

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 6 December 2020*

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Ephesians 1

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## "IN HIM WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE"

### IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Christmas is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ! The Apostle Paul highlighted a number of things that come from Him directly in Ephesians 1.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Blessed with every spiritual blessing          | Ephesians 1:3  |
| 2. Chosen in Him (Christ)                         | Ephesians 1:4  |
| 3. We have the adoption as sons by the Lord Jesus | Ephesians 1:5  |
| 4. We are accepted by God through the Lord Jesus  | Ephesians 1:6  |
| 5. We have redemption through His blood           | Ephesians 1:7a |
| 6. We have forgiveness of sins through His grace  | Ephesians 1:7b |
| 7. We have wisdom and prudence given through Him  | Ephesians 1:8  |

## AN INHERITANCE

As if the above blessings are not enough, we read this amazing word,

*In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will Ephesians 1:11*

1. How we may understand this teaching
  - a) This is according to God's purpose
  - b) This has been predestined
2. How we may see this become real to us
  - a) It is God who will work this out

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

b) He will do this in accordance to the counsel of His will

3. Why God would do this

a) It would redound to the praise of His glory

b) Through these blessings, we will understand the glory of God better

## THE SPECIAL MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

He has a special work with reference to our salvation and our life!

1. He functions as God's seal that all that He has said is true absolutely
2. He functions as God's guarantee to us that what has been said would come to pass

## OUR CHALLENGE

What is our part as we ponder this wondrous chapter (Ephesians 1)?

1. Let us pray that the Spirit of God would enlighten us
2. Let us pray that the power of God may become real and manifested in our life
3. Let us seek to understand our faith better

May this Christmas see us grow further and deeper in our knowledge and our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

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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 uplifted through worship!



## THE FOUR CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Candle:

The Prophecy Candle  
(29 November 2020)

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Candle:

The Bethlehem Candle  
(6 December 2020)

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Candle:

The Shepherds' Candle  
(13 December 2020)

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Candle:

The Angels' Candle  
(20 December 2020)



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## YOUTH CONFERENCE 2020

1. Thank God for His safe-keeping
2. Thank God for the many lessons learned
3. The challenge for all:
  - a) To recall and remember the lessons learned
  - b) To relate to the Lord our God meaningfully
  - c) To rejoice that God would lead and guide us throughout life



## **A BIG “THANK YOU”**

Heartfelt thanks to the AVA team that managed the live-streaming of YC 2020. Overseas brethren have been able to tune in.



## **NEXT SUNDAY: 13 December 2020**

1. Baptismal Service for Seniors
2. Let us rejoice with our Seniors



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Pastors Mark and Mitch on the demise of their father, Mr. Tan Eng Bock. He was called home to be with the Lord on Monday, 30 November 2020. He was 84 years old.



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## LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

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*Dear Brethren,*

It has been a challenging week for us as a family. Last Sunday afternoon, our father suffered a massive stroke. The following morning, he passed away. His passing away was sudden and unexpected. And yet the Lord's grace and mercy was abundantly shown to our father in that he did not have to suffer any pain. We thank God that our father is in heaven with the Lord.

We want to thank Pastor Charles for his timely guidance and wisdom. We also thank the Pastoral Team, all session members and everyone from Bethany who have taken the time to be with us in our time of bereavement. Your personal presence, condolences, words of encouragement, gifts and prayers during the wake brought much comfort to our hearts. We are deeply touched by the overwhelming show of support and love.

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# LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

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The weeks ahead are going to be challenging for us, especially for mum. We ask that you continue to pray for us as we adapt to the new normal for our family.

Once again, we want to thank you with much gratitude from our heart. We love you Bethany. Through this experience, we reaffirm that Bethany is God's kind of church, where God is touching lives, and people care for people.

*Love  
Pastor Mark and Chen Kee.  
Pastor Mitch and Stephanie  
and the Tan family.*

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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## **Psalm 119:1-4**

1 Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way,  
Who walk in the law of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup> Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies,  
Who seek Him with the whole heart!

<sup>3</sup> They also do no iniquity;  
They walk in His ways.

<sup>4</sup> You have commanded *us*  
To keep Your precepts diligently.

1. Blessedness that will be experienced
  - a) Blessings from God are to be treasured
  - b) These blessings can stay with us throughout life
2. A description of those who are blessed
  - a) They are undefiled by the sinful world
  - b) They walk in the ways and in the laws of God
  - c) They keep His testimonies
  - d) They seek Him with the whole heart
3. God's command
  - a) To be comprehended
  - b) We are to keep His precepts diligently

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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## **TODAY: 6 December 2020**

*Text: Titus 3:5 According to His mercy He saved us*

*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy  
He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy  
Spirit*

1. Our salvation

It is not earned or acquired by our good works of righteousness

2. Aspects of our salvation to be appreciated

a) The mercy of God

b) The work of the Holy Spirit

i) Washing of regeneration

ii) Renewing work of the Spirit

## **NEXT SUNDAY: 13 December 2020**

*Text: Titus 3:6 Poured out on us abundantly*

*Whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour*

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE

Having an inheritance seems incredulous;  
But this teaching is absolutely priceless!  
Our inheritance is part of our Salvation;  
Understanding this requires contemplation.

The Plan of salvation was conceived by God in eternity;  
The Son of God came in the flesh and was part of history.  
The Holy Spirit diligently applies His awesome power;  
He sanctifies the heart of the saints, hour by hour.

Our inheritance in Christ must be carefully considered;  
There are many aspects that must be greatly treasured.  
That our sins can be totally cleansed is truly wonderful;  
To be called the heirs of God is movingly meaningful.

The salvation God has given us must see us changed truly;  
Our lives ought to be dedicated to serving God fervently.  
Our inheritance includes deep wisdom and power from on high;  
Let us make every effort, to this great God, to draw nigh.

Charles Tan  
Inspiration: Ephesians 1

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## Redeemed

Modern culture has become self-centred increasingly  
People are blindly scurrying around in the rat race  
Self-righteousness and selfish demands permeate our society  
Facilitated and exacerbated by social media at exponential pace

Lost in a hopeless state, in our Lord we must abide  
He will redeem us by the power of His love  
By His grace and mercy, we can be restored and justified  
Leading to the hope of an eternal life in heaven above

Our glorious inheritance is in the far future but a sure hope  
This blessedness is not the result of any effort on our part  
We are saved through the Lord's kindness, in His arms well enveloped  
May we affirm constantly to whom we owe our inheritance in our hearts

Therefore, let no believer boast of his privileges to one's face  
For he has done nothing to deserve them, on his own accord  
May he show gratitude for the free grace  
By being more loving to his neighbours still living in the world without God

Jessie Quek  
(Inspiration: Titus 3: 7,8)

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## JUSTIFIED BY GOD'S GRACE

God's salvation for us is so wonderful,  
This gift makes the heart so grateful.  
He shows us His love and kindness,  
Despite our sins and wretchedness.

Jesus Christ died to give us salvation,  
He shed His blood as our propitiation.  
When we believe in Him as our Savior truly,  
We are justified by God's grace fully.

We have received abundant grace in life,  
And we are declared righteous in Christ!  
What a special privilege to be made holy,  
By faith, God can change us completely!

God has been so merciful and gracious,  
His salvation is profound and precious!  
May we seek, by faith, to understand,  
The depth of God's great salvation plan!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Titus 3:3-4 and 7

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 4

## Bidding Goodbye

As I grow older and as the years pass me by;  
Many friends and family members I have had to bid goodbye.  
Some leave despite brave yet futile efforts to prolong life;  
Others go suddenly, leaving bereaved families behind.

It is perhaps not death itself which is so formidable;  
But that of a squandered life which is regrettable.  
The challenge then is to know what God has always intended for us;  
Which is to repent, to believe, to seek Him and to trust.

That we choose to live a life of holiness would be pleasing unto God;  
But to indulge in worldly pursuits and sinful conduct we can ill afford.  
If what we did and how we lived have made a difference to people's lives;  
We pray we would have lived worthily in our Father's eyes.

Let us not agonize but let the memories of loved ones reside in our hearts;  
Let us not fret, least of all fear, the time when we too, will depart.  
For in our Father's house are many mansions prepared for you and me;  
Wherein the Lord Jesus has reassured that wherever He is, there too we will be.

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: John 14:2-4

# BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b>				
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
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>				
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
<b>CHOIRS</b>				
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
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>				
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
<b>CATECHISM CLASS</b>				
	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
<b>PRAYER MEETING</b>				
	Mon	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<b>FELLOWSHIP GROUPS</b>				
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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