

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 16 May 2021

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meditation	1
Announcements	4
Letters That Warm The Heart	5
Worship	6
Bible Memory Work	7
Poetry Corner	8

Text: Deuteronomy 17:14-20

“A COPY OF THIS LAW IN A BOOK”

A DIVINE PROPHECY

God anticipated the day when Israel would demand a king to rule over them. This prophetic word was given to Moses (Deuteronomy 17:14-20).

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

1. Prophetically

- a) Moses gave a forewarning
- b) This was a prophetic word

2. Historically

- a) This word was fulfilled
 - i) In the days of Samuel
 - ii) King Saul was the first king of Israel
- b) The demand for a king
 - i) This was predictable
 - ii) Every other nation had a king except Israel

A DIVINE COMMAND

God made provision for the day when Israel would have a king. Among others words of admonition, the Lord added this word.

¹⁸ "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from *the one* before the priests, the Levites. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment *to* the right hand or *to* the left, and that he may prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel."

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

1. What the king must do

- a) To make a copy of the Law of God
- b) This may be obtained from the Levites and Priests

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

2. The command from the Lord

- a) He must read the Law all the days of his life
- b) He must learn to fear the LORD his God
- c) He must carefully give heed to what he reads

3. The desired outcome

- a) His heart would not be lifted up above his brethren
 - i) He would not oppress his brethren
 - ii) He would humbly uphold justice

- b) He would not turn left or right
 - i) He would be faithful to the Lord
 - ii) He would walk in obedience

In response, the Lord would give His blessings to the king who reads the Scriptures!

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 blessed through worship!



COVID-19 PHASE 2 (HEIGHTENED ALERT)

1. Press Conference

A Press Conference was held on Friday, 14 May 2021

The Government has issued further Restrictions for social gatherings because of a spike in Covid-19 cases.

2. Bethany's Response

a) We are in full support of the Government's imposition of Restrictions for social gathering

b) Bethany will have Live Broadcast of Worship Services starting this weekend and for the next 4 weeks

i) Youth Worship (Saturday)
3.00pm

ii) Morning Worship (Sunday)
10.00am

3. Special Catechism Class

This will be suspended for the next 4 weeks

Let us be moved to pray for the world that has been badly affected by Covid-19.

Let us pray for the leaders of our country faithfully.

LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

Dear Bethany Brethren,

On Saturday 1 May 2021, my father passed on very quietly and peacefully. His heart had stopped while resting after his breakfast. He was 94. We had a sea burial for my late father on 6 May 2021, scattering his ashes and bones into the sea off Changi. The Lord was indeed merciful in bringing him home after 6 years of waning health. In her parting words to my late father before encoffining, my mother whispered in Teochew, "*You have finished already. You are now at the Lord Jesus' side.*" Thank God for salvation and faith during their senior years.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank the Pastoral Team, Session, AV Team, Headset Team and Bulletin Team for seeing to the needs of both the vigil and funeral services.

Thanks to Pastor who brought a very personal message of comfort to my family, especially to my mother.

Your condolences, gifts and your visits brought so much comfort. Truly, a church community who cares.

With gratefulness,

Jolly

On behalf of the Tan Family

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 16 May 2021

Text: Psalm 5: 1 Consider my meditation

Give ear to my words, O LORD,

Consider my meditation.

1. The Context of Meditation

a) In the Morning Psalm 5:3

b) In the Evening Psalm 4:4

2. The Jewish appreciation of each day

a) Follows Genesis 1

b) Evening and then Morning

3. Practice of Meditation

a) Commences in the Evening

b) Continues in the Morning

c) Resumes in the Evening again

4. Meditation

Prayer is offered in Meditation!

NEXT SUNDAY: 23 May 2021

Text: Psalm 19:14 Acceptable in Your sight

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

Be acceptable in Your sight,

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:55-56

*⁵⁵ I remember Your name in the night, O LORD,
And I keep Your law.*

*⁵⁶ This has become mine,
Because I kept Your precepts.*

1. The name of God

- a) It is gratefully remembered
- b) Especially in the "night seasons"

2. The law of God

- a) It is read and understood
- b) It is also carefully kept in obedience

3. "It is mine"

- a) The law of God has become very personal
- b) This is because the word of God has been duly kept

POETRY CORNER

1

A COPY OF THIS LAW

To become the king of a nation is a heady feeling;
One can be overcome by numerous things.
There is the danger of abuse of authority;
There is also the pride that comes naturally.

The Lord Himself gave very clear instructions;
There must be a careful guarding from temptations.
The heart must not be lifted up in foolish pride;
Being a mighty king must be taken in one's stride.

A copy of the law of God must be made;
To meditate on it, one must not hesitate.
The Word of God can give much protection;
It would prevent the sin that leads to destruction.

The king must read and seek wisdom from God;
The Scriptures have been provided by the Lord.
The keeping of the Word would bring blessing;
The neglect of the Scripture ends in backsliding!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Deuteronomy 17:14-20

POETRY CORNER

2

Prayerful Meditation

Pain and suffering in life are ubiquitously found;
Problems arise one after another and challenges abound.
Prayers and supplication in answer to them would seem sound;
Perhaps we can do more as worries and anxieties mount?

Prayerful meditation of the Lord's word, we ought to try;
Pacifying our anger and stilling our hearts because sin we must deny.
Perseverance of faith in God, who is full of mercy and grace;
Putting our trust in Him and persisting in seeking His face.

Power is derived as we gain knowledge of God and His Word;
Peace and gladness will be the reward for our effort.
Pleasing sleep enjoyed through the night is God-given;
Perfect rest and safety will be like harbingers of Heaven!

Pleas have always been met with answers from God in the past;
Promises from the Lord will materialize if only we held fast.
Prayerful meditation enables us from anxieties and fears to find release;
Pure joy, rest and blessed assurance will henceforth never go amiss.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Psalm 4

POETRY CORNER

3

Meditate Within The Heart

The Lord reveals Himself to us through the Bible;
We should set aside time to focus and understand His revelations.
Choosing prescribed times in a special place reserved for Him is vital;
To quietly contemplate what God has done and given to us.

Be still, review the past and remember His grace and mercy;
We can be fully assured of His protection and provisions for the future.
He is our refuge in times of trouble so there is no reason to worry;
Faithfulness and tender loving care bear the Lord's signature.

Let thoughts from our minds flow to the hearts therein;
May our hearts be touched and full with love for the Lord.
Soak our hearts with His Word and meditate within;
Let us find solace in meditation before God.

Worship and praise Him for assuming our burden;
Let peace and rest reign within our souls.
That His yoke is light and easy to bear is certain;
The Lord makes us dwell in safety and sustains us.

Jessie Quek
(Inspiration: Psalm 4; Matthew 11: 29-30)

POETRY CORNER

4

The Blessing of A Cherished Spring 2021

Especially on each spring day of May, I will remember your face,
That special smile that would accompany your warm embrace.
Behind those cheeky eyes, an expression of a familiar fondness,
From between your dimples, words of comfort uttered in tenderness.

And what a wonderful spring that I have experienced in you!
Fresh and sweet you were, crystal clear as the morning dew.
Your love was radiant just as the early morning rays of light,
Your affection, mellow and cozy, you made my life shine bright!

Each May, tears will well, for my spring that missed a tomorrow,
Each May, an inevitable sadness, I learn to embrace this sorrow.
And I must take comfort that you are cradled firmly in His arms,
Under the protection of His wings, remote from life's many harms!

Each May, I will remember the wonderful blessing of my spring,
God's goodness will be my reminder no matter what life still brings.
Through this sorrow must emerge a faith that sees no winter,
In gratitude, a fullness of a trust with Christ at its very centre!

In memory of our beloved Chloe's birthday on 17 May 2021.
Tan Kok Yang, Chloe's father.

POETRY CORNER

5

MEDITATE WITHIN YOUR HEART

Problems in life can be harsh and complex,
The heart can be distressed and perplexed.
Rather than be mired in the circumstances,
We must recall God's help in past experiences.

It is so important to know God's word given,
The LORD is righteous, faithful and sovereign.
As we learn to focus on His word and meditate,
In His presence, negative feelings will dissipate.

God will give peace and the heart quietens,
He will uplift the soul that was heavy-laden.
Meditating on the LORD and His word is effective,
Through meditation, He changes our perspective.

Though the problems in life are still there,
The heart learns to trust in God who cares.
Dwelling with Him brings sweet assurance,
There is joy and gladness in His presence.

Yvette Seow
Inspiration: Psalm 4