

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 25 October 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Romans 4

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"STEPS OF FAITH"

PRACTICAL FAITH

The faith that we have must be practical or else it would not stand us in good stead. The faith that God has given to us was meant to be personal and practical!

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

ASPECTS OF FAITH

In the Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle highlighted the significance of faith. The following are some of the significant aspects of faith that are worth a closer look.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. From faith to faith | Romans 1:17a |
| 2. The Just shall live by faith | Romans 1:17b |
| 3. Justified by faith | Romans 3:28 |
| 4. Faith accounted for righteousness | Romans 4:5 |
| 5. Steps of faith | Romans 4:12 |

THOSE WHO WALK IN THE STEPS OF FAITH

What did Paul mean when he wrote about walking in the steps of faith as Abraham did? Three "steps" may be considered:

1. Receiving righteousness of God by faith
 - a) Abraham received righteousness from God by faith
Romans 4:13
 - b) This is the first step that we must take
 - i) We recognize we need to be justified by God
 - ii) Through faith we are declared righteous by God
 - iii) This is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

2. Recognizing the grace of God

- a) Faith recognizes the grace of God Romans 4:16
- b) We are justified by the grace given

3. Responding to the promises of God Romans 4:17-22

- a) We believe in the promises given
- b) We believe in the hope God has given to us
- c) We hold fast though things may be contrary
- d) We do not waver in our faith

OUR CHALLENGE

We have many examples of faith in the Scriptures. Let us seek to walk in the steps of those who had significant faith in their life-times!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus with us today, physically or virtually. Thank God for His grace and safe-keeping!



NEW PULPIT THEME: NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

"Heirs according to the promise of eternal life" Titus 3:7

1. This is the Christmas series of Messages

2. We explore the theme of being "Heirs"

a) Heirs of God

b) Heirs of the promise of eternal life

May the Lord bless as we seek to cultivate our sense of appreciation of the Blessings of God!



YOUTH CONFERENCE 2020

Theme: "The LORD looks at the heart" 1 Samuel 16:7

Date: 30 November – 4 December 2020

Applicants: 15-19 years

Location: Bethany

Number of people: 50



LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

Dear Pastor,

On behalf of my family, I would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to you, the Pastoral Team and brethren from Bethany, for the support rendered to us in the time of bereavement. Within hours of Mum's passing, you, Pastor Mark and Pastor Mitchell arrived to counsel us, giving us the much-needed guidance to handle matters that followed. More importantly, your words of encouragement and comfort made the unbearable, bearable.

Over the last few days, we witnessed the tremendous support by Bethanians. While it was not possible to hold "normal" vigil services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many came at other time slots. Brethren, such as Eileen Yeo, Kai Lam & Kalen and so many other dear Bethanians, also supported in other practical ways, such as supplying us with meals, cakes, cookies and tonic drinks. Many more said that they would be praying for our family. While they may have felt that it was only a small gesture on their part, yet, to us as a family, it was really encouraging and uplifting. It was the embodiment of the spirit of Bethany.

We shall treasure this in our hearts. How Bethany, as led by you and the Pastoral Team, rallied around our family, to show us kindness and love and the Lord's word. Mum is now with the Lord and we miss her so much. By faith, we shall yet see her and other saints of the Lord, one day, on that beautiful and golden shore.

We are truly blessed because of Bethany.

Thank you.

Alex & Shu Hua
On behalf of the Tan Family

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 118:10-14

¹⁰ All nations surrounded me,
But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.
¹¹ They surrounded me,
Yes, they surrounded me;
But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.
¹² They surrounded me like bees;
They were quenched like a fire of thorns;
For in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.
¹³ You pushed me violently, that I might fall,
But the LORD helped me.
¹⁴ The LORD *is* my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation.

SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES

1. Significant enemies from many nations

- a) The sense of being surrounded was keenly felt
- b) A strong sense of the Lord's presence
- c) There was no fear of the enemy

2. Salvation from God

- a) In the name of God
- b) Victory through God's help
- c) Joyous strength was found

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 25 October 2020

Text: 1 Timothy 6:11 The pursuit of Faith

But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

1. Things to flee from

a) Unrighteous things

b) Ungodly things

2. Things to pursue instead

a) Righteousness and godliness

b) Faith and love

c) Patience and gentleness

NEXT SUNDAY: 1 November 2020

Text: Galatians 3:26 Sons of God through faith

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

POETRY CORNER

1

STEPS OF FAITH

Faith is a precious gift from the Lord;
We are to live by our faith in God.
The first step of faith leads to justification;
Faith in the Lord Jesus results in salvation.

The grace of God is simply amazing!
He can cleanse us from all our sins!
He will remove our sins far away;
No condemnation on Judgment Day!

Our walk with God is essentially “response;”
How we respond is of great importance!
We need to believe with all our heart;
Mercy and strength God will impart!

There are many examples in the Scriptures;
A great faith is one that has many features.
Let us be moved to walk with God faithfully;
The Lord would bless us most abundantly!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Romans 4

POETRY CORNER

2

Responding to the Upward Call

The heart to respond deeply to the upward call must be cultivated,
It takes a certain spiritual maturity before one is truly motivated.
With this maturity, one may wield the ability to think like our Saviour,
And ever to our aid will be our God's power revealed to us in grandeur!

The principles of faith are similar no matter what maturity we have attained,
It must be rooted in knowledge, establishing changes which are sustained.
With the same rule and the same mind, seeking deeper understanding,
Willing to make sacrifices and strengthening a faith that will be outstanding.

And in doing so, one has to be circumspect of the examples that one follows,
As indeed, despite their claims, some have walks that are exceedingly shallow.
So, let us use discernment in our efforts to be worthy of our citizenship above,
Looking forward to a wonderful transformation that He will do for us in love!

Dr. Tan Kok-Yang
Inspiration: Philippians 3: 14-21

POETRY CORNER

3

An Established Faith

What a privilege it is to be chosen by God to glory and virtue;
To be sanctified by the Spirit and to belief in the truth.
We are called by the Gospel to salvation and to faith;
Not because we deserve it but because of God's Grace.

The Lord Himself has loved and given us a hope for the future;
Let us be sensitive to His presence and respond to His overture.
He has provided all things needed for us to succeed;
Let us do our part, which is, for Him to seek.

Let us cultivate and establish our faith in the Lord;
By standing firm and holding fast to the lessons we have been taught.
From the pursuit of knowledge of the Word we must not tire;
In fervent and constant prayer, we must persevere.

Only when we are ensconced in a strong and immovable faith;
Can we, our trials and tribulations, bravely face.
It is our prayer that the Lord, in His mercy, establish us in faith and in life;
So that we may overcome life's ubiquitous hardships and strife.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

POETRY CORNER

4

Establishment of faith

We begin faith's journey as a grain of mustard seed;
Though small and tiny it is essential to get started.
Undergoing pain and suffering hones our faith to proceed;
To a deep and mature level to be rendered as established.

Self-effort falls short in our establishment of faith;
Human nature is generally weak and the challenge is great.
Stand fast and hold on to the knowledge of our Saviour in tight embrace;
Our work is still necessary as we to God, relate.

Know that it is the Lord's grace which brings us to spiritual maturity;
The Holy Spirit from within guides and empowers us.
Nurturing and enabling our growth out of spiritual infancy;
To progress and be transformed closer to the likeness of Jesus.

We shall therefore not waver in our faith and harbour lingering doubts;
For we have been chosen for salvation from the beginning.
Praise the Lord for His loving kindness and make a joyful shout;
May we exalt and honour Him daily with jubilant singing!

Jessie Quek
Inspiration: 2 Thessalonians 2 :16,17

POETRY CORNER

5

THE ESTABLISHING OF OUR FAITH

In life, we can be shaken in times of trouble,
Evil influences can also cause us to stumble.
By faith, we can press on determinedly,
Knowing God and His Word will help us greatly.

God chose us before the world's foundation,
By faith, He has given to us salvation.
We are sanctified by the Spirit of God,
And called to obtain the glory of the Lord.

An appropriate response is to stand fast,
We must not vacillate but be steadfast.
There is every reason to hold onto His Word,
And the gospel truth which we have heard.

By God's grace, He promises good hope,
His comfort and presence will help us cope.
Our Father will love and gird us faithfully,
He will be there to establish our faith firmly!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

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

301 Upper Paya Lebar Road, Singapore 534934

tel : 65-62877713 . fax : 65-62877980 . website URL : bethanyipc.sg