

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 5 December 2021

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: 1 Peter 1

AN INHERITANCE INCORRUPTIBLE AND UNDEFILED

AN EARTHLY INHERITANCE

Not everyone has experienced the reality of receiving an earthly inheritance. To those who are fortunate to have received such an inheritance, there would be a special

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MEDITATION

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sense of joy in being remembered in a special way.

A SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE

All children of God actually have an inheritance. Sadly, few are aware of this fact.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

1. An inheritance

- a) This is clearly stated
- b) It comes with the living hope God had given us

2. An inheritance incorruptible and undefiled

- a) This means that nothing will affect this inheritance adversely
- b) Corruptibility
 - i) Time will cause things to fade away
 - ii) Corrosion can take place
- c) But our spiritual inheritance will remain

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MEDITATION

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i) The same in value

ii) Nothing will affect it in any way

3. Reserved in heaven

a) Our home in heaven is reserved

b) Our place in heaven is also reserved

4. Kept by the power of God

a) It is so good to know that we are kept by God Himself

b) His power will ensure that what we have been promised
Would be preserved for eternity

LET US THANK GOD FOR THE CERTAINTY OF OUR FAITH

We have every reason to rejoice in the Lord. Let this Christmas see us rejoice even more in things spiritual and eternal!

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!



CHRISTMAS CANDLES

This is the 2nd Sunday of Advent. We light the Bethlehem Candle today.

1. Bethlehem was the humble birthplace of:

- a) King David
- b) The Lord Jesus Christ

2. This was the day of humble beginnings

- a) David was destined to be the King of Israel
- b) The Lord Jesus was destined to be the King of kings

Let us celebrate God's Plan to send the Lord Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and also our Lord and King.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Heartfelt congratulations to Stephen and Leanne Ng on the occasion of their wedding on 4 December 2021. May the Lord add His richest blessings!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YW SPECIAL

6-9 December 2021

Theme: "Walk before Me"

Time: 9.00am-11.00am

Venue: Church



CHRISTMAS BAPTISMAL SERVICES

1. Paedo-Baptism

12 December 2021

2. Adult Baptism/ Reaffirmation/ Transference

19 December 2021

ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

*³⁴When He slew them, then they sought Him;
And they returned and sought earnestly for God.*

*³⁵Then they remembered that God was their rock,
And the Most High God their Redeemer.*

*³⁶Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth,
And they lied to Him with their tongue;*

*³⁷For their heart was not steadfast with Him,
Nor were they faithful in His covenant.*

Psalm 78:34-37

1. The human heart can be very devious

- a) On the one hand, we can appear to seek God
 - i) Seeking God earnestly
 - ii) Remembering Him
 - iii) Returning to Him
- b) On the other hand, we can be very deceptive
 - i) The words uttered may be lies
 - ii) Words may be empty flattery
 - iii) The heart may not be steadfast or faithful

2. The Challenge

- a) To have a faithful heart
- b) To have a heart that is genuine
- c) To have a heart that is upright before the Lord

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 5 December 2021

Text: “That you may know the certainty” Luke 1:4

That you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

1. Certainty of Faith is possible
 - a) Through knowing the Scriptures better
 - b) Through furthering our knowledge
2. The Challenge is to know our Faith better
 - a) To grow in knowledge
 - b) To grow in faith

NEXT SUNDAY: 12 December 2021

Text: “Blessed is she who believed” Luke 1:45

Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfilment of those things which were told her from the Lord.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:113-114

*¹¹³ I hate the double-minded,
But I love Your law.*

*¹¹⁴ You are my hiding place and my shield;
I hope in Your word.*

1. Hate and Love

- a) Doubled-mindedness is to be hated
- b) The law of the LORD is to be loved

2. The LORD our God

- a) He is our Hiding Place and our Shield
- b) Let us hold fast to our hope in Him

TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF AUNTY LINDA KUA

Dear brethren from Bethany,

A MAJOR SET-BACK

I am Linda Kua. It has been my privilege to be a part of our beloved Bethany family for more than 20 years. I am thankful to God for the gift of the Church family.

In 2018, I faced a major setback in life. My husband, Then Ah Sam, was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. The news came as a shock to us. It felt like our whole world was rocked. During the time of helplessness, God reminded us to look to Him.

Psalm 121:1-2

*I will lift up my eyes to the hills
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.*

As the children of Israel made their pilgrimage to Jerusalem, they kept their eyes on the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. For all they did not know in the journey, they trusted the Lord, their true help. These verses held us steady through our journey with cancer. There were difficult challenges along the way but as we lifted our eyes to the eternal hills, our hearts were lifted too.

The doctor did not recommend any treatment for my husband's cancer as it was too far advanced. Without God, it would have seemed hopeless. But we were not without help. Whether in the hospital or at home, we could feel God's presence with us. What we took for granted in the past became very precious. Because we did not know how long we had, we lived appreciatively.

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TESTIMONY

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THE GRACE OF GOD

By God's grace, those days were lived with patience, love, laughter, tears and hope. The doctor told us our days together were limited, but God gave us a full year together.

On 27 November 2018, in the Lord's best timing, He called my husband Home to be with Him.

A DEEP VALLEY

A new chapter of my life began. I had never thought about what it would be like to be a widow, and how I would cope with the sadness and loneliness. Also, four months into the bereavement, I lost my job of more than 30 years.

This double blow made me fall into a deep valley. I became spiritually disoriented and started spiraling down. Tears flowed freely. During this time, because of the coronavirus outbreak, I felt even more isolated and alone. The doctor feared that I might be going through a depression.

But God is faithful. He does not give up on His own. One day, I was listening to a Chinese Christian broadcast when these words hit me: "When in the valley, do not pity yourself. The more you feel sorry for yourself, the more you can't get up. Look up to our great Savior and find hope in Him!"

These words woke me up and got me thinking about the self-pity that I had been wallowing in. My tears for myself had made me blind to truths that mattered. I had forgotten and even doubted the love and faithfulness of God. I had trusted my doubt-filled perceptions of reality instead of the certainty of God's promises in the Word that I treasured.

That night, I knelt before God in complete honesty and humility. Although I had often "prayed" during those dark months, deep down, I knew I was

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TESTIMONY

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only saying words. I was not really connected to God.

GOD IN CONTROL AGAIN

In contrition, I confessed to God that I truly disliked my sorrowful and hopeless life. Having reached the end of the road, I surrendered myself to God and no longer wanted to let the "person in me" control me. I pleaded with Him to save me, change me and take control of my mind and heart.

Though I did not know how help was coming, I was assured that the Lord would come. For He had said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

At that time, the Morning Worship messages from Psalm 36 also moved me deeply. Through Pastor Charlie's preaching from the text, I learnt again to see God's mercy and faithfulness.

*"Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens;
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the great mountains;
Your judgments are a great deep;
O Lord, You preserve man and beast.
How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!
Therefore the children of men put their trust
under the shadow of Your wings.
They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house,
And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.
For with You is the fountain of life;
In Your light we see light."
Psalm 36:5-9*

These verses put faith in my heart and clarity in my focus. They helped me keep my eyes on who God is. Thanks be to God! I could pray for my children and grandchildren again. I could visit friends and cook soup for those in need. I could look to God and live again!

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TESTIMONY

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I have been through other valleys but that was the deepest and darkest encountered yet. I do not know what challenges lie ahead, but this is what I have taken away. I must never sit and wallow in doubt and despair. Instead, I must recognise my Shepherd's tender yet firm voice and follow Him.

I want to thank Pastor Charles and the pastoral team, my friends from Bethany and my family and relatives. Your love and support kept me going and helped me to see God's light again. "In Your light, we see light." This is a beautiful promise to all who are the Lord's. With His light, there will be no darkness! We will see light even in the darkest valley.

POETRY CORNER

1

AN INHERITANCE INCORRUPTIBLE

All good earthly fathers seek to leave an inheritance;
They know that their gift to the children is of importance.
Life on earth can be hard and hence this thoughtfulness;
Their planning reflects their tender and true faithfulness.

Our Heavenly Father has planned an Inheritance too;
No child of His would be in want, and that is very true.
God's Inheritance Plan covers this life on earth;
This Plan was in existence from before our birth!

God knows our desire to become successful;
His Inheritance Plan is one that is truly bountiful.
He has given to us the awesome holy Scriptures;
These are our greatest and the best of Treasures.

Our Inheritance is one that is called Incorruptible;
Thus, it is not mere early treasures that are visible.
God assures us that this Inheritance will be reserved;
His power will be employed that it may be preserved!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: 1 Peter 1:5

POETRY CORNER

2

God's power in fulfilment

The work of the Holy Spirit fulfils God's divine plan
It is through His power and no less that is required
To do the impossible for Zechariah and Elizabeth in the twilight years of their
lifespan
That they bore a son the forerunner of Jesus for whom a path he prepared

True believers receive an indwelling of the Holy Spirit at salvation
But to receive God's power to fulfil His plan for each of us
We must seek to be daily filled with His Spirit without cessation
When we live in worship of the Lord His Spirit will come upon us

Let us learn to walk blamelessly before the Lord
He moves in mighty ways when we faithfully walk daily with Him
It is our loss if we fail to do so with God
For the Lord to hear our prayer for His power we must turn away from sin

God empowers us to accomplish His great works
When our hearts are fully committed to Him we can feel His Hand on us
Sing to Him always giving thanks for His goodness
Allow the Word of the Lord to dwell in us in richness

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Luke 1:36-37; Genesis 17:1-2

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

INVOCATION

MESSAGE

“How shall I know this”

Text: Luke 1:18-25

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

