

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

Bethany IV ... 7 February 2021

## MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

**Text: Deuteronomy 32**

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## "COMPASSION ON HIS SERVANTS"

### A LONG LIST OF SINS

Moses listed a long list of sins of the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 32. The following may be highlighted:

1. Forsaking the Lord

Deuteronomy 32:15

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Scornfully esteemed Him | Deuteronomy 32:15    |
| 3. Turning to idolatry     | Deuteronomy 32:16-17 |
| 4. Forgetting God          | Deuteronomy 32:18    |
| 5. Perverse children       | Deuteronomy 32:20    |
| 6. No understanding        | Deuteronomy 32:28    |

## WARNING FROM THE LORD

God graciously warned the children of Israel concerning Divine judgment.

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. They would be spurned by God | Deuteronomy 32:19    |
| 2. He would hide His face       | Deuteronomy 32:20    |
| 3. Divine anger                 | Deuteronomy 32:21-22 |
| 4. Disasters                    | Deuteronomy 32:23-24 |

i) Pestilence

ii) Destruction

## COMPASSION OF GOD

Despite the many sins of the children of Israel, the Lord would still show them His lovingkindness and tender mercies!

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

"For the LORD will judge His people  
And have compassion on His servants,  
When He sees that *their* power is gone,  
And *there is* no one *remaining*, bond or free.

Deuteronomy 32:36

## 1. Divine Judgment

- a) This will occur
- b) God has to judge because of His divine laws

## 2. Compassion promised

- a) He will still show compassion to His servants
- b) He knows that the children of Israel had come to the end of their powers

## APPRECIATING GOD AFRESH

Let us appreciate the Lord for who He is. Let us draw nearer to Him in both awe and appreciation! It is amazing that despite all our sins, He would still show compassion.

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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 blessed through worship!



## **CHINESE NEW YEAR**

The Pastoral Team and Session Members wish all worshippers a happy Lunar New Year.

1. No Catechism Class on 13 February 2021
2. There will be no Youth Worship on 13 February 2021



## **NO OPEN HOUSE AT 1 GERALD CRESCENT THIS YEAR**

We regret that there would be no "Open House" this year. Let all take greatest care during the CNY because of the Covid-19 Global Pandemic.



## **CHINESE NEW YEAR GIFT**

All seniors will receive a CNY Gift next Sunday, 14 February 2021. Please be sure to sign up today!

## **Special Chinese New Year Gift to all our Seniors**

Even though our celebration of Chinese New Year will be different due to Covid-19, we want to continue our practice of specially honouring and remembering our Seniors in Bethany. We will be giving a Chinese New Year gift

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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to our Seniors who are aged 65 and above.

Collection will be in Bethany at the Cafeteria (Level 1) on 14 February 2021 (Sunday) 12-4pm.

Family members and next-of-kin are encouraged to collect on the behalf of seniors.

Please register with Eugene Seow ([eugenseow@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:eugenseow@bethanyipc.sg)), Jonathan Jacob ([jonathanjacob@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:jonathanjacob@bethanyipc.sg)), or Moses Kwek ([moseskwek@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:moseskwek@bethanyipc.sg)) for collection arrangements.



## HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Lau Gar Ning, Emily, Hwei Lynn, Lennard, Valerie, Choon Peng and Chrissy on the home-going of Jon Lau on 30 January 2021! He was 45 years old. May the Lord grant peace and comfort!



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# LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

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Dear Pastor Charlie, Pastor Mark, Pastor Mitch and the pastoral team and all our Bethany family,

Thank you for the precious ministry to us during this period of bereavement and loss. It means so much to our family what everyone at the Bethany family, our relatives and friends have done to support us during this time.

As the funeral is over, we settle down to the harder part— the living and moving forward. There are a few things that we hold on to :

- 1) God's Word preached to give us **God's perspective**. When we felt that we had lost everything. Jon would have said to us "He is our everything".
- 2) The encouragement to measure life by its **strength, not its length**. Jon wrote in a post "When Jesus died on the cross, he said "My work is done." I believe that is our purpose in life, to find and complete our work here. To me, that is sufficient explanation of the duration of our lives."
- 3) "**That you may believe**"— that our faith may be augmented and grown to the next level. We have a **faith worth holding fast to**— a faith that enables us to take sickness, and now to take even death of a beloved husband, son, brother, brother-in-law and uncle.
- 4) The **significance** of Jon's 45 years. Jon's constant question to us was "What is your purpose in life?" He told Mom, Lynn and Val recently "This is the verse I was talking about, that the basic instruction for our purpose is to help others: "For we are God's masterpiece. It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus, and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others" (Ephesians 2:10)". Over the three days of the wake, we met many friends from all walks of life, marketplace ministry groups, business

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# LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

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*(Continued from page 6)*

owners at his work-place, business partners, the angling community, charity partners and friends who grieved with us and told us about the impact he had made on their lives. Some said he had helped them in their business and finances, others how he inspired them to involve God in their business, helped them in their walk with God, used his marketing and technology skills in fundraising for The Autism Network and creation of "5 Loaves and 2 Fishes" for the F&B industry, and yet others for his genuine friendship.

- 5) And the greatest assurance and comfort that **Jon is now safe in the arms of Jesus**, and he would have wanted us to continue to find joy in our lives.

In a text to our uncle, Jon said "Consider it pure joy to suffer for the Lord" means to me all good and bad are intended for (our) own good. I should not complain or judge, as the Lord knows what I need. But instead, I can be truly joyful in my countenance and attitude, reflected in my passion and enthusiasm to make a bigger impact on all that I do. Therefore, joy is an understated value and attitude that we work towards, where there's pure joy, the rewards are more abundant."

We are grateful to the church family and our relatives and family who have helped us look up from our grief, and towards the Lord. We want to focus on emulating Jon's faith and his wish for us to "eat more of the fruits of the Spirit".

In His love,  
Gar Ning, Wan Choo, Emily, Lynn, Valerie, Lennard,  
Choon Peng and Christabel

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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## Psalm 119:27-28

*<sup>27</sup> Make me understand the way of Your precepts;  
So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.*

*<sup>28</sup> My soul melts from heaviness;  
Strengthen me according to Your word.*

### 1. Admission of sadness

- a) The soul feels great heaviness
- b) It feels as if the soul is "melting"

### 2. Praying to the Lord humbly

- a) To understand the way of God's precepts
- b) To be strengthened

### 3. Appropriate response

- a) To understand the Lord's word
- b) To meditate on His wonderful works



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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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## **TODAY: 7 February 2021**

*Psalm 40:11 “Do not withhold Your tender mercies”  
Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD;  
Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.*

1. The tender mercies of the Lord
  - a) They are not to be taken for granted
  - b) Hence, we must humbly seek them
2. A needful humble prayer
  - a) For the Lord’s lovingkindness and truth
  - b) That through them, we might be preserved

## **NEXT SUNDAY: 14 February 2021**

*Psalm 42:8 “His lovingkindness in the daytime”  
The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime,  
And in the night His song shall be with me—  
A prayer to the God of my life.*

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## COMPASSION ON HIS SERVANTS

The sins of Mankind are so many;  
Is there any room left for mercy?  
To forsake God and to forsake Him;  
These are the heights of dreadful sin!

The penalty of sin is truly grievous;  
There is the danger of disasters.  
But Mankind continues to be sinful;  
The heart of God is angry yet sorrowful!

Judgment will come if there isn't repentance;  
Seeking the mercies of God is of importance.  
Would the Lord no longer hide His face?  
Would He show needed abundant grace?

The Lord is truly full of deep compassion;  
He sees Mankind's strength in depletion.  
He will extend His hand full of tenderness;  
He will forgive and restore in righteousness!

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Deuteronomy 32:15-36

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## The House of God

King David wanted to build a house for God;  
Design plans for the temple and its courts were specified by the Spirit;  
Because he had shed much blood at war David was not chosen for the job;  
Instead, his son, Solomon was given the task to build it.

Solomon's building is the dwelling place of the Lord;  
It serves as a place to satisfy His desire to live with humanity in harmony;  
But the people of Israel were rebellious, hence unfulfilled was the wish of God;  
Like the garden of Eden, the temple was destroyed and the people exiled, sadly.

The long-suffering Lord then sent His only begotten son Jesus;  
Who became flesh to redeem and dwell with His people;  
When Jesus left to reunite with His Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to us;  
The Holy Spirit resides in every believer making his body a holy temple.

Each believer thus belongs to the household of the Lord;  
Through Christ we are now reconciled with our Father.  
In Him believers are fitted together as living stones building the House of God;  
For the fulness of His House let us hold Him in great honour.

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Psalm 36, Ephesians 2:19 -22

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## Faith Which Is Tested

When times are good, and our faith is tested not;  
We often assume we have sufficient faith in God.  
But when life deals a devastating blow at us;  
Can we still say that in Him we wholly trust?

When challenges arise and on God we must rely;  
True faith is not what we merely speak of, but that which we must apply.  
Deep faith will see us, in the Lord abide;  
No matter how difficult the fight.

Genuine faith will give us deep insights;  
Into what God intends for us in our plight.  
Great faith will invigorate and instill in us an everlasting hope;  
It is that which will help us find the strength to cope.

May we aspire to develop true and lasting faith,  
In our God who is full of Mercy and Grace!  
Let not our trials and tribulations cause us the Lord to forsake;  
It is then, more than ever, when our faith must grow instead.

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: Hebrews 11:6

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 4

## THE FULLNESS OF YOUR HOUSE

The house of God is great and significant,  
Learning to appreciate it is so important.  
God dwells there and it is His sanctuary,  
It reflects His magnificence and glory.

Exceedingly glorious is the house of God!  
It is closely tied to the Person of the LORD.  
He is faithful and full of righteousness,  
He has shown us His lovingkindness!

God's house is incomparable and lovely,  
The soul longs to be in His house naturally.  
Despite the restrictions and safety measures,  
Meeting God there must be deeply treasured.

Let us grow our love for the house of God,  
And support it willingly, as we ought.  
To God, we humbly offer our resources,  
For in His hand is power and greatness!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Psalm 36:8

# BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Children's Worship I (P1 – P3)			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Children's Worship II (P4 – P6)			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Teens' Worship Service			Auditorium 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Evening-Bilingual Worship		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Green Turf	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	Auditorium 2-1	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Junior Sunday School I			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Junior Sunday School II			Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School I			Fellowship Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School II			Main Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School III			Prayer Room 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School IV			Fellowship Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School IV. II			Auditorium 2M	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-7	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
BIBLE STUDY				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Home Bible Study	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	3.00 pm	-	-
Mandarin Bible Study	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	7.30 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
CATECHISM CLASS				
	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
PRAYER MEETING				
	Mon	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group I	Sat	3.00 pm	Auditorium 2-1	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Young People's Group II			Auditorium 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Young Married Group			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Adults' Ministry		4.00 pm	Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor

**Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church**

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