

Youth Worship

BETHANY INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's kind of church, where God is touching lives, and people care for people.



WELCOME TO YOUTH WORSHIP!

A special greeting to all on this Holy Saturday. May worshipping the Lord in His house this afternoon refresh our souls! Let us look forward to beholding the wondrous things in His Word!



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Because

he has set his love upon me

Some of the Psalms may be called interactive Psalms, which record interactions between the Psalmist and the LORD. Such is the dynamism of our faith and prayer! Psalm 91 is an example of an interactive Psalm. The LORD responded to the Psalmist's meditation which expressed his faith in the LORD's divine protection.

“

Because he has set his love upon Me,
therefore I will deliver him;
I will set him on high, **because** he has known My name.

PSALM 91:14

”

1. God's promise to bless
 - a. Deliverance
 - i. God offers His divine protection
 - ii. He will deliver us from evil and danger
 - b. Honour
 - i. The LORD offers complete deliverance
 - ii. He will raise us up and set us on high
2. The conditions to these blessings
 - a. One must set his love upon the LORD
 - b. He must know His name
(Deep knowledge about the LORD!)

LOVING THE LORD AND KNOWING HIM

Faith in the LORD is far from passive. A mere declaration of faith is not the means to God's blessings. While the Psalmist understood that it is vital to seek the LORD to make Him his refuge (Psalm 91:1-2, 9-10), God further revealed the key to His blessings.

1. Love the LORD

- a. To set our love upon the LORD is to have an unwavering love for Him
- b. Our problems
 - i. A divided heart
 - ii. Love for the world (1 John 1:15)
- c. Let us be challenged to love the LORD wholeheartedly
“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5

2. Know the LORD

- a. Not an academic or superficial knowledge of God
- b. Knowing the Lord will impel us to keep His word
“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.” 1 John 2:3
- c. Let us strive to know the Lord genuinely



OUR FAITHFUL AND MERCIFUL GOD

Through our study of the lives of the patriarchs in the book of Genesis, we have seen the faithfulness and mercy of God to bless Abraham and his descendants exceedingly even though their faith faltered along the way.

Let us endeavour to know this God and to love Him, and may His blessings be wonderfully poured out in our lives!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE

8 APRIL 2023

Prelude

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

Call to Worship

Pastor Charles Tan

Opening Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

Song Leading

1. My Saviour, My God

2. What A Friend We Have in Jesus

Stanley Woo

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 49:29-33

Bethany Toong and
Ong Yanning

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Mitchell Tan

Message:

"The Death of Jacob"

Text: Genesis 49:29-33

Pastor Charles Tan

Closing Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

Offering

Postlude

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

MY NOTES

8 APRIL 2023

"THE DEATH OF JACOB"

GENESIS 49:29-33

MY SAVIOUR, MY GOD

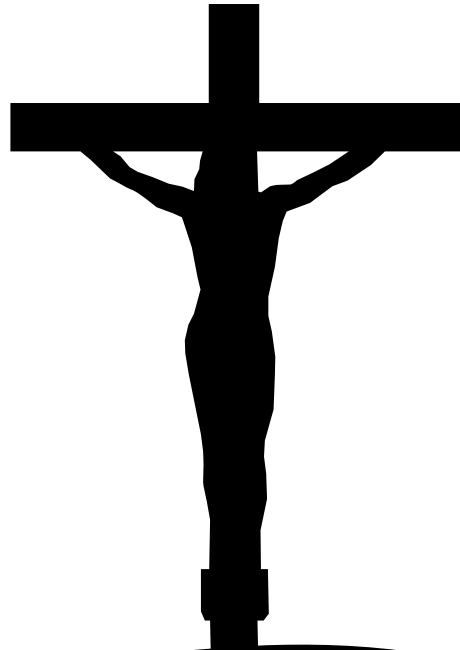
by Aaron Shurst

I am not skilled to understand,
What God has willed, what God has planned.
I only know at His right hand,
Stands one who is my Saviour.

I take him at His word and deed,
Christ died to save me: this I read.
And in my heart I find a need,
Of Him to be my Saviour.

That He would leave His place on high,
And come for sinful man to die.
You count it strange, so once did I,
Before I knew my Saviour.

My Saviour Loves, my Saviour Lives,
My Saviour's always there for me.
My God He was, my God He is
My God He's always gonna be!

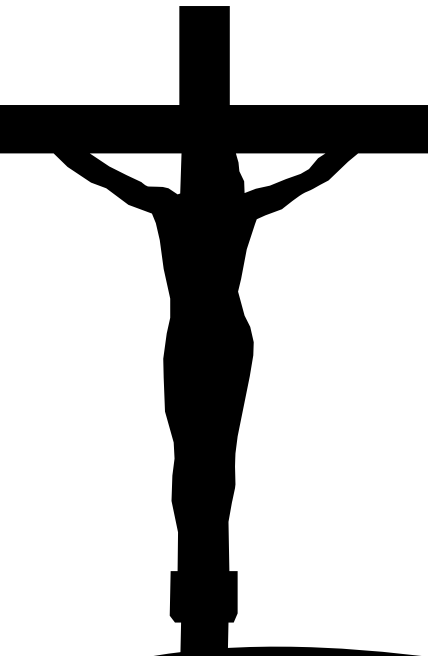


Yes, living, dying: let me bring,
My Strength, my Solace from this spring.
That He who lives to be my King,
Once died to be my Saviour.

That He would leave His place on high,
And come for sinful man to die.
You count it strange, so once did I,
Before I knew my Saviour.

My Saviour Loves, my Saviour Lives,
My Saviour's always there for me.
My God He was, my God He is
My God He's always gonna be!

Yes, living, dying: let me bring,
My Strength, my Solace from this spring.
That He who lives to be my King,
Once died to be my Saviour.
(end)



WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN *Jesus*

Lyrics by Joseph M. Scriven



What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD

Let us review what we have learnt at our last Youth Worship!

YWS MESSAGE - 1 APRIL 2023

“JOSEPH AND BENJAMIN”

GENESIS 49:22-28

INTRODUCTION

1. Every son of Jacob was mentioned (Genesis 49)
2. There was no particular order in which the sons were named
 - a. But Reuben was mentioned first (first son)
 - b. And Benjamin was mentioned last of all (last son)

A WORD TO JOSEPH

22 “Joseph *is* a fruitful bough,
A fruitful bough by a well;
His branches run over the wall.

23 The archers have bitterly grieved him,
Shot *at him* and hated him.

24 But his bow remained in strength,
And the arms of his hands were made strong
By the hands of the Mighty *God* of Jacob
(From there *is* the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

25 By the God of your father who will help you,
And by the Almighty who will bless you
With blessings of heaven above,
Blessings of the deep that lies beneath,
Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

26 The blessings of your father

Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors,

Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.

They shall be on the head of Joseph,

And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.

Genesis 49:22-26

1. The fruitfulness of Joseph

- a. This was obvious
- b. It was given significant mention
 - i. A mere bough (branch)
 - ii. To branches that go beyond the wall (boundaries)

2. A Review of Joseph's past

- a. His enemies were his own brothers
- b. They were described as "archers"
- c. Joseph was wounded by them

3. The God of Joseph

- a. His bow remained strong
- b. The mighty God of Jacob made him strong
- c. Two other titles were given to describe God
 - i. The Shepherd
 - ii. The Stone (Rock) of Israel

4. The Blessing of the LORD pronounced on Joseph

a. The LORD is the One who will bless Joseph

- i. He is the God of Jacob
- ii. He is The Almighty

b. Joseph will have Fullness of Blessings

- i. From God above
With blessings of heaven above,
- ii. From beneath (the sea)
Blessings of the deep that lies beneath,
- iii. Human (Family)
Blessings of the breasts and of the womb

c. From Jacob

- i. The excelling blessings of Jacob will be upon Joseph
- ii. Blessings of ancestors to the everlasting hills
- iii. These blessings will fall upon Joseph
- iv. His blessings are “separate” (a class of its own)

A WORD TO BENJAMIN

“Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;
In the morning he shall devour the prey,
And at night he shall divide the spoil.”

Genesis 49:27

1. Benjamin was the second and last son
of Rachel

Genesis 35:17-18

2. He was compared to a ravenous wolf
 - a. In the morning he will devour the prey
 - b. In the evening, he will divide the spoil
 - c. Benjamin would become warlike

COMMENT ABOUT THE LAST WORDS OF JACOB

All these *are* the twelve tribes of Israel, and this *is* what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

Genesis 49:28

1. These words were spoken to the Twelve sons of Jacob
2. They would apply when the sons become the Twelve Tribes of Israel

CONCLUSION

1. These words meant as “Blessings”
 - a. Forewarning
 - b. Foretelling
2. The challenge
 - a. To fathom the meanings intended
 - b. To find the Faith to help them
 - i. To avoid disaster
 - ii. To accomplish success

REFLECTIONS

YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

BY LAURA CHAN

Last week, we concluded our learning of the pronouncement of Jacob's blessings given to each of his sons, with the last two being Joseph and Benjamin (Genesis 49:22-28).

The Humility and Fruitfulness of Joseph

Jacob had noted the fruitfulness of Joseph's life, but it is key to note that he described Joseph as a 'bough', which is a branch of a tree. This description was to remind Joseph of his humble start in Egypt and all the hardships he went through. Yet, he fulfilled his potential wherever he was at, and was likened to a fruitful bough whose 'branches run over the wall.'

Jacob was also wise to point out that God was present in Joseph's life, providing him strength to overcome the battles of life and emerge victorious. As Joseph rose up from his circumstances and became successful, he still remembered God. Additionally, he sought to glorify God in the naming of his sons - Manasseh: 'For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house' and Ephraim: 'For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction' (Genesis 41:50-52).

Cultivating Humility as I continue growing my relationship with God

Recently, I've embarked on the search for summer internships, and I've been feeling rather discouraged with no clear offers from potential employers. Admittedly, I questioned why it was so easy for others, and I was losing focus on the Lord as I struggled to see beyond my physical circumstances. Upon reflection, I realised that it was a streak of pride in me that caused me to have the mindset that I deserved an internship position, just like how my peers were successful in securing one.

It is through this season that I learn to humbly seek first God's presence in my life, because His presence in my life is far more important than His provision for life on earth. The presence of God in Joseph's life directed the way he lived and approached adversities even as a prisoner, so much so that Pharaoh recognised that the spirit of God was in him (Genesis 41:38). Seeing how the Lord was present in Joseph's life motivates me to seek that special relationship that Joseph cultivated with Him, that I may also be made strong to overcome the challenges of life "by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob" (Genesis 49:24).

As I take up the personal challenge to be humble in my walk with God, my heart is also deeply moved by the humility of the Lord Jesus Christ, who "being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:8).

LEARNING TO VALUE CHRIST

by Sylvia Chan

What I did not value

My biggest takeaway from Family Camp is the great need to value knowing the Lord Jesus Christ and knowing God's Word much more than I do now. On Tuesday night of camp, Pastor spoke on Philippians 3, in which Paul addressed the church on the danger of false teachers in their midst. Pastor explained that the knowledge of Christ was necessary to defend against these false teachers. The ensuing question was: "How do we value the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ?" In other words, do we consider the knowledge of the Lord Jesus important and precious? My honest answer was "No", and the way I lived reflected it. I struggled with much inertia and a lack of discipline, and fundamentally, I did not regard God's word as essential. The effects of this followed naturally - I made decisions that were misguided by my own knowledge, I was ill-equipped in my testimony as a Christian, and I sorely compromised my relationship with the Lord.

Paul counted the knowledge of Christ excellent!

To Paul, however, the knowledge of Christ was excellent! He deemed it a treasure so valuable and worth pursuing that, in comparison, the things he once thought were worth so much were now worth nothing, rubbish even. His actions tallied with his mindset too. He chose to give up all things so that he

could gain the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. This was no natural, eventual process. It was a purposeful and conscious decision made. It was also a necessary one, for without putting these things aside, Paul would not have been able to pursue the knowledge of Christ actively. Moreover, it was not just knowing about the Lord Jesus; it was knowing the Lord Jesus Himself. Paul was willing to and did suffer intensely to know the Lord Jesus more deeply, to understand Him in His life, His resurrection power, His sufferings, and even His death.

But we press on...

Overall, something I learnt at Vespers that has changed my perspective of “quiet time” is that reading the Bible is spending time with God. I used to pore over commentaries and notes alongside but found that reading the Scriptures became for me an academic exercise. When we spend time with God by reading the Word, it is just a precious time of getting to know Him, relating to Him, and building our relationship with Him. I have also found prayer very needful in my pursuit of the knowledge of Christ because it is God who works in us to will and to do (Philippians 2:13). My sheer willpower is not enough, and I really need God's help. We can pray for God to help us understand His Word, like in Psalm 119:18 when the Psalmist prays, “Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.” Practically, it has been helpful to work out a goal. Mine were small - to reflect on the camp messages and read Philippians. While this journey is admittedly not easy, the Lord has been and will be gracious and faithful in our pressing on to know Him!

THE GOD OF YOUR FATHER SPOKE TO ME



Laban learned that Jacob had fled from Haran;
Swiftly, he gathered a group of his hired men.
But God gave him a word of warning;
Laban must not attempt to harm him.

Laban caught up with Jacob swiftly;
He reproached him strongly.
He accused Jacob of not informing him;
What Jacob did was most unbecoming.

He spoke of how God gave him a warning;
He did not dare to disobey Him.
But why had Jacob stolen his household gods?
This was something that bothered him a lot!

Laban identified himself as an idol worshipper;
The loss of his idols was a serious matter.
Laban did not dare to harm Jacob in any way;
But the loss of his idols had caused dismay!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Genesis 31:22-30



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WISHING ALL A HAPPY EASTER

The Lord Jesus is truly the Resurrection and the Life! He is the captain of our salvation, leading us to triumph over sin and death. May our hearts be filled with jubilant refrain as we celebrate Easter this year!

The details of our Special Easter Worship Service are as follows:

Date: 9 April 2023

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel

Followed by Easter Lunch

MINISTRY IN PERTH

Bethel will be having their Family Camp next week. Pastor Charles will be ministering in Perth from 10 - 16 April 2023. May the Lord bless the work in Bethel!

NEXT YWS



15 APRIL 2023

Message: "The Burial of Jacob"

Text: Genesis 50:1-14

The inevitable had come when Jacob drew his last breath. He lived 147 years. Before his death, he charged his children to bury him with his fathers in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah which Abraham had bought as a family burial place. To be buried in the promised land of Canaan where his fathers were laid to rest mattered so much to Jacob that he made Joseph his son swear to fulfil his last wish.

At Youth Worship next week, we will learn how the words of the late Jacob were remembered and honoured by Joseph. A grand and dignified funeral was organised to lay Jacob in his final resting place.



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