

Announcements

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH SERVICES

Christmas is just around the corner! Invite your pre-believing friends, loved ones and colleagues to “Season of Hope” so that they can hear about the hope we have in Christ. Li Nanxing will share his testimony at BPJ Centre, Ps Judith Halim at WDL Centre, and Belinda Lee at East Centre.

Date: 25 Dec (Tue)

Time: 9am and 11am

Venues: BPJ, WDL and East Centres

Sunbeam will have an outreach “A Christmas Wish” for kids aged 7 to 12 years old.

Date: 25 Dec (Tue)

Time: 9am and 11am

Venue: BPJ and WDL Centres

Admission is free. Register at <http://cefc.ch/sbxmas18> Please note that there will be **NO Sunbeam services on Sun, 23 Dec.**

LIVING IN BABYLON (LIB) INTRO TO CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Life transitions are difficult; uncertainties abound. As you embark on a new journey in the polytechnic, ITE, JC, pre-NS or university, you need a solid rock to hold fast to. Come and build a strong foundation in your faith. Bring your questions and rediscover Christianity!

Dates and Time:

13 Dec, Thu, 9:30am – 9:30pm

14 Dec, Fri, 10am – 6pm

15 Dec, Sat, 9am – 1pm

Venue: ACKCentre, 2 Kallang Ave, #10-03

To sign up and for more details, go to <http://cefc.ch/lib> Registration closes this Tue, 11 Dec. For enquiries, email Ps Adrian Chan at adrian.chan@cefc.org.sg or Joshua Leong at josh8778leong@gmail.com

IDT SIGN-UP

Are you seeking to grow in Christian maturity and in becoming an authentic disciple and intentional disciplemaker? Apply by next Sun, 16 Dec at Voyager. Email idtadmin@cefc.org.sg for enquiries

COVENANT CHOIR'S CAROLLING

Covenant Choir will sing carols at nursing homes and public venues to share the Gospel message of Jesus' birth. Bring your friends and join them in spreading the love of God at the following venues:

- Hillion Mall – 15 and 22 Dec, 5.30pm
- Orchard/Somerset MRT station on 16 Dec (7.30pm and 8.30pm), 22nd Dec (8pm 9pm) and 23 Dec (5.30pm and 6.30pm)

WATCHNIGHT

Let's look back and thank God for what He has done in this Year of Prayer and Repentance. Covenanters will testify how God moved their hearts to pray and repent, and to reach others with the Gospel. Together, we will look forward to the Year of Proclamation, believing God for a harvest in our church and land like never before. Come with your families and CGs. **See you on the 31 Dec, 8pm – 11pm at WDL Centre!**

COVENANT EFC FUNDRAISING DINNER

We are organising a fundraising dinner as part of our efforts towards the \$40 million Seed Fund for Vision 2028 & Beyond. Invite your non-Covenanter Christian friends to join us on this evening, to support our call to grow the IDMC movement in Singapore and globally. There will be a silent auction of artworks created by Covenant and various artists.

Date: 2 Mar 2019 (Sat)

Time: 5.30pm – 9.30pm (Cocktails will be served at 5.30pm. Please be seated for dinner by 6.45pm.)

Register at <http://cefc.ch/fundraising2019> For enquiries, email fundraising.dinner@cefc.org.sg

TNG BAPTISM

Twenty-five of our youths will reach a milestone in their faith journey as they go through water baptism on Sun, 23 Dec, 12.30pm at BPJ Centre Main Sanctuary. This baptism service will replace the regular 12.30pm service. You are all welcome to join this celebration!



... 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, 9 DEC 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS JEREMY KOH • WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

The Gift of Christ at Christmas

REV TONY YEO AND REV TAN KAY KIONG, SENIOR PASTORS

“ *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*” *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” – Matthew 1:21-23*

Blessed **Christ**-mas! This is the time we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Without Christ, Christmas is meaningless. We remember His infinite love for the finite people in the world – our friends, family, relatives, colleagues, neighbours and even ourselves.

Christmas season is filled with gift-giving. It all started from one priceless gift given to the human race more than two thousand years ago — the gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ! This gift was given out of God's unfathomable mercy and unspeakable grace. He did not have to give this to us. Nothing in us earned it. Nothing in us qualified for it. We don't deserve anything from God except punishment for our sins. We have turned our backs from Him and gone our own way. Yet God decided to be merciful to us, His own creation made in His image. His boundless mercies cancelled the punishment so that His matchless grace could give us life.

Christmas is the time of the year when we intentionally give gifts and do good to others. But what greater joy to emulate God's giving and goodness all year long! The courage and strength to do so come as we focus on the way God gives from an overflow of His character:

God gives lovingly. *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness – Exodus 34:6*

God gives freely. *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. – James 1:17*

God gives abundantly. *I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. – Psalm 132:15*

God gives wisely. *To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. – Romans 16:27*

What an example of how He calls us to share what we have and give like our Heavenly Father! Let's not forget to give the gift of Christ this Christmas — the best gift that is truly priceless and precious!

Sermon Outline

Faith Under Scrutiny

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 24:1-27 • SERMON: PS SHARON FONG

Introduction

A. WALKING WITH GOD RIGHTLY (vv.1-21)

“So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.” (v.16)

B. WAITING ON GOD RESOLUTELY (vv.22-27)

“When two years had elapsed ... Felix left Paul in prison.” (v.27)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKER:

DEC 16 – PS TAN SIANG HON (BPJ), PS SANDRA CHI (WDL) AND PAUL SHI (EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 22:30-23:35 • SERMON: REV EDMUND CHAN

Introduction

Background Acts 21-22

Claudias Lysias - Roman Chiliarch (commander of 1000) - stationed at the Fortress of Antonia, (garrisoned with 600 Roman soldiers)

Uproar in temple!

Paul arrived in Jerusalem (Acts 21:15)

Two opposite reactions - Hero's welcome and Riot!

Assumed that he brought Gentiles (Trophimus) into the temple!

Paul addressed the crowd

To be interrogated by Roman torture. Saved by Roman citizenship!

Three vital principles that I've gleaned from Acts 23 -

A. When the Going Gets Tough, I believe in DIVINE GUIDANCE.

“.. the Lord stood at his side and said, ‘Take courage..’” (v.11)

Acts 21:4 “Don't go to Jerusalem!” (thru the Spirit)

Agabus the prophet (Paul's belt – tied himself) - would be bound in Jerusalem!

Was Paul wrong to ignore the prophecies NOT to go??

Paul's reply: “Willing not only to be bound but to die!” (21:13)

Acts 20:22-23 “Bound in spirit” vs “warned in Spirit”

The Lord's Approval (Acts 23:11)

Back to THE WORD! (Acts 20:32)

B. When the Going Gets Tough, I believe in DIVINE APPOINTMENTS.

“But the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush...” (v.16)

40 Jewish Assassins!

Wouldn't make it from Jerusalem to Caesarea (about 120km)

2 centurions. 200 soldiers. 200 spearmen. 70 horsemen! (night operations! 9pm)

Illust. Julianne's Testimony - She was crying pretty much every day, grieving over her mum's sudden death! How GOD touched and changed her (5 changes!!)

C. When the Going Gets Tough, I believe in DIVINE CALLING.

“... Paul the prisoner...” (v.18)

While a prisoner in Rome, Paul wrote letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and to Philemon!

How do you open a DURIAN - the important thing is that you must open ALONG THE LINES of the durian!

Work along GOD's LINES!!!

Conclusion

“When the going gets tough, the tough gets going” - No! When the going gets tough, the tough LOOKS UP (and follow God's leading!)