

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

Bethany IV ... 15 March 2020

MICA (P) No.: 048/10/2019

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: 1 Peter 1

### **“THE GENUINENESS OF FAITH”**

#### THE PLACE OF FAITH

The role of faith is unmistakably taught in the Scriptures. The following may be highlighted:

1. Faith enables us to see God's power keeping us 1 Peter 1:5

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

2. Faith, of course, has to be genuine 1 Peter 1:7
  - a) If faith is genuine, it is not afraid of fire
  - b) Fire would only refine the faith of the individual
  - c) Faith that has been tested and found to be true would bring glory to God
3. Faith enables us to appropriate the salvation given by God and His grace 1 Peter 1:8
  - a) Salvation is, of course, given to us by the grace and mercy of God
  - b) We could never earn salvation

## GENUINENESS OF FAITH

How may we know that we have "genuineness of faith?"

1. The word "genuineness" has an interesting root  
It is drawn from a word that has the following nuances:
  - a) It is examined
  - b) It is tested
  - c) It is proven to be genuine
2. The application of this word to "faith"
  - a) The faith of the individual would be examined
  - b) It would also be tested

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

c) It is then proven to be genuine or otherwise

## 3. The historical context of 1 Peter 1

a) The Apostle Peter wrote his epistle in the first century

b) This was a very difficult period of time for Christians

c) There was much persecution of those who professed faith in the Lord Jesus

d) Many lost much because of persecution

i) Jobs

ii) Homes

iii) Lives

## PREVAILING FAITH

The genuineness of faith prevailed and enabled believers to experience the following:

1. Trust in God remained intact

2. Strength was found to cope with suffering

3. The joy of faith in the Lord remained strong

## FINDING GENUINE FAITH TODAY

Let us be challenged to find genuine faith amidst the global fear of Covid-19! Let our genuine faith bear good testimony of our trust in the Lord our God!

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*Write to me at:* [charlestan@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:charlestan@bethanyipc.sg)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## RESUMPTION OF WORSHIP SERVICE

1. Palm Sunday, 5 April 2020

2. Good Friday Service

3. Easter Sunday  
12 April 2020

## PANDEMIC COVID-19

This plan to resume Worship will have to be postponed! In the light of the following:

1. WHO declaration of Pandemic Covid-19

2. Address of our nation by our Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Thursday, 12 March 2020

3. Advisory from the Minister for National Development, Mr. Lawrence Wong on Friday, 13 March 2020

4. The spike of Covid-19 in many countries

We will continue to suspend our Worship Services for the moment.



## ***CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S A GIRL!***

Heartfelt congratulations to Sudipto and Andrea on the gift of a baby girl. Laurina Bari was born on 28 February 2020. Both mother and baby are well!



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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## Psalm 109:26-29

<sup>26</sup> Help me, O LORD my God!

Oh, save me according to Your mercy,

<sup>27</sup> That they may know that this is Your hand—

*That You, LORD, have done it!*

<sup>28</sup> Let them curse, but You bless;

When they arise, let them be ashamed,

But let Your servant rejoice.

<sup>29</sup> Let my accusers be clothed with shame,

And let them cover themselves with their own disgrace  
as with a mantle.

### 1. A Plea for Help

a) To a personal God

b) Pleading God's great mercy

c) God's deliverance to be so obvious

That everyone knows that it was God who did it

### 2. The enemies of life

a) They will curse

b) But in the end, they will be disgraced

### 3. The servant of God

a) He will trust in God

b) He will continue to rejoice in the Lord

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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## **Today: 15 March 2020**

*Text: Ephesians 2:21 The whole building, fitted together  
In whom the whole building, being fitted together,  
Grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*

1. The church may be described as a building
2. Many stones need to be fitted together
  - a) Living stones
  - b) Fitted and built upon the Chief Cornerstone
3. The building grows and becomes
  - a) A holy temple
  - b) This is a living temple found in the Lord

## **NEXT SUNDAY: 22 March 2020**

*Text: 1 Peter 2: 4 A living stone  
Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men,  
But chosen by God and precious.*

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## GENUINENESS OF FAITH

The need to have genuine faith is of importance;  
False faith fails and we end up with impotence.  
Many assume that their faith is indeed genuine;  
Prudence teaches us to check and to be sanguine.

A genuine faith is not afraid of being tested;  
Genuine faith is personal and is not inherited.  
Every individual will be tested, sometimes through fire;  
But true faith will triumph and this is what we may admire.

Silver and gold are purified by going through fiery heat;  
They emerge more refined and purer through this feat.  
Faith that has been tested thoroughly brings glory to God;  
The genuineness of faith would be blessed by the Lord!

The soul does not need to cringe in fear when it is tested;  
Genuine faith in the Lord would never see us bested!  
Thank God for genuine faith that we may truly find;  
The Lord would bless us with a glorious faith divine.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: 1 Peter 1:5-8

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## God's Elect

Pain, suffering and death are life's constant companions;  
But as Christians, our faith has over these, given us dominion.  
How much more comfort to know we are a part of God's elect?  
We have a hope to inspire us, a promise to exact.

God, the Father, elects with His divine will and foreknowledge;  
None of it is due to our own goodness to deserve such patronage.  
Redemption involves the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
His blood, shed for our sins, so that our lives perish not.

The Holy Spirit protects, purifies and also consecrates;  
He sanctifies us to obedience befitting our fate.  
All of these involve powerful activity in the spiritual realm;  
Needless for intellectual inquisition which only serve to overwhelm.

More relevant is to realize that we are the people of God;  
Come to understand the high price at which our salvation was bought.  
Appreciate our calling as God's chosen and His elect;  
Fear Him and glorify Him, whilst sin and evil reject!

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: 1 Peter 1:1-2



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## ELECT OF GOD

The early believers had to endure persecution,  
They lived as strangers in foreign nations.  
The Apostle Peter wrote a letter to encourage the believers,  
God can help us all to cope even if we have to suffer.

Peter's letter provides profound insights,  
It reveals to us where we stand in God's sight.  
We are God's elect, which means "chosen,"  
This is a great privilege bestowed from heaven!

The Doctrine of Election involves the Holy Trinity,  
In God's foreknowledge, He ordained all things perfectly.  
We are consecrated to God through the blood of Christ,  
The Holy Spirit works within us and daily sanctifies.

These insights offer tremendous inspiration,  
They enrich our understanding of salvation.  
We do not need to fear challenges in life,  
God will uphold us and enable us to thrive!

Yvette Seow  
Inspiration: 1 Peter 1:1-2

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 4

## The Rock

The Rock, my rock, your rock, our rock  
Let's build our house on this mighty Rock  
A spiritual house built up of living stones  
Where Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone

This house will not fall when storms arrive  
Founded on a solid rock it will survive  
This Rock provided living water to the children of Israel  
Their thirst was quenched but alas they did not stay spiritual

Likewise, we too can get living water from this Rock  
So that we will never thirst again as we walk  
In His path and with His Grace fill us  
With rivers of living water flowing out of our hearts

Do take note though that this Rock can be a stumbling stone  
Unbelievers may trip and fall if their transgressions are not atoned  
Only believers realize the precious value of this Rock  
As they honour and glorify the Lord who laid this bedrock

Jessie Quek  
Inspiration: 1 Peter 2:6, Mathew 7: 24-25,  
Numbers 20, John 7:25

# 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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