so dear!

And what a wonderful spring that you had turned out to be,
Blooming with liveliness, casting rainbows of affection so free!
Your energy brightens each day and flutters as gorgeous butterflies,
The scent of your love, as fresh as morning air, a taste of paradise.

This beautiful spring will however not be going on to become summer,
As it was time for you; a new place, a new season to discover.
There in the loving arms of God, you have no fear of the autumn,
Neither will you weather the cold and bitterness of ageing in winter.

Henceforth, each May, I will remember the wonderful blessing of this spring,
Your goodness will remind me of what encouragement a true love can bring.
With deep gratitude, I resolve to serve, cherishing the taste of your sweetness,
Trusting each good gift received must be paid forward, I bear witness!

In memory of our beloved Chloe's birthday on 17 May 2020.
Tan Kok Yang, Chloe's father.

Explanation

1. We quietly celebrated our dear Chloe's (what would have been 10th) birthday on 17 May 2020.
2. Her arrival 10 years ago had represented a turning point for me with anxieties and insecurities cast aside.
3. Her rainbows of affection and loving ways will forever bring deep encouragement to me on a very personal level.
4. She was also a clear reminder of the fragility of life and the opportunities presented to us and how we should use every moment we have meaningfully.
5. Chloe's ways will be my inspiration to carrying on living a full life centred on serving and giving. Thinking of her had brought me much comfort and encouragement during this COVID-19 period.

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

Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

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