

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SERVE IN HEALTHSERVE

Serve with us at Mandai HealthServe Clinic! We need medical professionals (doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists) who can serve at least one clinic session a month. If you are one of these, we would love to hear from you. Email [missions@cefc.org.sg](mailto:missions@cefc.org.sg) or call Michael Cheah at 8200 1917.

### 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".

### CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking for the following:

- **Manager (Media, Communications and Resources)**
- **Executive (The Next Generation)**
- **Executive (Finance)**
- **Executive (Human Resources)**

Applicants should either be a church or CG member, with a heart to answer God's call in their lives in furthering Covenant EFC's mission. For more information, visit <http://www.cefc.org.sg/index.php/about-us/recruitment> Email your resumes to [hr@cefc.org.sg](mailto:hr@cefc.org.sg) by 12 Nov.

### MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sign up at the Information Counter.

**Date:** 4 Nov (next Sat)

**Time:** 9am – 4pm

**Venue:** ACKCentre

### NOV DJ COLLECTION

The Devotional Journal (DJ) for Nov 2017 is now available at our church website and Covenant EFC app. Hard copies are available at the Information Counter at Level 1 while stocks last.

## 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](mailto:mail@cefc.org.sg) ■ Website: [www.cefc.org.sg](http://www.cefc.org.sg)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch](http://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

BUKIT PANJANG CENTRE, 29 OCT 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS LEE DA WIN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: ALLISON LIM

### After 500 Years, the Reformation Still Matters!

PS BARNEY LAU, DIRECTOR, THE NEXT GENERATION

The date was 31 October 1517, and the door of Castle Church, Wittenberg, served as a public bulletin board for Martin Luther's 95 theses, an open invitation to a public debate much like a provocative blog or Facebook post. Luther's 95 theses were a protest and a reaction to the church's sales of indulgences, and its obsession with wealth.

At the heart of the Reformation was the dispute about truth. The truth about how we can know God and how we can be right with Him. Simply put, at stake was our eternal future, a choice between eternal life and eternal death. The Reformation still matters because truth still matters.

During the Heidelberg Disputation of 26 April 1518, Luther defended the issue, "How can we know God?" Trying to understand the invisible God from the visible created things may lead one to know some things about God, but that itself is not true knowledge of God. Such knowledge only puffs up in pride and foolishness. Luther contends that God is only

known through that which is contrary in the cross — glory in shame, wisdom in folly, power in weakness, victory in defeat! So what Luther calls theologia crucis, the "theology of the cross", is not merely an understanding of how the cross of Christ saves us, even more so, it is God's way of allowing us to know Him. God is only and truly known through the cross of Jesus Christ.

Science may have started out trying to understand God's creation, but look where it has led us — a godless pursuit to a godless conclusion for a godless society. Luther was right. Truth matters, God is the ultimate truth, and God can only be found and known in and through the Cross of Jesus Christ!

Much has changed over the past 500 years, but eternal truth does not change. The Reformation has always been about the Truth. Even more, it is about being reformed by the Truth found in Christ alone, revealed in God's Word alone, made possible by God's grace alone and appropriated by faith alone, ultimately for God's glory alone!

## SERMON OUTLINE

### Hold on to the Gospel

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30 ■ SERMON: BISHOP EMERITUS ROBERT SOLOMON

#### Introduction

Paul and the Gospel

#### A. Comprehend the Gospel of Christ (v.27)

1. The Gospel has to do with who Christ is
2. In Him we are justified, sanctified, and will be glorified

#### B. Conduct befitting the Gospel (v.27)

1. Conduct depends on character
2. Importance of Word, Spirit, and Grace
3. Importance of Christian discipline

#### C. Continue in the Gospel (v.29)

1. Often it means suffering
2. What sustains us

#### Conclusion

1. Is the Gospel making any difference in your life?
2. Are you living out the Gospel?
3. How are you suffering for the sake of the Gospel?

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

5 NOV – REV TAN KAY KIONG (BPJ), REV TONY YEO (WDL) AND PS BARNEY LAU (EAST)

## LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

### How Will Your Journey End?

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 8:31-36 ■ SERMON: PAUL SHI

#### Introduction

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ezra 7:1-10	Ezra 7:11-26	Ezra 7:27-28	Ezra 8:1-14	Ezra 8:15-20	Ezra 8:21-30
Ezra is introduced	The King's decree to Ezra	King's kindness	Those who went to Jerusalem	Assembled at river Ahava. More Levites are sought for.	Seek God for protection. Gold and silver weighed.

In Ezra 8:31-36, Ezra and the 5,000 exiles have arrived in Jerusalem.

#### A. Will You Arrive Where You HOPE for? (vv.31-32)

1. When we read Ezra 7-8, Ezra is introduced as someone who is learned in the law of the Lord. Ezra 7:6 – “he was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses”. Ezra 7:10 – “For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel. Ezra 7:11 – “learned in the words of the commandments of the Lord and His statutes to Israel.”
2. Although God's intention for Ezra was to teach the law of the Lord to God's people in this season of his life, God had assigned him to lead His people back to Jerusalem, count the gold, silver and utensils. Nonetheless Ezra was faithful to God with this divine assignments.
3. In accomplishing our mission for God, we need to be faithful and complete what he has given us today before we are entrusted with what we need to do tomorrow.
4. Are there divine assignments God has entrusted to us that we are neglecting today?

#### B. Will You Be Able to ACCOUNT for Your Life? (vv.33-34)

1. Ezra had to give an account for the gold, silver and utensils. In the same vein, we need to give an account for our lives. One day we will stand before God and give an account to God for our words, actions, thoughts, decisions etc.
2. We are reminded that our lives are not our own, but we steward them and will give an account to God. Ezra 8:31 “and the hand of our God was over us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the ambushes by the way.”
3. If we are going to be faithful in our account to God, we cannot do so purely by our own efforts, but cradled by the hand of God.
4. The hand of God theme runs throughout the book of Ezra
  - a. Ezra 7:6 – Divine favour
  - b. Ezra 7:9 – Protection
  - c. Ezra 7:28 – Strength
  - d. Ezra 8:18 – Divine appointment
  - e. Ezra 8:22 – God's hand is available for **all** who seek Him. If we seek His face, we will see His hand.

#### C. Will There Be THANKSGIVING? (vv.35-36)

1. When we see the hand of God over our lives, this will be the source of our thanksgiving.
2. Let our boast be in the LORD, to acknowledge that God is the critical factor in all arenas of our life.