

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 26 April 2020

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

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: 1 Peter 1-2

“COMING TO HIM AS TO A LIVING STONE”

REVIEW OF THE THEME FOR MARCH- APRIL 2020

The theme for March-April 2020 was drawn from 1 Peter 2:4-5, “Living Stones.” We complete our meditation of 1 Peter 1-2

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

this Sunday. It would be good and wise to spend a bit of time reviewing salient points mentioned in 1 Peter.

GOD'S PROFOUND PLAN

His plans are indeed profound and glorious! Two great truths stand out:

1. Foreknowledge is obvious

1 Peter 1:2

2. Foreordination is an awesome truth

1 Peter 1:20

DIVINE INVOLVEMENT

Divine involvement is to be humbly noted and appreciated!

1. God as Father who planned every meticulous detail

1 Peter 1:2, 17

2. The Lord Jesus Christ

a) He had to shed His blood for us

1 Peter 1:2

b) He suffered much to bring us salvation

1 Peter 1:11

3. The Holy Spirit

a) He sanctifies us

1 Peter 1:2

b) He purifies us

1 Peter 1:22

c) He rests upon us

1 Peter 4:14

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MEDITATION

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THE MEANS GOD EMPLOYED

The following may be noted:

1. The prophets who foretold 1 Peter 1:11
2. The Word of God proclaimed 1 Peter 1:25
3. The proclaimers of the gospel 1 Peter 1:12

THE GOAL OF GOD'S PLAN

The goal is truly wonderful and most uplifting:

1. To build a Living Church
 - a) Christ is the chief cornerstone 1 Peter 2:6-7
 - b) He is a living stone 1 Peter 2:4
 - c) It is called "a spiritual house" 1 Peter 2:5
2. Believers are privileged to be:
 - a) Living stones
 - b) Priests
 - i) Holy priesthood 1 Peter 2:5
 - ii) Royal priesthood 1 Peter 2:9b
 - c) A chosen generation 1 Peter 2:9a
 - d) A holy nation 1 Peter 2:9s
 - e) His own special people 1 Peter 2:9d

MEDITATION

OUR CHALLENGE

Let us seek to fulfil what God planned for us:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. To rejoice greatly | 1 Peter 1:8 |
| 2. To be holy | 1 Peter 1:15 |
| 3. To proclaim the praise of God | 1 Peter 2:9 |
| 4. To offer up spiritual sacrifices | 1 Peter 2:5 |

Let Bethany ever seek to be God's kind of Church, where He is touching lives and people genuinely care for people!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW PULPIT THEME FOR MAY-JUNE 2020

Theme: "In all our tribulation" 2 Corinthians 1:4

1. This would be the new theme for the next two months
2. This theme is drawn from Paul's epistle to the Corinthians
3. It is an apt text
 - a) We are going through a period of tribulation
 - b) It has been a tough time for many if not all
 - i) Some have died
 - ii) Others have suffered financial losses
4. The Comfort of the Lord
 - a) We are not alone amidst all the challenges
 - b) The Lord is here with us
 - c) He offers us His comfort

Let us pray that the Lord will continue to sustain us



COVID-19

1. "Circuit breaker" measures
Let us comply with the measures issued by our Government
2. Let us exercise our faith as we face a prolonged period of strict measures



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 111:3-4

*³ His work is honorable and glorious,
And His righteousness endures forever.*

*⁴ He has made His wonderful works to be remembered;
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.*

1. The works of the LORD

- a) Honourable
- b) Glorious
- c) Wonderful

2. The works reflect the LORD Himself

- a) His righteousness
- b) His graciousness
- c) His compassion

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Today: 26 April 2020

*Text: 1 Peter 2:9 That you may proclaim the praises of God
But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him
who called you into His marvelous light.*

1. A glorious description of believers

- a) A chosen generation
- b) A royal priesthood
- c) A holy nation
- d) God's own special people

2. A special ministry

- a) To live up to our calling
- b) To proclaim the praises of the Lord
- c) To speak of the "light" that God has graciously given us

NEXT SUNDAY: 3 May 2020

*Text: 2 Corinthians 1:4 "Who comforts us in all our tribulation"
Who comforts us in all our tribulation,
that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble,
with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

POETRY CORNER

1

GOD'S KIND OF CHURCH

It was God Himself who designed a Master-Plan;
Every detail was designed by His Divine Hand.
The Father, the Son and the Spirit played a part;
May awe and wonder from our heart never depart.

God's kind of Church is one where He is touching lives;
He saves, He sanctifies, He works deeply and purifies.
Believers become living stones to fulfil the Master-plan;
They honour the Chief Cornerstone, chosen by God's hand.

Divinely Called and Chosen to be a special generation;
To fulfil all that is planned must be our determination.
A royal priesthood offering up spiritual sacrifices to God;
Holy and obedient, proclaiming the goodness of the Lord.

A great picture of God's own special people we must see;
It is in fulfilment of His plan that we reach our destiny.
We were once in darkness till we were led to the Light;
Let every breath we take be filled with glorious might.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: 1 Peter 2:4-10

POETRY CORNER

2

BELIEVE IN HIM

Many people loved the signs and wonders of Jesus,
They wanted to see One who was powerful and famous.
Jesus wanted people to go beyond what they saw,
Superficial faith was not what He was looking for.

A nobleman travelled afar to Cana and Jesus, he sought.
His son was gravely ill and he was feeling distraught.
He wanted Jesus to come to his house and heal his dying son,
Jesus told him to go and that the miracle had been done.

The nobleman had no choice but to exercise his faith,
He later learnt that his son had recovered and was safe.
What a wonderful blessing the nobleman received,
His faith was strengthened for in Jesus' word, he believed.

We may not see Jesus but we must believe in Him,
He will help us even if the circumstances are grim.
We will find a living hope that energizes us each day,
He will fill us with joy and drive our worries away!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: John 4:46-54 and 1 Peter 1:8

POETRY CORNER

3

A Prayer In Time of Distress

The ever increasing number of COVID19 cases does little to comfort the soul;
One wonders if the circuit breaker strategy would indeed achieve its goal.
News from both traditional and digital media fan anxieties and unease;
Brickbats and criticisms of our government bring discouragement, to say the least.

It is in times like these we need to learn to pray;
To come before God in humility and to plead with Him our fears to allay.
We need to admit the weaknesses of our physical bodies;
And acknowledge our helplessness when devising human strategies.

For all the mitigation efforts and much expended energies;
We need to know that healing comes from God's Grace and His Mercy.
Just as David in his psalms demonstrated how he prayed under duress;
We need to offer a prayer of faith at this time of distress.

"Dear Father in Heaven, forgive us our sins;
Save us from the onslaught of this pandemic and allow our healing to begin.
As we look to You for deliverance, teach us how to seek Your face;
Guide us in our walk henceforth to further strengthen our faith".

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Psalm 6

POETRY CORNER

4

Our Blessings

As we are busily attending to life's challenges, we forget God's blessings,
We have become immune to His provisions of abundant goodness.
The Lord crowns our lives with each breath that we take in passing,
Each new day, sunshine, food on the table... all out of His kindness.

However, our greatest blessing from God is with the first coming of Jesus,
Many prophets had spoken of the grace that would come upon us, brethren.
Jesus, the perfect lamb without a spot nor blemish, sent to save us,
He has begotten us, a living hope towards an inheritance in heaven.

It has been said that suffering is a blessing in disguise,
Undergoing pain, sorrow and disappointment is an unpleasant experience.
But with hindsight we can perhaps see that the Lord is wise,
To put us through fire as His way of engaging us with His guidance.

This pandemic crisis has resulted in a better environment, less polluted air,
People have sought the Lord in prayer, now patiently waiting for His mercy.
They have become more compassionate towards their neighbours, showing care
A blessing from God to return to His Word to reset our priorities.

Jessie Quek
(Inspiration: 1 Peter 1, 2)

BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

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

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