

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 22 May 2022

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: 2 Peter 2

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WORDS OF EMPTINESS

THE WORDS OF THE FALSE TEACHERS

The Apostle Peter noted the teachings of the false teachers. He made a short list of what they taught.

⁸For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh,

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.

¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

2 Peter 2:18-22

1. What were the false teachers doing?

- a) They stood in opposition of what the Apostles taught
- b) They obviously criticized and objected to their teachings
- c) They offered their opinions

2. An assessment of what they said:

- a) They speak great swelling words of emptiness
- b) They try to allure people through various means
- c) They promise liberty but they themselves are in bondage

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

3. Did they once know the Lord Jesus and His teachings?
Yes!

4. What happened next?

a) They had become entangled in sin

b) Their spiritual state became worse

5. Peter's comments:

a) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 2 Peter 2:21

b) But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." 2 Peter 2:22

Let us ever be watchful and prayerful at all times!

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 uplifted through worship and fellowship!



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR CHARLES TAN

Pastor sends greetings from Perth.
He ministers in Perth for the whole week.



MINISTRY THIS COMING WEEK

23 May-29 May 2022

1. Special Seniors Program

a) Tuesday, 24 May 2022 | 9.30am-11.30am

b) Thursday, 26 May 2022 | 9.30am-11.30am

2. Weekend Ministry

a) Saturday, 28 May 2022

i) Catechism Class | 1.00pm

ii) Fellowship Group Meetings (YPG 1-3; YAG 1-2) | 2.00pm

iii) Youth Worship | 3.00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

b) Sunday, 29 May 2022

i) Sunday School (ISS and SSS 1) | 8.30am

ii) Morning Worship Service | 10.00am

iii) Chinese Worship Service | 10.00am

iv) Crèche | 10.00am



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:161 - 162

¹⁶¹ Princes persecute me without a cause,
But my heart stands in awe of Your word.

¹⁶² I rejoice at Your word
As one who finds great treasure.

1. Persecution without cause

a) This is to be expected from the wicked

b) They do not need a cause to persecute

2. Personal response to persecution

a) The heart remains truly in awe of God's word

b) The spirit rejoices in the treasure of God's word

LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

Dear Brethren,

Your love and concern have been deeply felt! Your emails, text messages, calls to Aldine have brought much encouragement to our hearts. We are so blessed to be surrounded by loving families and spiritual families here and Singapore! It has been a challenging few months of investigating and preparing for this procedure to remove a vocal polyp that has hindered my voice quite significantly. Although I am told that it is a common problem and it is a minor procedure, I had to reduce my speaking ministry significantly for almost a month to get ready for surgery. I will need to work with a voice therapist to do voice strengthening exercises. I am advised that I may not be able to resume full ministry till after a month. These are the challenges that concerns me most.

Being well enough to go for surgery was another challenge due to COVID-19. My daughter Christabelle came down with COVID just a few days ago and had to isolate in her room. Thank God she is doing well with minor symptoms. Aldine, James, and I have been mercifully spared from COVID and so I was able to go for surgery.

I thank God for Pastor Charlie for coming over to minister at Bethel for two Sundays! This is a huge relief! His presence and ministry here always bring much encouragement to the Church and me personally. Thank you for letting Pastor come over to minister for two Sundays! Glad Aunty Sally can come, we've missed her too!

I thank God for the members of Bethel who have been very understanding and supportive all this while. How wonderful it is to have this "like precious faith" we read about in the Bible!

God is truly good and merciful! Praise God!

"I will praise You with my whole heart;

Before the gods I will sing praises to You.

I will worship toward Your holy temple,

And praise Your name

For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;

For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

In the day when I cried out, You answered me,

LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

And made me bold with strength in my soul.”
Psalm 138:1 – 3

Miss you all. Hope to one day thank you in person...with a restored voice!

Gratefully,
Christopher Lai

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 22 May 2022

Text: “The beginning of sorrows” Matthew 24:8

⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows. Matthew 24:7-8

1. Beginning of sorrows
 - a) Meaning: Sorrows will not end easily
 - b) Sorrows will continue
2. Sorrows can come because of:
 - a) War
 - b) Famine
 - c) Pestilences
 - d) Earthquakes
3. May we find a strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

NEXT SUNDAY: 29 May 2022

Text: “But he who endures to the end shall be saved” Matthew 24:13

¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:13-14

POETRY CORNER

1

THE PLIGHT OF THE FALSE TEACHER

How does a person become a false teacher?
He begins with some knowledge from a preacher.
But soon, other ideas come to his arrogant head;
In time, he trusts his own thoughts instead.

He begins to allure people in different ways;
The naïve, the innocent, are easily led astray.
He promises liberty that many desire;
But they are soon caught in a quagmire.

The deceived are led to believe they are right;
They even quote Scriptures with all their might.
They become critical of others who are not persuaded;
They become coarse and rude and easily agitated.

What is the end of those who are deceived?
On judgment day, they would surely grieve.
The Lord Himself will deal with the wicked;
All who reject Him and embrace falsehood instead.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: 2 Peter 2:18-22

POETRY CORNER

2

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS

The Lord Jesus spoke of His second coming,
It will be a time that is grave and challenging.
There will be wars, disasters and tribulation,
As well as lawlessness, hatred and deception.

The end times seem so bleak and dreadful,
The challenges can cause us to be sorrowful.
As believers, what should be the right focus?
We must hold fast our faith in the Lord Jesus.

Even though the testing may be severe,
Faith enables us to endure and persevere.
With faith, we find much-needed hope,
So that we are able to press on and cope.

We have a Savior who has endured suffering,
If we love Him, we will also accept testing.
Love helps us to endure when times are grim,
May we sustain a strong and true love for Him!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Matthew 24:3-13

POETRY CORNER

3

Endurance

We are forewarned about the beginning of sorrows;
So we can prepare for the uncertainties of tomorrow.
What if we were delivered up to tribulations and hate?
Do we brace ourselves for battle or do we just blame fate?

No matter the good intentions of the work we do;
There will be dissent and disgruntled voices which are untrue.
Vile accusations sting and can be truly hurtful;
It is no wonder love is lost for many, and there is hopelessness too.

Even when it comes to the work of ministry;
The fear of opposition and suffering can result in misery.
Yet, salvation through Christ must continue to be proclaimed;
Regarding the preaching of the gospel, let us never be ashamed.

It is stated that blessed are those persecuted for righteousness' sake;
Endurance to end well is what, a true child of God, makes.
Let us strengthen our faith and in God increasingly trust;
And believe that the Spirit of God will empower us.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Matthew 24:9-14;
5:10-12; 10:16-26

POETRY CORNER

4

HE WHO ENDURES TO THE END SHALL BE SAVED

The end of the age will see the world at large experience great tribulation,
At a personal level, the Lord Jesus forewarned of the reality of persecution.

The world will speak against us at every opportunity that does arise,
Betrayal, offence and hate are not themes which should come as a surprise.

While striving to be harmless as doves and always bearing good testimony,
It would be naive to expect life to be free of conflict and acrimony.

Yet this must not cause us to feel downcast or that living by faith is futile,
Fixing our eyes on Heaven and our Saviour, any earthly suffering is worthwhile!

Every effort must be made to be wise, and wary of the reality of this world,
Armed with truth, righteousness and faith to withstand fiery darts that are hurled.
The world's criticism, scepticism and cynicism endeavours, our faith to shake,
To be blameless in holiness we must strive, this precious faith never to forsake.

Our Saviour Himself set His face like a flint, enduring tremendous affliction,
To identify with Him in the fellowship of His sufferings can bring great consolation.
May we be challenged to endure the suffering and persecution that would ensue,
Determining to be part of that Remnant whose faith stands strong and true!

Stanley Woo

Inspiration: Matthew 10, 24; Isaiah 50; Philippians 3

POETRY CORNER

5

Endurance

Climate changes, unprecedented floods and wild fires
Covid 19 pandemic and now dengue rearing its ugly head
You read about the Ukraine Russian war and their loss of lives
Racist gun massacres occurring more and more in United States

What is happening on this earth to mankind
We seem to have lost the ability to love our neighbour
Evil is lurking in the hearts of the wicked kind
False teachers deceive and corrupt many in their labour

The disasters of this age were by Jesus predicted
He had given fair warning to prepare us to meet the afflictions
Our ability to withstand these calamities will be sorely tested
May we have the strength and stamina to face the catastrophes

Like our Master who faced trials and tribulations as God Incarnate
Let us emulate Him and in the Almighty Father steel our faith
Develop and build our perseverance to bear our sorrows and patiently wait
For as promised "he who endures to the end shall be saved"

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Matthew 24: 9-13

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Dr. Daniel Chia

PRAYER

HYMN

CP 53 | Great is Thy Faithfulness

VIP 654 | Until Then

MESSAGE

“False christs and false prophets”

Text: Matthew 24:15-26, Matthew 13:24-30; Matthew 7:15-20

Rev. Benjamin Chong

PRAYER

HYMN

CP 15 | A Mighty Fortress is our God

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

CP 53 GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

THOMAS O. CHISHOLM

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and spring time and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain



HYMNS

VIP 654 UNTIL THEN

- 1 My heart can sing when I pause to remember
A heartache here is but a stepping stone.
Along a trail that's winding always upward,
This troubled world is not my final home.

Refrain

But until then my heart will go on singing,
Until then with joy I'll carry on -----
Until the day my eyes behold the City,
Until the day God calls me Home.

2. The things of earth will dim and lose their value
If we recall they're borrowed for awhile;
And things of earth that cause the heart to tremble,
Remembered there will only bring a smile.

Refrain

3. This weary world with all its toil and struggle
May take its toll of misery and strife;
The soul of man is like a waiting falcon;
When it's released, it's destined for the skies.

Refrain



HYMNS

CP 15 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

MARTIN LUTHER

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not His equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;
His Kingdom is forever.

