

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVE AT KIDZBLAST

Reach out to the next generation at KidzBlast, an outreach programme for 7 to 12-year-olds.

Dates: 19 and 26 Nov (Sundays)

Time: 1.30pm – 6.00pm

Venue: BPJ and WDL Centres

To serve, sign up at <http://cefc.ch/KidzBlast2017-Volunteer>



To invite pre-believing kids, flyers for the event are available at the Information Counter.

BREAKTHROUGH WEEKENDS

Tomorrow is the last day of registration for Breakthrough Weekends. Don't miss it! Register online through Voyager.

C.Y.A.N. "SAVE THE DATE"

A panel of speakers will share from their experiences and answer questions relating to men-and-women relationships from the perspectives of a single, courting couple and married couple

Date: 21 Oct (Sat)

Time: 7pm - 9pm

Venue: 5 Little Monkeys Café
20 Kallang Avenue

Light refreshments will be provided. Seats are limited. Entry is strictly by registration. Register at <http://cefc.ch/cyanrship>

IDT AND SFF SIGN-UP

Intentional Discipleship Training (IDT)

Are you seeking to grow in Christian maturity and in becoming an authentic disciple and intentional disciplemaker? Apply today for the 2018 intake.

Spiritual Friends and Foundations (SFF)

If you are younger in the Christian faith, learn the basics of discipleship lifestyle at SFF. Apply online through Voyager. Application ends on 31 Oct. For more information, please go to our church website and click on "Registrations & Signups".

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sign up at the Information Counter.

Date: 4 Nov (Sat)

Time: 9am to 4pm

Venue: ACKCentre

PARENTING WITH LOVE

For newly married couples and those who are planning for their first baby.

Dates: 4 and 11 Nov (Saturdays)

Time: 12pm – 5pm

Venue: WDL Centre

Cost: \$50 per couple

Sign up at the Information Counter.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Session 5 "Claims of Jesus" is happening today at the auditorium.

VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VISIBLE VALUES

- Grace
- Growth
- Godliness



UNDERLYING VALUES

- Truth
- Community
- Stewardship
- Balance
- Brokenness

COVENANT EFC

EAST CENTRE, 15 OCT 2017

SERVICE LEADER: LEE HUI FANG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

Rejoice in the Lord!

PAUL SHI, THE NEXT GENERATION

It's one of those verses we are all familiar with: "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice." But the more I look into this passage, the more I see something in the Apostle Paul's life that challenges and convicts. When He penned the words "Rejoice in the Lord", he was writing in a prison cell. How can a man who had nothing, classified as a criminal, not only rejoice in the Lord, but even told believers to do the same?

I am prone to complain. When things do not go my way, I complain. I find it difficult to rejoice in the Lord as I am, let alone to rejoice in the Lord whilst in a difficult position. So, what was it in Paul's life that he could rejoice in the Lord whilst in the most dire straits?

He deeply valued his spiritual inheritance in Christ. Paul had a very keen awareness of what he already has in Christ. He valued the inheritance in Christ — Christ's redemption upon His own life and the communion with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1-2), so much so that when he prays for the Church, Paul wanted the Church to have

their eyes enlightened, to have a spirit of wisdom, and the revelation of the knowledge of God (Eph1:15-18). For Paul, the deep awareness of God and the riches that come from the knowledge of Him form a solid foundation in his inner life so much so that he could rejoice in the Lord whilst in a very difficult situation. The foundation of his joy and life was not based on external circumstances, but rather in the unseen spiritual inheritance that he has in Christ.

Paul cultivated a heart of gratitude. Paul said in a few verses later in Philippians 4:10 that He had learned to be contented in whatever circumstance. It means that if we are to grow in joy and contentment, it doesn't come naturally but has to be learned. According to Spurgeon, "Contentment is one of the flowers of heaven ... it must be cultivated; it will not grow in us by nature, it is the new nature alone that can produce it." Therefore, it requires intentionality to grow in this deeper and richer foundation.

Let's ask the Lord to help us cultivate a deeper and richer life in Christ!

COVENANT EFC

ACKCentre: 2 Kallang Avenue, CT Hub #10-26, Singapore 339407

ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE CENTRES:

BPJ Centre: 8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm ■ WDL Centre: 8.30am & 10.30am ■ East Centre: 10.00am (Pre-service prayer: 9.30am)

Tel: (65) 6892 6811 ■ Email: mail@cefc.org.sg ■ Website: www.cefc.org.sg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

SERMON OUTLINE

A Sacred Trust

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 8:24-30 (NASB) ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Two life-changing postures:

A. We Are _____ to God for Our Lives (vv.25-27, 29)

“weighed ... weigh ... watch and keep”

B. We Must Be _____ to God in Our Lives (vv.24, 28, 30)

“... set apart ... You as well as these articles are consecrated to the LORD ...”

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

22 OCT – PS LEE DA WIN (BPJ), PAUL SHI (WDL) AND REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

A Prayer for the Journey

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 8:21-23 ■ SERMON: REV TAN KAY KIONG

Introduction

Ahava: 5000 people about to set off but Ezra declared a fast.

Why prayer is critical for our spiritual journey:

A. It Establishes Our Priorities in Life (v.21)

Fasting and prayer always go together. More importantly, it's fasting with humility because Ezra understands that the foremost priority of fasting is to “humble ourselves before God”. The word “humble” literally means to “oppress or afflict”. One scholar defines it as “to find oneself in a stunted, humble, lowly position”. It's an inward posture of humility before God and submission to Him (Isa 58:3-5; Matt 6:16-18).

Application: Do you fast? Why do you fast?

John Piper: “Fasting is the means to humbling. How is this so? One way to present ourselves before God humbly is to demonstrate to Him by fasting that we acknowledge our overwhelming love for physical pleasure. Fasting says to God, “I know that I do not deserve my daily bread. My sin only deserves to be punished with starvation. I am sorry for my sins and I acknowledge with my fast how grievous they are. I long for you, O God, vastly more than I long for food. Fill me, O Christ! Fill me with ‘the bread that comes down from heaven.’”

B. It Expresses Our Dependence on God (v.22)

Ezra declared a fast to enable the people to *first* humble themselves before God. Not only that but he went on to say that fasting is also “to seek from Him a safe journey...” Though the journey was dangerous yet Ezra did not ask the king for soldiers. Why? He is convinced that “Our God lovingly looks after all those who seek him, but turns away in disgust from those who leave him.” Ezra stood not on his own words or reputation but he threw everything on the character and reputation of God. With Nehemiah 13 years later, he accepted the king's soldiers for protection.

Question: Who is right? Both are dependent on God. Both are men of faith. What's important is this: both had sought the Lord and they followed through with their conviction.

Application: Seek God earnestly and depend on Him fully!

“We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense. We pray when there's nothing else we can do, but God wants us to pray before we do anything at all.” – Oswald Chambers

Examples: Joseph and Paul

Conclusion

Touch the throne of heaven through prayer and fasting.