

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 18 April 2021*

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: 1 Peter 4:12-19

## SUFFERING ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD

### FIERY TRIALS OF LIFE

The Apostle Peter wrote about the "fiery trials" which could come upon believers. His teaching may be summarised:

1. These are not to be regarded as "strange things" 1 Peter 4:12

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

2. Believers in the first century underwent great challenges indeed!

## SOME OF THE FIERY TRIALS DESCRIBED

Peter highlighted two of these trials:

1. Some were "reproached" 1 Peter 4:14a
2. Others suffered being "blasphemed" 1 Peter 1:14b

This was verbal abuse! There were other forms of fiery trials not described here.

## PROBLEMS THAT ARE NOT TO BE PUT IN THE SAME CATEGORY

Peter described some things that ought not to be spoken of in the same vein.

1. Murderer
2. Thief
3. Evildoer
4. Busybody in other people's business

If one were to "suffer" punishment, jail time, or physical beating, because of these personal sins, this kind of "suffering" is not "according to the will of God!

## TRUE SUFFERING FOR THE LORD

What is true suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ? Our suffering

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

must be related to the Lord Jesus Christ!

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|--|--------------|
| 1. If we "partake of Christ's sufferings"      | 1 Peter 4:13 |
| 2. If we are reproached for the name of Christ | 1 Peter 4:14 |
| 3. If we suffer as a Christian                 | 1 Peter 4:16 |

## THE CORRECT PERSPECTIVE

How should we respond when we actually suffer for the Lord?  
Peter had these words to offer.

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. "Rejoice"  | 1 Peter 1:13  |
| 2. "Blessed are you"                                | 1 Peter 4:14a |
| 3. "The Spirit of glory and of Gold rests upon you" | 1 Peter 4:14b |

Let us learn how to commit our souls to God as to a faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:19)!

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*Write to me at:* [charlestan@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:charlestan@bethanyipc.sg)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today! May your heart be uplifted through worship!



## SPECIAL CATECHISM CLASS

Saturday, 24 April 2021

Time: 1.00pm



## YOUTH WORSHIP

Saturday, 24 April 2021

Time: 3.00pm



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## WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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### Psalm 119:47-48

*<sup>47</sup> And I will delight myself in Your commandments,  
Which I love.*

*<sup>48</sup> My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments,  
Which I love,*

*And I will meditate on Your statutes.*

1. An Example worth Emulating
  - a) Love for God's commandments
  - b) Delight in God's commandments because of love
2. A further commitment
  - a) Meditation on God's statutes
  - b) Stemming from a love for God's word

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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**TODAY: 18 April 2021**

*Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens*

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

1. The law of Christ

- a) It is different
- b) It is a law of the Spirit
- c) It is one marked by love

2. The Fulfilment of the law of Christ

- a) Caring for people
- b) Bearing the burdens of others
- c) Having a heart of compassion

**NEXT SUNDAY: 25 April 2021**

*Galatians 6: 9 Let us not grow weary*

*And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## **SUFFERING ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL**

Suffering for the Lord may be called a “fiery trial;”  
This need not be feared, though it may last a while.  
But when we face problems because of our wrong-doing;  
The difficulty we experience may not be “true suffering.”

Our suffering must be related to the Lord's name;  
People may reproach us and attempt to bring shame.  
But when we truly suffer because of our faith in God;  
We will experience a special blessing of the Lord.

A special expression of glory is revealed;  
God's blessing would not be concealed.  
The sufferer need not feel ashamed;  
He is privileged to suffer for His name.

The Will of God includes suffering;  
We entrust our soul to God's keeping.  
We have a faithful and mighty Creator;  
He will bring us into His special favour!

Charles Tan  
Inspiration: 1 Peter 4:12-19

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## **The Holy Spirit**

The one true God comprises God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;  
The Father and Son have captured a large share of our mind.  
However, the position of the Holy Spirit is not as explicit;  
Let us heighten our consciousness of the Spirit who too is divine.

The Holy Spirit is a gift from the Lord, our Father;  
Given on our faith in Jesus who died on the cross to redeem us.  
This gift is a commencement, the beginning of a new life altogether;  
He is the seal and guarantee from the Lord of our inheritance.

Anyone regardless of race and cultural identity may receive the Holy Spirit;  
It is not dependent on our moral excellence or good works.  
Progress in growth towards maturity by the Spirit is also the Lord's gift;  
Mere human effort will not enhance nor attain one's spiritual status.

The Holy Spirit reveals to believers deep things of God;  
What better way to get to know the Lord than through His Spirit.  
Through Him we too gain access to the power and wisdom of the Lord;  
Whose mighty strength raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him on His right.

Jessie Quek  
Galatians 3, Ephesians 1:13, 1 Corinthians 2: 10-11

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Rev. Dr. Charles Tan*

## **PRAYER**

## **HYMN**

*HWC 202 Amazing Grace*

*HWC 198 Wonderful Grace of Jesus*

## **MESSAGE**

*Stand Fast in the Spirit*

*Text: Galatians 5*

## **HYMN**

*Until Then*

## **PRAYER/ BENEDICTION**





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# HYMNS

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## HWC 202 Amazing Grace 奇异恩典

*John Newton*

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
奇异恩典，何等甘甜 我罪已得赦免！  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
前我失丧，今被寻回，瞎眼今得看见。
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
如此恩典，使我敬畏，使我心得安慰；  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!  
初信之时，即蒙恩惠 真是何等宝贵！
3. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;  
主必依祂所许诺言，使我终身蒙恩；  
He will my Shield and Portion be as long as life endures.  
赐恩之主永作保障，是我一生福分。
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
许多危险，试练，网罗，我已安然经过；  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me Home.  
靠主恩典，安全不怕，更引导我归家。
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
将来禧年，圣徒欢聚，恩光爱谊千年，  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.  
喜乐颂赞，在父座前，深圣那日快见。

(End 终)

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# HYMNS

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## HWC 198 Wonderful Grace of Jesus

### 耶稣奇妙的救恩

*Haldor Lillenas*

I. Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin;  
耶稣奇妙的救恩， 远超我众过犯；  
How shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin?  
我口舌不能述说， 歌喉不能唱尽。  
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free,  
祂除我罪担忧愁， 使我得着自由，  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.  
耶稣奇妙的救恩， 使我得拯救。

#### Refrain 副歌

Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, deeper than the mighty rolling sea;  
主耶稣奇妙无比的救恩，深过波涛滚浪大海洋；  
Wonderful grace, all sufficient for me, for even me;  
奇妙救恩足够我需用， 足够我需用；  
Broader than the scope of my transgressions, greater far than all my sin and shame;  
宽过我一生所行的过犯， 大过我一切罪污邪情；  
O magnify the precious name of Jesus, praise His Name!  
我要称扬主圣名， 我要赞美主圣名！

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# HYMNS

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2. Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost,  
耶稣奇妙的救恩，临及失丧之人，  
By it I have been pardoned, saved to the uttermost;  
藉救恩我罪得赦，並拯救我灵魂；  
Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty,  
主为我解脱捆绑，使我得着释放，  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.  
耶稣奇妙的救恩，使我得拯救。

*Refrain 副歌*

3. Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled,  
耶稣奇妙的救恩，施与罪恶的人，  
By its transforming power making him God's dear child,  
靠主大能的救助，使我训服归神，  
Purchasing peace and Heaven for all eternity;  
蒙主赐平安满足，得享天堂永福；  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.  
耶稣奇妙的救恩，使我得拯救。

*Refrain 副歌*

(End 终)

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# HYMNS

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## VIP 654 Until Then

### 直到那时

1. My heart can sing when I pause to remember, a heartache here is but a stepping stone.

我心歌颂当我反复在思想,常有忧伤,助我灵更向上.

Along a trail that's winding always upward, this troubled world is not my final home.

这条窄路最后通往到天堂,忧患世界不是最后家乡.

#### Refrain 副歌

But until then my heart will go on singing, until then with joy I'll carry on –

直到那时,我心仍旧要歌唱,到那时,我快乐做圣工 –

Until the day my eyes behold the City, until the day God calls me Home.

直到那日,我眼睛看见圣城,直到那日主召我行.

2. The things of earth will dim and lose their value, if we recall they're borrowed for a while;

世间万物价值不久会失去,细思想,全是虚空暂时;

And things of earth that cause the heart to tremble, remembered there will only bring a smile.

世上事物常使人战兢,魂销,在天回想,只有付之一笑.

#### *Refrain 副歌*

3. This weary world with all its toil and struggle may take its toll of misery and strife;

困倦人世充满着挣扎劳苦,造成忧患与争斗的效果;

The soul of man is like a waiting falcon; when it's released, it's destined for the skies.

世上人必好象受捆绑老鹰;得着释放归回天空安宁.

#### *Refrain 副歌*

(End 终)