

Announcements

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 by 16 Dec.

Spiritual Friends and Foundations (SFF)

If you are younger in the Christian faith, learn the basics of discipleship lifestyle in SFF. Apply by 18 Nov.

Apply at Voyager. Email idtadmin@cefc.org.sg for enquiries.

BOWL & BOND

Calling all fathers with 11 to 13-year-old sons, join this event and bond with your kids!

Date: 1 Dec (Sat)

Time: 3pm – 6pm

Venue: Temasek Club 131 Rifle Range Road Singapore 588406

Fee: \$30 for a father-and-son pair. \$15/pax for additional participants.

This includes three games, shoe rental and finger food. Bring your own socks. Register at Voyager. Registration ends on 18 Nov. For enquiries, email ffc@cefc.org.sg

COVENANT ARTIST FELLOWSHIP

Calling all Covenant Artists! We would like to pool together and brainstorm how to use our gifts to support the \$40M Seed Fund. Let's get together, fellowship over a museum visit and empower each other to use art to exult the name of our Most High God!

Date: 7 Nov (this Wed)

Time: 3pm

Venue: The Parkview Museum
600 North Bridge Road, Parkview Square,
Level 3 Singapore 188778

For enquiries and registration go to <http://cefc.chl/cefcartistgather2018>

NEW LIFE DAY

We are celebrating New Life Day "We are One!" **next Sun, 11 Nov.** We invite you to this journey of discovering more about New Life's history and identity as the Face and Hands of Covenant EFC.

East Centre: 9am and 11am

To find out more about New Life, contact 6892 7191 or email@newlife.org.sg, like our Facebook page (New Life Community Services) or follow us in Instagram ([newlifefsg](https://www.instagram.com/newlifefsg)).

NEW LIFE RUN DONATION

New Life Charity Run was held on 20 Oct, Saturday during CSC Run by the Bay. We are thankful for the 205 runners from 58 teams.

You can still support the teams until 19 Nov.

Go to tinyurl.com/charityrunteams Select the team you wish to support. Process your donation (all donations are eligible for 2.5 times tax deduction). For more information, contact Trevor at 8767 7089 or fundraising@newlife.org.sg

ENCOURAGERS-IN-COVENANT SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Encouragers-in-Covenant is organising "It's Never Too Late", a spiritual retreat for Covenanters aged 50 and above.

Date: 15 – 17 Nov (Thu - Sat)

Venue: Forest City Phoenix Hotel, Johor

Speaker: Rev David Wong

Register at Voyager. Registration ends on 6 Nov. For enquiries, email encouragersadmin@cefc.org.sg

CELEBRATION OF HOPE PRAYER LEAD-UP

We praise God for the Body of Christ that gathered at PraySingapore to seek the welfare of our city and ask God for harvest in the coming Year of Proclamation.

Join us for the monthly regional Celebration of Hope prayer lead-up! This is open to all Christians in Singapore. God acts in answer to our prayers because He desires that none should perish!

Date: 7 Nov (Wed) **Time:** 8.00pm – 9.30pm

Venue: BPJ Centre, Grace Sanctuary



... 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](mailto:email@cefc.org.sg)

W www.cefc.org.sg

FB [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch)

CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

EAST, 4 NOV 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS MATTHEW LO • WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

The Field Is Now White for Harvest

PS SHARON FONG, DISTRICT MENTOR AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

“ For the aunties and uncles whom you see daily in your life, those who deliver newspapers to you and serve you kopi at the coffee shop, you need to look at them and ask yourself a question: Can you live in eternity without them? If you can't, you need to do something about it now!” I was deeply stirred in my heart when Bishop Rennis Ponniah, Singapore Anglican Bishop, shared this months ago.

Today, people don't really notice other people. We don't really acknowledge each other while walking on the streets or smile at the one sharing the same table in the coffee shop. Even on the train, we are busy with our smart phones, catching up on the latest YouTube video or talk of the town. We do not really realise the existence of other human beings, let alone, look at them and mull over the challenge issued by Bishop Rennis. No wonder, when we lift up our eyes, we don't see that the fields are white for harvest (Jn 4:35). No wonder, when the church

rallies us to win the lost for Christ, we see more difficulties and inconveniences, because we don't notice them in the first place.

Bishop Rennis' thought-provoking sharing unsettled me for some months. Luhidas, the Bangladeshi estate cleaner who has been cleaning my HDB block for some years, never fails to be the first one to smile and shout from afar when he sees me, "Good morning, sister! How are you this morning?" I haven't been mindful of him. I am usually too focused on my own world that I don't easily notice people. God has used Luhidas to urge me to open my spiritual eyes to see as God sees, and to be humble to realise that people are not a mere part of the backdrop or value chain. Every single person who crosses my path is beautifully made by God. I must lift up my eyes and see that the field is now white for harvest. Today, let's lift up our eyes from our gadgets and see the world through the eyes and heart of God!

Sermon Outline

Guardians of the Gospel

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 20:1-38 • SERMON: REV BARNEY LAU

Introduction

A. A Life Sold Out for the Gospel (vv.1-27)

B. A Church United in the Gospel (vv.28-35)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKER:

11 NOV – REV TAN KAY KIONG (BPJ), REV EDMUND CHAN (WDL) AND REV TONY YEO (EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

The Gospel That God Gave Us

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 19:1-41 • SERMON: REV BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Is the Gospel merely an intellectual story void of power and influence? Acts 19 took place entirely in the Roman commercial port city of Ephesus. Ephesus is where Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthian church.

A. A Gospel that Fills and Changes Us (vv.1-10)

1. Scripture in the book of Acts:
 - a. Does not see a Christian who is neither baptised nor filled by the Spirit
 - b. Does not present a fixed pattern in how the Spirit comes. It could be before baptism (Acts 10) or after baptism, and it may not always occur together
 - c. The Gospel, baptism and the Spirit change us, fill us and imbue us with power to be a witness for Christ and to live the Christian life.
2. The Gospel that God gave us changed and filled ...
 - a. Apollos to be a passionate evangelist and missionary for Christ (18:23-28)
 - b. The Ephesian church to become the mission base to the rest of Asia (v.10)
 - c. The practitioners of magic to radically turn away from their ways (vv.18-19)
3. The focus of such vitality in Acts happens when we become so filled and changed by the Gospel from the inside out.
4. Question: Are you changed and filled by the Gospel that God gave you?

B. A Gospel that Overcomes and Subdues Evil (vv.11-20)

1. Ephesus was also an epicenter for the worship of most Greek and Roman gods, and reputed as a centre for the learning and practice of magical arts. So, Paul certainly has a “power encounter” ministry in addition to an evangelistic ministry.
2. Against an occultic context, God used “power encounters” to manifest His glory.
 - a. Power encounter #1 (vv.11-12): God’s use of unclean mundane sweat rags (handkerchief) and aprons, points the power to heal back to Jesus, not Paul.
 - b. Power encounter #2 (vv.13-17): The demonic backlash on the copycat exorcists (seven sons of a Sceva) points spiritual authority back to the name of Jesus.
 - c. Power encounter #3 (vv.18-20): Confession, disclosure, and burning of 50K silver pieces (equivalent to 50K man-days’ wages) worth of magic books by scores of magic practitioners shows the power of the Gospel to convert and subdue.
3. Question: Are you living an overcoming life through the Gospel that God gave you?

C. A Gospel that Touches and Impacts Society (vv.21-41)

1. The Gospel conversions seemed so immense and frequent (implied in verse 20) resulting in less consumers of idol worship and practitioners of magic, that it negatively impacted Ephesus’ idol worship industry and associated businesses.
2. The quarrel (v.23) with the Church was religious (v.27b) but the real reason was economical (vv.24-27a) since the idol worship industry was negatively affected.
3. As Christians, we do not intend to create disturbance when we preach the Gospel. However, we cannot stop unbelievers from feeling disturbed.
4. Jesus did not call His disciples to change society but to live a life so distinctive and preach a message so redemptive that it points others to Christ.
5. Question: Are you living such an impactful life with the Gospel that God gave you?