

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.

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

VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VISIBLE VALUES

- Grace
- Growth
- Godliness



UNDERLYING VALUES

- Truth
- Community
- Stewardship
- Balance
- Brokenness

COVENANT EFC

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 15 OCT 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS IVAN HO ■ WORSHIP LEADER: BENJAMIN AND SHARON TAN

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!

SERMON OUTLINE

A Sacred Trust

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 8:24-30 (ESV) ■ SERMON: PS SHARON FONG

Introduction

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

“weighed ... weighed ... guard ... keep ... weigh”

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

“... set apart ... You are holy to the Lord, and the vessels are holy ...”

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: PS EDMUND WONG

Introduction

Seek (vv.21, 22) – to request, consult, desire, even beg. This is the same word used when the archives were searched to confirm the decree to rebuild the temple (Ezr 5:17). Ezra and the people of Israel began the journey back to Jerusalem with intentional and intense prayer.

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.
– Martin Luther

Why prayer is critical for our spiritual journey:

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

1. Cf verse 15 – Ezra and the people were already days or weeks behind in their itinerary. But they did the full work of humbling and fasting.
2. Humbling – literally, adopting a lowly position and afflicting self in order to gather for a sacred assembly.
3. Fasting – most likely, a full fast. They started the four-month, 1000+ km journey. They were physically weak but spiritually strong, because they wanted God's presence more than physical strength to complete the journey!

Focus: Any Christian worth their salt will say that prayer (and fasting) is important. Is it in your schedule? What we do first reveals what we value most.

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

1. Unlike Nehemiah (Neh 2:9), why was Ezra ashamed to ask for military escort? Besides the possibility of a lack of horsemen or limited favour from the king, he was likely more introverted in personality. But they were both prayerful and carried the same conviction!
2. Cf verse 26 to 27 – They carried 22 tons of silver and 3.4 tons of gold. A current market value of more than S\$200 million! Along the way there would be robbers lying in wait to ambush and attack. The Israelites (including women and children) would be sitting ducks!
3. Cf 7:28, 8:18: - God demonstrated by track record His faithfulness through the favour from the king, provision of the Levites. Ezra was confident He would do it again via His protection.

Focus: Senior Pastors' Burden for 2018 – Pray and Repent. We believe God works in answer to prayer. Come for our Watchnight Prayer (31 Dec, 9 pm) as we journey into 2018 together.

Conclusion

The gift of prayer through God's Son – so that we have direct access to the ultimate authority, and provision for everything we need!