

Announcements

ALPHA: WHO IS JESUS?

Alpha is a series of informal and relaxed sessions exploring the Christian faith. Many have come to know Christ through Alpha. Invite your pre-believing loved ones or friends!

Date: 11 Apr (Wed)

Time: 7pm - 9.30pm

Venue: YMCA Orchard 1 Orchard Road (238824)

Register at <http://alpha.cefcapps.com>

For enquiries, email alpha@cefc.org.sg

WOMEN 4 WOMEN

More Precious Than Jewels is a discipleship seminar organised by Women-In-Covenant for all the women in Covenant EFC. Embark with us on a growth journey of discovering our significance in God and becoming *A Certain Kind of Woman!*

Date: 28 Apr (Sat)

Time: 9am - 1pm

Speaker: Pastor Ann Chan

Venue: BPJ Centre, Main Sanctuary

Registration is required. **Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/cefcwomen> by 10 Apr**

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

This is a full-day workshop for courting couples to discover how to build a strong foundation in their relationship based on honest interaction, biblical principles and purity.

Date: 14 Apr (Sat)

Time: 8.30am - 5pm

Venue: ACKCentre Performing Arts Studio

Register at the Information Counter.

For enquiries, email fic@cefc.org.sg

HOKKIEN SERVICES MUSICIAN RECRUITMENT

Would you like to serve and worship God through your musical skills?

The Hokkien Congregation is looking for keyboardists, guitarists, bass players and drummers for the Hokkien Services at BPJ and WDL Centres on Saturdays.

The Woodlands Hokkien Service is held at 2.30pm and the Bukit Panjang Hokkien service is held at 5.30pm on Saturdays.

If you are interested to serve, email faith.chen@cefc.org.sg

IDMC 2018 - FAITH & FIRE

Sign up for IDMC 2018 by 31 May 2018 to enjoy the Covenanter special rate at \$60 (leader & spouse) and \$120 (member) on <https://engage.cefc.org.sg>

If you have signed up for IDMC, help serve the body of Christ together. Find out more on <http://volunteer.idmc.org.sg>

For any enquiries, please email info@idmc.org.sg

OLDER ADULTS, HEALTH MATTERS FORUM

Dealing with health issues and growing old can mean taking eldercare leave, being homebound, bed-bound or wheelchair-bound. Supporting ourselves or our loved ones can also mean needing transport help for medical appointments, tracking medical consultations and respite care. What else can we do?

Organised by the Encouragers-in-Covenant (EiC), this forum addresses current concerns that Covenanters have regarding themselves or their loved ones.

Date: 21 April (Sat)

Time: 9am (refreshments will be served at 8am)

Venue: WDL Centre, Chapel Level 4

To sign up, email encouragersadmin@cefc.org.sg
Registration closes on 18 Apr.

CHILD DEDICATION CLASS

The Child Dedication Class will be held on 20 May, Sun, 1-5pm Joy and Love Rooms at WDL Centre. Sign up at the Information Counter.

The Child Dedication Service will be held on Sun, 24 Jun.

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Baptism Class on Sun, 6 May at WDL Centre from 1.00pm to 3.30pm.

Membership Class on Sat, 12 May at ACKCentre from 9am to 4pm.
Register at the Information Counter.

CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking to fill the following position within the church staff team.

• **Ministry Executive (Hokkien)**

Please go to <http://www.cefc.org.sg/about-us/recruitment> for more information.



... for a Vibrant & Healthy Next Generation

... for Godly Families and Generations

... for a Growing IDMC Movement in Singapore

... to Impact Our Society & Culture

... for a Growing Global IDMC Movement

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

ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE CENTRES
BPJ Centre:
Sun 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm

WDL Centre:
Sun 8.30am & 10.30am

East Centre:
Sun 9am & 11am

T (65) 6892 6811

E mail@cefc.org.sg

W www.cefc.org.sg

FB www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

EAST, 8 APRIL 2018

SERVICE LEADER: TONY KWA • WORSHIP LEADER: SIMON AND LILIAN SEOW

A Gateway to Paradise

PS ADRIAN CHAN, INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

Holy Week touched my heart once again—deepening the devotion towards God, and strengthening the mind and will to follow Jesus. For me, this Holy Week also culminated with the joy of baptizing 42 brothers and sisters who formally confessed allegiance to God. Some underwent their baptism solemnly. Some could not contain their emotions, shedding tears of repentance, thankfulness or dependence upon God. One baptizand wept right through her baptism. Each one metaphorically took up the cross to declare himself or herself as a Christ-follower before a watching world.

Carrying one's own cross involves paying the daily price of yielding the whole being, in exchange for the surpassing treasure found in knowing God. It is easy to say "Yes, thank You Jesus for dying on the cross", but this does not translate to "Yes, I too will carry my cross, and die to my self-centered life and follow

You". Yet, Jesus has said that whoever wishes to be His disciple must deny himself, take up the cross daily and follow Him (Lk 9:23, Matt 16:24, Mk 8:34). Surely, **the cross is the main story**, not a sub-plot.

We are to be co-crucified with Christ, and then live a new life. We learn from the seed—it must die to its form before it becomes a thriving tree. **The grave is but a gateway to paradise, and death a pathway to resurrection**, as someone has said. It involves a fresh way of thinking!

Denying oneself, taking up the cross and following Jesus will be a daily experience in our lifelong pilgrimage. For me right now, it is to die to my wish for advanced biblical learning. Rather, I give in, with God's peace and joy, to the Spirit's prompting to serve my family and Covenant EFC in the coming years. What about you? What must you say "no" to today? And what is the cross you must carry? Be co-crucified with Christ, and live the new life in Him!

Sermon Outline

When the Spirit comes ...

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 2:1-13 • SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Conclusion

Last Week's Sermon Summary

The Death of Death

SCRIPTURE: MARK 15:33-16:8 • SERMON: REV CHRISTOPHER CHIA

Introduction

Our Many Deaths and Jesus' One Death

"It's normal lah. What's normal lah? You grow up, you grow old, you grow sick, you die. Normal lah."

Every death that we experience in our lives is because we turn against God.

What's so different and unique about the distinctive death of Jesus?

4 moments in Jesus' last 3 hours:

A. Darkness over the Land

The greatest darkness the world has seen and experienced. What is this darkness?

As one writer puts it: "Jesus literally baptised and drowned in cosmic evil" What is cosmic evil?

It's *evil on steroids*. It's evil that comes from the devil and his cohort. The Son of God is overcome by Satan and his demons. Jesus did not simply face individual personal evil, group evil, national evil or global evil.

He faced cosmic evil.

B. Forsakenness of the Son

The Son of God is overcome by Satan and his demons. So he cried out "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" (Psalm 22) Psalm 22 is about God's abandonment of the righteous believer.

The favourite psalm of many Christians is Psalm 23 but on the cross, Jesus quoted Psalm 22. It is upon Jesus' heart. Psalm 22 is the most quoted Psalm to understand the death and suffering of Jesus.

If Psalm 23 is *The Lord is my shepherd*, Psalm 22 should be *The Lord is not my shepherd*.

C. Openness to God

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. A divine action that God has come and opened the way to Him. He comes to destroy the old temple which was spiritually and morally corrupt.

Where then is the new temple? Where is this new meeting place between a holy God and his holy people?

It is Jesus. By His sacrifice. He is the Priest and Offering all rolled into one. Jesus is the only way back to God.

D. Confession of a Gentile

Who is the first person to confess Jesus? The centurion who stood facing Jesus. He said "Truly this man was the Son of God!" The centurion recognized who Jesus is. He never saw a man like Jesus. He wasn't a Jew but an outsider.

Mark's gospel begins with God affirming Jesus as his Son and ends with a Gentile confessing Jesus is the Son of God. The gospel will go to all nations.

Conclusion: Your view of death?

All of us die. There are so many views of death.

But what is God's view of death?

Why is the death of Jesus so unique and how does it affect me?

Mark 15:33-16:8 record for us the unspeakable suffering and undeserved death of Jesus. The events in the final moments of Jesus' life will change you.

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

15 APR - REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (BPJ), PS ANDY LEW (WDL) AND REV TAN KAY KIONG (EAST)