

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 next Sun, 23 Dec.**

Japanese Christmas Outreach will be held on Sat, 22 Dec, 12.30pm to 3.00pm at ACKCentre, #10-03. Please email missions@cefc.org.sg by Tue, 18 Dec to RSVP.

China Nationals Christmas Service will be held next Sun, 23 Dec, 3.30pm to 5.00pm at WDL Centre Chapel 1 (Level 4).

NO WEB SERVICE AT WDL CENTRE

Please note that there will be **NO WEB** service at WDL Centre on 23 and 30 Dec.

TNG BAPTISM

Twenty-five of our youths will reach a milestone in their faith journey as they go through water baptism next 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!

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, repent and reach others with the Gospel. Let's look forward to the Year of Proclamation, believing God for a harvest in our church and land like never before. Come with your family and CG on **31 Dec, 8pm to 11pm at WDL Centre!**

COVENANT CHOIR'S CAROLLING

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

- Hillion Mall – 15 and 22 Dec, 5.30pm
- Orchard MRT – 16 Dec, 7.30pm & 8.30pm
– 23 Dec, 5.30pm & 6.30pm
- Somerset MRT – 22 Dec, 8pm & 9pm

IDT SIGN-UP

Are you seeking to grow in Christian maturity and in becoming an authentic disciple and intentional disciplinemaker? **Today is the last day of application for IDT.** Apply at Voyager. Email idtadmin@cefc.org.sg for enquiries.

SERVE IN NEW LIFE

New Life Staff Recruitment

New Life needs committed and passionate staff to reach the next generation and be a blessing to the community. We are looking for talented people called to turn their passion into career to fill in the following positions:

- Youth Team Leader
- Childcare Principal (BPJ Centre)
- Office and Liaison Manager

If you are interested, download the application form at tinyurl.com/nlcsjobform and email to hr@newlife.org.sg Share this opportunity with your networks and friends too.

Steady Readers Mentors

100 volunteers are needed to mentor K2 to P4 children who are not reading at their academic age and having difficulty in school due to lack of proficiency in English.

Period: 21 Jan – 25 May 2019

Days & Venue:

Mon and/or Wed at BPJ Centre

Tues and/or Thu at WDL Centre

Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm

Required Training: 5 OR 6 Jan 2019

Time: 1pm – 5pm

Venue: Fajar Youth Hub (Blk 419 Fajar Road)

Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/newlifechildren>

For more information, email

Jason at volunteer@newlife.org.sg



... 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

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EAST, 16 DEC 2018

SERVICE LEADER: TONY KWA • WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

Holy Discontentment

PAUL SHI, MINISTRY STAFF, THE NEXT GENERATION

As we approach the end of the book of Acts, how has studying it impacted us? Has it changed us?

For some of us, reading the book of Acts may feel like going to a museum. We admire the Pauls, Peters, Stephens and the early Christians. We marvel at how the Early Church patriarchs are indeed heroes of the faith. We stand afar in wonder how they lived their lives. We may be satisfied to simply wonder at this “Early Church museum”.

Others may have approached the book of Acts like a textbook. We studied its structure and examined how the Gospel began to spread based on Acts 1:8. We are well acquainted with the geography of the Early Church, Paul's missionary journeys and the theological implications of Gentile inclusion. We see and understand Luke's intentions of writing in that specific order. And we may be satisfied with the accumulation of

more theological knowledge about the Early Church.

For others, looking at the book of Acts may have been like attending a history class. We learned about the history of the Early Church and how the Holy Spirit birthed the first Jesus movement through it. And we may be satisfied that our historical understanding of Christianity has increased.

On a personal level, studying and preaching the book of Acts has stirred up a holy discontent in me — that there is so much more to the Christian life I have yet to experience. I was convicted by the devotion of the disciples, hungry for an experience of the Holy Spirit like wind and fire, and challenged by being a witness for Jesus through signs and wonders.

I do hope and pray that we do not simply conclude the book of Acts with merely a sense of objective learning, but a stirring in our hearts to know and experience Jesus in a fuller way.

Sermon Outline

Obeying the Divine Call

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 25:1-26:32 • SERMON: PAUL SHI

Introduction

What is the secret to Paul's ability to stand strong and unwavering to the end?

A. Unwavering F _____ (25:1-26:18)

“I appeal to Caesar!” (25:11)

B. Uncompromising O _____ (26:19-32)

“I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision...” (26:19)

Conclusion

“I pray that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am ...” (26:29)

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKER:

DEC 23 – PS IVAN HO (BPJ), PS EDMUND WONG (WDL) AND PS MATTHEW LO (EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

Faith Under Scrutiny

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

Introduction

To thrive when our faith is tested, we must walk with God rightly and wait on God resolutely.

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

The Jews accused Paul of three charges: stirring riots, being a ringleader of the Nazarenes and attempting to defile the temple. Paul defended himself in Acts 24:10-21. When we take a look at the literary structure of verses 10 to 21, we will notice an intercalation, a hamburger-like structure, as shown below:

Paul's Innocence (vv.10-13)

Paul's Integrity (vv.14-16)

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

Paul's Innocence (vv.17-21)

In this intercalation, the author is conveying a theological message that Paul's innocence hinges on his integrity. Paul was able to prove his innocence because he was working on his integrity by walking with God rightly. Likewise, to thrive when we are tested, we must work on our integrity by walking with God rightly.

When we are tested, let's not complain or react in anger. Don't bad mouth the person who offended you. Don't take matters into your own hands. Even if you are in position to take revenge, don't do it. Channel all your energy and effort to work on your integrity by walking with God rightly. Innocence and integrity are connected. The world tells us to argue, defend ourselves and fight back to prove our innocence. Through this passage, God tells us to work on our integrity. Your integrity will eventually prove your innocence in the long run.

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

Paul knew that his chains were not a problem to be solved, but the will of God to be embraced. Some of us need to first embrace the pain before we can wait on God resolutely.

Don't give up but wait on God resolutely even if it takes many years. Paul waited in prison not just for a few months, but for two years. It may seem a waste of time for him to wait. Paul could have saved more souls and disciple more believers in those years. As he was carrying a huge amount of offering, he could have bribed Felix since bribery was so common. He could have done it in the name of ministry to get out and save more souls. Instead, he accepted his chains as the will of God and waited resolutely.

As Singaporean we may feel that waiting is a waste of time. Our inner compass values efficiency and effectiveness. But waiting is one of the most defining time of our lives. In our waiting, God is doing a deep work in us; He is sanctifying us. Even when it's beyond our understanding, let's trust and wait on God. Accept the situation as God's will and wait on Him resolutely.

Perhaps, coming to the end of 2018, you are still waiting for an answered prayer or a change of circumstances. Don't give up and don't take a short cut. When you are tested, wait on God resolutely.