

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 15 January 2023

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: John 5

I HAVE COME IN MY FATHER'S NAME

PRESENTING HIMSELF TO ISRAEL

The Lord Jesus presented Himself to Israel as One who had come in the Name of His Father.

I have come in My Father's name,
and you do not receive Me;
John 5:43

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

OFFERING FOUR WITNESSES

The Lord Jesus reasoned with Israel and presented four witnesses to attest to His identity!

1. John the Baptiser as a Witness

³²There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. ³³You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. John 5:32-33

2. The works of the Lord Jesus as a Witness

But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. John 5:36

3. God the Father Himself as a witness

And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. John 5:37

4. The Scriptures as a witness

³⁸But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. ³⁹You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. John 5:38-39

These reasons should have been given due consideration. They would bear eloquent testimony of the identity of the Lord Jesus as the Son of God who had been sent from heaven.

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

THE PROBLEM OF UNBELIEF

The sad reality was that there was strong unbelief among those who rejected the Lord Jesus!

⁴⁴ How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" John 5:44-47

1. Unbelief blinds the eyes

2. It also hardens the heart

3. It will prevent us from understanding the unique relationship between God the Father and the Lord Jesus as His Son.

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 and fellowship!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Heartfelt congratulations to Joshua and Cheryl on the occasion of their wedding on 14 January 2023. May the Lord's richest blessings be yours!



MINISTRY IN BETHANY THIS WEEK (16-22 January 2023)

1. Seniors Program

- a) Tuesday, 17 January 2023 | 9.30am- 11.30am
- b) Thursday, 19 January 2023 | 9.30am- 11.30am

2. Saturday, 21 January 2023

There will be no Youth Worship (Eve of CNY).

3. Sunday, 22 January 2023

- a) Sunday School | 8.30am
- b) Combined Worship Service | 10.30am
- c) Children's Worship I | 10.30am
- d) Children's Worship II | 10.30am
- e) Crèche | 10.30am



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONDOLENCES TO:

1. Margrette Lo

Her mother was called home to be with the Lord Jesus on 11 January 2023. The late Mdm. Lam Yeok Chan was 84 years old.

2. Terence and Alison and family

Terence's mother, Mdm. Koh Ah Kar was called home to be with the Lord Jesus on 12 January 2023. The late Mdm. Koh was 100 years old.



GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS

BREAKFAST: JOSHUA & CHERYL PHANG

LUNCH: JANSSEN & ANN; DIVINA Y CANLAS; MARK & CHEN KEE



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 129:1-1

¹“Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth,”

Let Israel now say—

² “Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth;

Yet they have not prevailed against me.

1. The afflictions of Life

a) These were experienced by Israel

b) The nation had suffered affliction even as a young nation

2. An appropriate attitude taken

a) The enemies had not prevailed

b) This was a strong and courageous attitude adopted despite suffering

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 15 January 2023

Text: "As a man carries his son"

And in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place.

Deuteronomy 1:31

1. God's presence in Israel's Wilderness journey is to be remembered
2. God's role as a Father carrying His son is to be treasured

NEXT SUNDAY: 22 January 2023

Text: "And out of Egypt I called My son"

When Israel was a child, I loved him,

And out of Egypt I called My son.

Hosea 11:1

POETRY CORNER

1

SENT BY THE FATHER

The Lord Jesus declared that He came from God;
The Father had sent Him out of His own accord.
But the unbelief of the people was strong;
There was resistance all the day long!

The Lord Jesus appealed to John the Baptist;
He had borne witness of the Lord as the Messiah.
His testimony was a truly powerful one;
He testified that the Lord Jesus was God's Son!

The Lord Jesus appealed to His works as a witness;
The authority and power spoke of His righteousness.
The Father had endowed Him with inimitable majesty;
The Son wonderfully displayed the Father's glory!

The Scriptures certainly bore eloquent testimony;
The prophecies fulfilled were there for all to see.
Yet, Unbelief was allowed to blind both heart and mind;
Faith is needed to understand God as Father Divine!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: John 5:32-43

POETRY CORNER

2

The Lord Will Uphold

An uneasiness in the morning, the heart is disturbed,
The mind burdened by questions, the soul is perturbed.
Trapped in the murky depths of worldly practices,
The deceit that we see may threaten our wellness!

True wellness however stems from the grace of God.
Our thirst, quenched by flowing rivers from the Lord!
Thus, the right frame of mind is absolutely necessary,
For only in His lovingkindness can we find a sanctuary.

Sing clearly and sweetly! Let our lips praise the Lord!
Meditate on His goodness, a relationship to be adored.
Pray for protection under the majesty of His wings,
Seek to follow closely behind the King of Kings!

The Lord will be the centre of my fortitude,
And my heart must be filled with gratitude!
For the right hand of God will uphold me,
The Lord's upholding sets this soul free!

Dr. Tan Kok Yang
Inspiration: Psalms 63

POETRY CORNER

3

Set your heart on the Lord

We remember the Lord when times are bad
Crying out aloud and imploring for His grace and mercy
In good times our memory is short and we forget
The source of our abundance in provisions and blessings

Our Lord is faithful, compassionate and wise
Although He stirs up the nest like an eagle
He hovers around to catch those should trouble arise
Our Rock and Refuge who protects us from evil

Let us not provoke Him by testing the limits of His patience
By being wilfully blind and disobedient to His Word
For in His wrath He can spurn us and hide His face
And also heap disasters as His way of making Himself heard

Often they who are against God appear to be more prosperous
But it is not a futile thing to love and obey God
For He redeems us from destruction promising eternal life to believers
Therefore set your heart on the laws of the Lord

Jessie Quek
Inspiration: Deuteronomy 32

POETRY CORNER

4

RESPONDING TO GOD OUR FATHER

The attributes of the Lord are absolute and immutable,
His greatness, righteousness and power are incomparable.
Out of who He is, God's desires to relate to His children.
His efforts to relate are marked by love and devotion.

A wandering child in the wilderness, God would seek out,
That weary child to carry, when he's tired and worn out.
That child He would keep as the apple of His eye,
Leading and instructing with wisdom from on high.

How that child responds to God is a decision only he can make,
Will he resist the world's corruption and blemishes, his faith never to forsake?
Will that child recognise God as Redeemer, Maker, and Establisher,
Determining that nothing can tear this Father-child relationship asunder?

As children, every word of Scripture we must carefully observe.
It is not futile — by these very words our lives are preserved!
Let us set our hearts on the Lord's word, giving full heed,
Responding to God our Father properly — in word and deed.

Stanley Woo
Inspiration: Deuteronomy 32

POETRY CORNER

5

THE LORD GOD CARRIED YOU

God cared for Israel as a truly devoted Father,
Out of Egypt, He delivered them with power.
He led and protected them with a strong hand,
In the wilderness, His provisions did not end.

God provided a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day,
He demonstrated His presence in a very clear way.
To Israel, God had been so loving and faithful,
They should have believed in Him and been grateful.

But many struggled to believe in God, unfortunately;
Instead, they chose to rebel and sin willfully.
God and His blessings, they had taken for granted,
They were so foolish and God was greatly angered.

To us, His children, God has also been devoted and loving,
In life, He has led us and given many blessings.
May we learn to treasure and love God far better,
And find the faith to trust Him as our Father!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Deuteronomy 1:30-34

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dt Tan Peng Hui
Deaconess Tan Li Hong

PRAYER

HYMN

CP 321 | Blessed Assurance

CP 69 | The Love of God

MESSAGE

“Doubtless, You are our Father”

Text: Isaiah 63
Rev Dr Charles Tan

OFFERING

CLOSING HYMN

HWC 56 | Day by Day

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

CP 321 BLESSED ASSURANCE

FANNY CROSBY

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain



HYMNS

CP 68 THE LOVE OF GOD

FREDERICK M. LEHMAN

1. The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

Refrain

O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forever more endure, the saints' and angels' song.

2. When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race the saints' and angels' song.

Refrain

3. Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill, and ev'ry man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

Refrain



HYMNS

HWC 56 DAY BY DAY

CAROLINA SANDELL BERG

1. Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best –
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.
2. Ev'ry day the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He whose name is Counsellor and Pow'r.
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As your days, your strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.
3. Help me then in ev'ry tribulation
So to trust Your promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation
Offered me within Your holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.



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