

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 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 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 ■ 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

EAST CENTRE, 29 OCT 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS BARNEY LAU ■ WORSHIP LEADER: PS FABIAN GHUI

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: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

Ezra led the second group of returnees back to Jerusalem. They set out and arrived safely by God's gracious protection and provision. How will our own journey end?

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

1. After all the preparation, Ezra finally set out and reached their destination safely! To reach where we hope to get to after all our preparations, we actually have to take that step to "set out".
2. For those who are not yet believers but are open to the Gospel and wish to get to be with God, take that first step to "set out" on a wonderful adventure to know Him!
3. If you are considering Covenant EFC to be your spiritual family, take that step to do that which you already know — get baptised, perhaps sign up for the membership class, or join the Intentional Discipleship Training (IDT). This moves us towards being a more mature disciple of Christ.
4. For others, you may have started well in your faith, but have "settled" in your faith journey. The Hebrew word for "set out" is *nasa* and gives the picture of pulling out the tent-pegs. If we wish to get to a better place – we must "set out" once more and not settle.

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

1. Ezra's team was able to fully account for all the treasure entrusted to them. Will we be able to likewise account for our lives when we stand before God?
2. Yes, we are saved by grace alone (*not* works). But the grace that saves is not alone. There are treasures, talents and time that God has given us for which we have to be accountable (Lk 19:13 – 15; Matt 25:14, 19; Rom 14:12).
3. Covenanters by and large know what's right, but it's the doing that makes the difference. Often we don't do what we know is right. Is that because we have lost the fear of God to whom we must one day account for our lives?
4. God expects "fruit" from our lives (Jn 15:8). One important way we can do so is to reproduce our lives in others who would in turn multiply their lives in others.

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

1. Ezra's team celebrated their safe return with sacrifices to the Lord.
2. There are two kinds of celebrations: the negative kind when people are glad that we are no longer around, and the good kind where people celebrate a life well lived to God and heaven rejoices in the homecoming of a child of the King!

Conclusion

The reality is that our journey will end well if God's hand is upon our lives (Ezr 8:31b). God is reaching out to us. Let's reach our hands out to His if we want to end our journey well!