

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 20 September 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meditation	1
Announcements	4
Worship	6
Bible Memory Work	7
Poetry Corner	8

Text: Luke 17

“INCREASE OUR FAITH”

TEACHING ABOUT FAITH

The Lord Jesus taught His disciples much about faith in life and ministry. Wonderfully, He taught by His own life!

1. The place of faith in God
2. The potential of faith

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

3. The power of faith

PRACTICAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THE DISCIPLES

Again and again, the Disciples faced the problem of cultivating personal faith. The following were noted:

1. The problem of Fear
2. The problem of unbelief
3. The problem of a hardened heart

There were other problems. But these problems alone affected the growth and development of the faith of the Disciples.

A PERCEIVED SOLUTION

The Disciples came up with what they perceived as a solution to the problem of a poor faith. They said to the Lord Jesus openly and candidly.

"Lord, increase our faith" Luke 17:5

1. The Context of this statement

- a) The Lord Jesus warned about the danger
 - i) Of causing offence

- ii) Woe betide the person who causes offence
Luke 17:1-2

- b) He also taught them about having a forgiving spirit

- i) If a brother offends, he is to be forgiven
 - ii) Even if he reoffends, forgiveness must be given
Luke 17:3-4

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

2. It seemed an impossible thing to the Disciples

a) Thus, they asked the Lord to "increase their faith"
Luke 17:5

b) Their understanding was that faith is to be added by the Lord!

WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING CORRECT?

The Lord's reply was not what they expected! He said,

*"If you have faith as a mustard seed,
You can say to this mulberry tree.
'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea.'
And it would obey you."* Luke 17:6

What the Lord Jesus sought to teach His disciples!

1. Faith must be applied

a) It must be applied in life

b) It must be applied in what may seem an impossible situation

2. Faith increases

a) Through knowledge

b) Through understanding how it may be applied

c) Through actual application!

Faith does not increase simply by asking the Lord to increase it! Let us take heed to what the Lord Jesus Christ taught. Let us seek to deepen our faith significantly.

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 your heart be refreshed through worship!



HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

1. To Yvonne Lim on the passing away of her father, Mr. Lim Jew Soon, on Monday, 14 September 2020. The late Mr. Lim was 91 years old.

2. To Maria Lim, Richard, Daniel and Grace
Maria's mother, Mdm. Lausanne Lauw, passed away in Indonesia, on Monday, 14 September 2020. She was 91 years old.

3. Eric and Siok Kuan, Naomi and Stephen
Eric's father, Mr Ng Hock Chua went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, 15 September 2020. He was 90 years old. He resided in Australia.



REMEMBERING OUR SENIORS AFFECTIONATELY

1. Mid-Autumn cakes

Please register with I-P Moses and Eugene concerning the Mid-Autumn Cakes.

2. Though we do not have a Mid-Autumn Event this year, we will still be giving out the special cakes.

3. This is Bethany's expression of affection for all our Seniors!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Autumn Mooncakes for Seniors

We would like to specially remember all Seniors in Bethany as we celebrate Mid-Autumn this year. We will be giving Mooncakes to Church members who are 65 and above.

Collection will be in Bethany at the Cafeteria (Level 1) on Sunday, 27 September 2020 (12pm-4pm).

Family members and next-of-kin are encouraged to help collect on behalf.

Please register with Eugene Seow (eugeneseow@bethanyipc.sg) or Moses Kwek (moseskwek@bethanyipc.sg) for collection arrangements.

Intern-Pastors Moses and Eugene



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 116:16-19

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am Your servant;
I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant;
You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷ I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
And will call upon the name of the LORD.

¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD
Now in the presence of all His people,

¹
the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

1. A servant of the LORD

- a) Declaration from the heart
- b) Devotion to serve God humbly

2. Service given to the LORD

- a) Dedication of a sacrifice of thanksgiving
- b) Determined Calling upon God in prayer
- c) Commitment to pay vows made to God

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 20 September 2020

Text: Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please Him

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

1. Pleasing God

- a) Possible only if there is faith
- b) Practice of faith is to be consistent

2. Promise of Blessing

- a) To all who diligently seek Him
- b) The Lord will reward those who seek Him with faith

NEXT WEEK: 27 September 2020

Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:3 Your work of faith

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father.

POETRY CORNER

1

LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH

The lack of a deep faith may be felt keenly;
The unbelief, the fears, they hurt deeply!
The lack of power is painful and obvious;
How the heart longs for faith's greatness!

The cry of the heart is for Faith to increase;
We desire that God's power be released!
But the reality is that this is not the answer;
The Lord's reply could not be clearer!

We must examine our Faith's true state humbly;
The size of a mustard seed is small comparatively.
Yet, if it is applied with full belief in God's power;
A miracle may be performed that very hour!

But we are often trapped by our human limitation;
We are weak when we come to Faith's application!
Faith must be applied diligently for it to increase;
Only when Faith is applied would God be pleased!

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Luke 5:1-10; Hebrews 11:1, 6

POETRY CORNER

2

THE EXAMPLE OF THE THESSALONIANS

The Apostle Paul ministered in Thessalonica briefly,
Yet the Faith of the church grew tremendously!
There were enemies who raised up opposition,
But their Faith triumphed despite the affliction!

The Thessalonians welcomed the gospel of God,
His power was there as His Word was taught.
The Holy Spirit was effectively working,
There was joy and, hearts, He was assuring.

Paul and his team were effective servants of God,
They demonstrated how to live for the Lord.
The church responded by believing genuinely.
They sought to cultivate their Faith diligently.

Let us learn from the Thessalonian church,
And respond well to all that has been heard.
May we cultivate a Faith that is significant!
May it help us to be strong and triumphant!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Acts 17:1-9 and 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7

POETRY CORNER

3

Teaching by Living the Faith

A father will labour tirelessly to give his child the best;
A mother will give her all lest her child receives anything less.
The affection of parents for their child is nothing but dear;
Their absolute commitment to him is crystal clear.

A teacher of God's Word gives no less than any parent;
For not only does he preach, his life and works are laid apparent.
More convincing is he who lives a life of faith than one whose mere words are bold;
Because people do not develop great faith just by being told.

The gift of God's Word is His provision to us;
To read, to study and to cultivate our faith and trust.
How wonderful it is to have teachers who serve to guide and to facilitate;
They are living examples God has availed for us to imitate.

Let us thank God for all who toil unceasingly because of Faith;
May there be strength to persevere because of His Grace.
May we labour in Love because we have a Hope;
That in God, all challenges are possible for us to cope.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: 1 Thessalonians 1 & 2

POETRY CORNER

4

God's gift of faith

Faith is a gift from God;
Blind it is not !
Though unseen, a believer's conviction,
Will come to pass in his expectation.

Glory to God for providing preachers,
Approved by Him to be teachers,
Of the gospel with full integrity,
Speaking the truth, not for popularity.

Believers bear witness to preachers' conduct;
For God they toil, labour and instruct.
With patience gently and quietly driven;
Like a father with his own children.

A preacher can therefore be a shining example,
To whom a Christian can hold a candle.
Worthy to walk in the path of the Lord;
So, have you welcomed the word of God?

Jessie Quek
(Inspiration: 1 Thessalonians 2)

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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