

# BETHANY

## INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 2 January 2022*

## MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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**Text: Psalm 12**

## THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

### THE WORLD AT LARGE

The world at large may look at life differently. The way of contrasting things in life differs vastly too.

1. The Rich and the Poor
2. The Powerful and the Weak

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

## THE LORD AND THE SCRIPTURES

The Lord has His own way of looking at things. The focus is not on material or tangible things. The Lord's concern is more about The Righteous and The Wicked. The new Pulpit series will focus on this Subject.

## A CONCERN OF THE RIGHTEOUS

<sup>1</sup> Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases!  
For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.  
<sup>2</sup> They speak idly everyone with his neighbor;  
With flattering lips *and* a double heart they speak.  
<sup>3</sup> May the LORD cut off all flattering lips,  
And the tongue that speaks proud things,  
<sup>4</sup> Who have said,  
"With our tongue we will prevail;  
Our lips are our own;  
Who is lord over us?" Psalm 12:1-4

1. The righteous man is described here as:
  - a) The godly man
  - b) The faithful
2. The Problem raised up to God in concerned prayer
  - a) The godly seem to be shrinking in numbers
  - b) They seem to be "disappearing!" Psalm 12:1

## A DESCRIPTION OF THE UNGODLY

We have a brief description of the ungodly in this text.

1. They speak with a double heart
  - a) They speak idly
  - b) They use flattery in their words
  - c) But they are not sincere

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

2. They are arrogant

- a) They defy any attempt to rein them in
- b) They speak proudly
- c) They believe that they will prevail in their own strength

## THE CHALLENGE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The Righteous must not flinch no matter how small their numbers may be! Let there be strength to remain faithful and true to the Lord in walking righteously!

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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 strengthened to walk in faith and in righteousness!



### **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

The Session and Pastors wish all worshippers the Lord's Blessings for the New Year 2022!



### **NEW PULPIT THEME FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022**

Theme: "The LORD knows the days of the Upright"  
Psalm 37:18

May the Lord bless this new series of Pulpit messages!



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SPECIAL SENIORS PROGRAM

1. We have 2 Groups of Seniors

- a) Tuesday Group
- b) Thursday Group

2. Time of Meeting

9.00am- 11.00am

3. What are some things we hope to do:

- a) Strengthen our Faith in God
- b) Have meaningful Fellowship with each other in Church
- c) Be a source of encouragement to each other

### Transport provided to and from Special Seniors' Program

Bethany's Special Seniors' Program commences this week!

We would like to announce that transport will be provided for seniors before the Program begins and after it ends. The passenger van will make stops at the bus stop opposite church and at the pick-up point at Bartley MRT station exit A (taxi stand before the bus stop). This is so that seniors will not need to cross the overhead bridge and walk too great a distance.

Before the Program begins, a few trips will be made between 9:00am and 9:30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



## **CATECHISM CLASS**

This resumes on Saturday, 8 January 2022.

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Church Sanctuary

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## YOUTH WORSHIP

This also resumes on Saturday, 8 January 2022

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: Church Sanctuary



## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S RETREAT 2022

Friday, 14 January 2022 (7.15pm to 9.15pm) and

Saturday, 15 January 2022 (9am to 11.30am).

The theme of this Retreat is "Behold your God"    Isaiah 40:9

Sunday School teachers who are planning to attend the Retreat in Church, please register early. We are only allowed to have 50 participants onsite.

However, the Retreat messages will be live streamed.

The live streaming will be open to the whole Church. So do join us for a time of deep instruction in God's Word. May we be refreshed and revitalised from the study of Isaiah.

Let us pray for the Lord's blessings!



## HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Mr. Ng Cheng Hai, Rev. Mark Tan and Mrs. Tan Chen Kee on the home-calling of Mdm. Tan Miow Leng. The late Mdm. Tan (Chen Kee's mother) was called home to be with the Lord Jesus Christ on 27 December 2021. She was 81 years old.



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## ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

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*<sup>49</sup>He cast on them the fierceness of His anger,  
Wrath, indignation, and trouble,  
By sending angels of destruction among them.*

*<sup>50</sup>He made a path for His anger;  
He did not spare their soul from death,  
But gave their life over to the plague,  
<sup>51</sup>And destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt,  
The first of their strength in the tents of Ham.  
Psalm 78:49-51*

1. God's judgment of the wicked
  - a) He is angry with the wicked
  - b) Angels of destruction were sent
2. The example of ancient Egypt
  - a) Egypt was called Ham  
Ham was the son that was "cursed" by Noah
  - b) God's curse is expressed as:  
Wrath, indignation, and trouble

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## LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

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Dear Pastor,

Thank you for specially ministering to our family during this time of bereavement. We have come to appreciate this ministry so much more. Each night's message brought special comfort and encouragement to the heart as we focused on the Lord's Word in the context of the life lived. Amidst grief, was challenged also to finish well.

Thank you and the pastoral team for making alternative arrangements at short notice when you had medical procedures scheduled and others were on leave.

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# LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

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Special thanks to the AVA team for livestreaming the memorial services, arranging for my sister to deliver the eulogy over zoom, and zooming the funeral proceedings for the extended family overseas, from Vancouver, Florida, London, Paris, Malaysia, Melbourne, Sydney and Auckland. Dad was the eldest son of the family and it meant a lot to them to be able to say goodbye to him meaningfully this way.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the love and care shown by many from Bethany. For visiting with us, sending messages, prayers, flowers. All our meals were taken care of. Our fridge overflowed with meals and snacks. Our tagline comes to mind - God's kind of church, where God is touching lives and people care for people. We are much blessed to be part of Bethany.

With deep gratitude,  
Lay Tin and Effie

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## BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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**TODAY: 2 January 2022**

**Text: "The LORD knows the way of the righteous"**

*For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:6*

1. Two ways are contrasted
  - a) The way of the righteous
  - b) The way of the ungodly
2. Two results are to be noted
  - a) God knows (regards) the way of the righteous
  - b) The way of the ungodly will perish ultimately

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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## **NEXT SUNDAY: 9 January 2022**

**Text: “For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous”**

*For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous;*

*With favour You will surround him as with a shield. Psalm 5:12*

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## WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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### **Psalm 119:121-122**

<sup>121</sup> *I have done justice and righteousness;  
Do not leave me to my oppressors.*

<sup>122</sup> *Be surety for Your servant for good;  
Do not let the proud oppress me.*

1. The Personal Testimony of the Psalmist
  - a) He has upheld justice
  - b) He has practised righteousness
2. The Problems of life
  - a) There are proud people
  - b) They oppress the righteous
3. The Prayer of the Psalmist
  - a) That God would not leave him to the oppressors
  - b) That the LORD would be his surety



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## HELP, LORD, THE GODLY MAN CEASES!

With some alarm, the Psalmist prays to God;  
He cries for urgent help from the LORD.  
It seems that the godly are decreasing in number;  
He pleads with the Lord to graciously remember!

The ungodly, on the other hand seem to be stronger;  
They also seem to become even stronger.  
They had a double heart and they used flattery;  
But their behaviour is of doubtful sincerity.  
The wicked believe in their power;  
They believe in their own agenda.  
They believe that their cause cannot fail.  
The righteous are too weak to prevail.

But the godly has access to God in prayer;  
Upon Him they will cast all their cares.  
God will uphold Justice with all His Might;  
The godly must continue to do what is right!

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Psalm 12:1-4

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## **I Know Whom I Have Believed**

Another year has passed;  
Many stories told.  
Joyful news we wish for the world to know;  
Sad ones which on us have taken a toll.

Happiness is seeing the children grow;  
Every little achievement enough to set hearts aglow.  
But with loved ones departing come inexorable woe;  
Making it hard to face tomorrow.

But there is hope no matter how situations unfold;  
Because whom I have believed, I know.  
The great God from whom all blessings flow;  
Is the same God who comforts in sorrow.

The Lord Jesus came to earth two thousand years ago;  
To abolish death and bring life to those willing to follow.  
The certainty of our faith is that which we need to show;  
As we prepare for challenges which may harrow.

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: 2 Timothy 1:10-12

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## **I Know whom I have believed**

How many of us can say with full conviction like Apostle Paul  
“I know whom I have believed” after much suffering for the gospel  
Spiritual knowledge of Christ is essential to grow faith for all  
The deeper our knowledge the closer our faith can resemble the Pauline example

Information on our Saviour is revealed to us by His Lordship, our Father  
He gives believers an understanding that they may truly know Him  
To learn to trust and love Him with their hearts forever  
Building certainty in faith as the bedrock of a personal relationship with Him

May we realise and recognise the glories and fulness of His Grace  
Such that its implications will begin to dawn on us enabling a response  
Reaching deep into our souls and with humility wonder and trace  
His goodness, mercy and exaltations of the lowly in His works

The power of God is formidable and at work all the time  
His actions are purpose driven and given to us in Christ Jesus  
Who is faithful and able to keep what believers have committed in sublime  
Let us too be committed and be as faithful as He is to us

Jessie Quek  
Inspiration: (2 Timothy 1:9-12)

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Rev. Dr. Charles Tan*

## INVOCATION

## MESSAGE

“Do Not Fret”

Text: Psalm 37

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE



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