

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 9 January 2022

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Psalm 13

“ENLIGHTEN MY EYES”

STRUGGLES IN LIFE

The Psalmist David struggled very much in his heart and mind. The following were the struggles that he confessed.

1. His enemies

a) They seem to be exalted

Psalm 13:2

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

b) They seem to be winning the battle Psalm 13:4

2. His inability to sense the Presence of God

a) He was afraid that he was forgotten by God Psalm 13:1a

b) He could not find God for He seemed to have hidden Himself
Psalm 13:1b

3. His sorrow that threatened to overwhelm

a) He felt sorrow daily Psalm 13:2b

b) He found this hard to cope with

A DESPERATE PRAYER TO GOD

In his darkness, David uttered a prayer from the depth of his heart. This was a prayer for Enlightenment.

³Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God;
Enlighten my eyes,
Lest I sleep the *sleep of death*;

⁴Lest my enemy say,
"I have prevailed against him";
Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.
Psalm 13:3-4

1. David sought to understand the circumstances of his life

2. His lack of comprehension of life brought about confusion

3. His fear was that his enemies would prevail over him

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

EXERCISING TRUST IN GOD

David sought to exercise trust in the Lord even as he prayed desperately.

⁵ But I have trusted in Your mercy;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the LORD,
Because He has dealt bountifully with me. Psalm 13:5-6

1. He would trust in God's mercy
2. He would rejoice in His salvation
3. He would sing to the LORD because He had dealt bountifully with him

OUR CHALLENGE

These are lessons that we must be challenged to apply in our life.

1. Let us trust in God's mercy
2. Let us remember how God has dealt bountifully with us in the past
3. Let us continue to rejoice in the Lord!

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! May our trust in the Lord deepen significantly in the New Year!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT WEEKEND

1. Saturday, 15 January 2022

a) Catechism Class

1.00pm

b) Youth Worship

3.00pm

2. Sunday, 16 January 2022

a) Morning Worship

Main Sanctuary

10.00am

b) Chinese Worship

Level 4 Auditorium

10.00am



SPECIAL SENIORS PROGRAM

1. Tuesday, 11 January 2022

9.30am- 11.30am

2. Thursday, 13 January 2022

9.30am- 11.30am



HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS

Heartfelt congratulations to Eddy and Xingying on the occasion of the wedding on Saturday, 8 January 2022. May the Lord add His richest blessings to their lives!



ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

*⁵² But He made His own people go forth like sheep,
And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;*

*⁵³ And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear;
But the sea overwhelmed their enemies.*

*⁵⁴ And He brought them to His holy border,
This mountain which His right hand had acquired.*

*⁵⁵ He also drove out the nations before them,
Allotted them an inheritance by survey,
And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.
Psalm 78:52-55*

1. God's Personal Involvement noted
2. God's Regard for His people
 - a) He led His people like a Great Shepherd
 - b) He guides His people as His flock in the wilderness
3. God's Leading
 - a) He led them safely through the Red Sea
 - b) The enemies were overwhelmed
4. God's Revelation of Himself
 - a) At mount Sinai
 - b) He spoke to His people
5. God's keeping of His promise to Abraham
 - a) He brought the children of Israel to Canaan
 - b) He divided the Land and gave it to all the tribes of Israel

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:123-124

¹²³ *My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation
And Your righteous word.*

¹²⁴ *Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy,
And teach me Your statutes.*

1. Earnest Seeking of the LORD
 - a) His salvation
 - b) His Word
2. Earnest prayer to the LORD for:
 - a) His mercy to be extended
 - b) His revealing of the Statutes (Scriptures)

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 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

1. The Blessing of the Lord
God will bless the Righteous
2. The Favour of the Lord
He will shield the Righteous with His favour

NEXT SUNDAY: 16 January 2022

Text: "His countenance beholds the upright"

For the Lord is righteous,

He loves righteousness;

LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

Dear Pastor

I write to express heart-felt appreciation to you and the church for the overwhelming support shown to me and my family as we mourned the passing of our dear mother last week.

Mum was in hospital for pneumonia in the two weeks leading up to Christmas. She was discharged on Christmas day and we were expecting her to recuperate at home. Over the weekend, we were able to spend time with her and she seemed fine. However, on Monday (27 December 2021), her condition took a turn for the worse and she was called home to be with the Lord.

While we were deeply saddened by her passing, our hearts were deeply comforted by the support we received from you and from our brethren in Bethany. Thank you Pastor for ministering to my dad. Your presence at his side brought significant comfort, focus and perspective and the word shared at the funeral services touched our hearts deeply. We would like to thank brethren from Bethany who texted, called and attended the memorial services both onsite and online. Your words and kind gestures brought deep comfort to the heart. The continuous flow of visitors from church at the wake and the many expressions of condolences bore testimony that we are God's kind of church, and this made a deep impact on my family.

Beyond ministry at the funeral services, I would like to thank brethren in Bethany for ministering to my parents. Thank you for being the wonderful spiritual family that God blessed dad and mum with. Thank you for greeting them each week, for coming over to their usual pew to ask after them. Thank you for the friendship that you extend to them. We are thankful for the exceedingly abundant grace that God had showered on mum in salvation, and we are deeply comforted by the certainty of our faith, that mum is dwelling in the house of the Lord forever.

in His grace
Chen Kee and Mark
(on behalf of the Ng family)

POETRY CORNER

1

ENLIGHTEN MY EYES

When Enemies seem to be prevailing;
And everything seems to be confusing.
The heart must cry out to God earnestly;
May the Lord grant His great mercy!

When God seems to be absent;
There is no trace of His presence;
The heart must cry out to God most humbly;
May the Lord grant enlightenment swiftly!
The heart must exercise Trust in God;
Surely there is power with the LORD!
He has dealt bountifully in the past;
His promises are surely steadfast!

“Enlighten my eyes,” is a needed prayer;
Let us cast on the Lord all our heartfelt cares!
God will grant us the discernment that we need;
He will certainly hear and answer us as we seek!

Charles Tan
Psalm 13

POETRY CORNER

2

Let Us Not Fret

Human beings love to fret;
We agonize over decisions for fear of regret.
Anxieties and worry plague us and continuously at us, set;
Perhaps being prepared might result in better outcomes to net?

About other people's business, we also fret;
Over their purportedly undeserving successes, we get upset.
Unpleasantries over the years we choose not to forget;
Yet in so doing, it is harm to ourselves, we exact.

From the moment we and our Saviour met;
It is faith in Him we should be choosing over fret.
Trust in God is how our hearts and minds should be set;
Rest and delight in the Lord, we should not neglect.

Lessons from the Bible abound for us to reflect;
To know that God will take care of the wicked, maybe just not yet?
For God's plan for each one of His children is perfect;
So let us practise waiting on Him patiently and not fret.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Psalm 37

POETRY CORNER

3

True Faith

How do we know if we have true faith?
Christians spread the gospel, confidently declaring they have faith in God
We believe Jesus is our Saviour and leads us to the right path
Are these manifestations of true faith in the Lord

True faith is more than a mental assent to the truth as shown by Abraham
Though pained he obeyed ready to return Isaac, a gift from the Lord, to Him
Job suffered tremendously losing his possessions,
covered in boils and was damned
Yet no complaint was uttered against the Lord as
he continued to worship Him

When life is satisfactory and smooth, we can easily burst with faith in God
How unwavering are we while encountering trials and tribulations
May we find the strength and self-control to rest in the Lord
Faith is sorely needed in times of hardship and destitution

Align our human notions with that of the Almighty
In His own time, He will unfold His way for us
The Lord upholds the righteous, so be still and wait patiently
Faith is not wishful thinking, trust in Him and abolish all doubts

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Psalm 37; Hebrews 11:1; Psalm 46:10

POETRY CORNER

4

CHOOSING TO BE RIGHTEOUS

What does it mean to believe in the Lord?
One aspect is to live uprightly, before God.
The righteous chooses to keep God's way,
He rejects evil and does good each day.

Sometimes, we struggle to be righteous,
We observe the wicked and feel envious.
They choose evil and thrive on plotting,
We are upset to see them prospering.

The challenge is to learn not to be fretful,
Being frustrated and angry is harmful!
We can trust in God that He has a plan,
The wicked will surely perish by His hand.

We are assured that God knows all of our days,
He faithfully keeps us each step of the way.
Our part is to be still and rest in Him quietly,
Let us abide in Him and wait for Him patiently!

Yvette Seow
Inspiration: Psalm 37:1-8

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

INVOCATION

MESSAGE

“Trust in the LORD”

Text: Psalm 37:3, 5, 40

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

