

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVE AT KIDZBLAST

Reach out to the next generation at KidzBlast, an outreach programme for 7 to 12-year-olds.

Dates: 19 and 26 Nov (Sundays)

Time: 1.30pm – 6.00pm

Venue: BPJ and WDL Centres

To serve, sign up at <http://cefc.ch/KidzBlast2017-Volunteer>



To invite pre-believing kids, flyers for the event are available at the Information Counter.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sign up at the Information Counter.

Date: 4 Nov (Sat)

Time: 9am to 4pm

Venue: ACKCentre

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Session 6 “Faith (Fact or Feeling)” is happening today at the auditorium.

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”.

PARENTING WITH LOVE

For newly married couples and those who are planning for their first baby.

Dates: 4 and 11 Nov (Saturdays)

Time: 12pm – 5pm

Venue: WDL Centre

Cost: \$50 per couple

Sign up at the Information Counter.

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, 22 OCT 2017

SERVICE LEADER: TONY KWA ■ WORSHIP LEADER: JONATHAN CHI

What Has the Protestant Reformation Got to Do with Me?

PS LEE DA WIN, SMALL GROUP INFRASTRUCTURE

2017 marks 500 years since Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk and theology professor, published his 95 theses against the Catholic Church. This launched the Protestant Reformation that divided the Western church and totally transformed the practice of faith by millions of people thenceforth till today.

In Covenant EFC, we will commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation next Sunday. If you have no clue what the Reformation is, or how it is even relevant today, here's a quick summary, from five Latin phrases that defined the biblical pleas of Protestants:

Sola scriptura (“Scripture alone”) emphasises the Bible, not the Pope or sacred tradition, as the sole source of authority for Christians. This also fueled the translation and teaching of the Bible from Latin into common languages of the day.

Sola fide (“faith alone”) emphasises salvation as a free gift to all who accept it by faith. No amount of indulgences (donating money) or

good works buys God's favour.

Sola gratia (“grace alone”) emphasises that we are saved by God's grace. Salvation comes from what God has done rather than what we do.

Solo Christo (“Christ alone”) emphasises that Jesus is the only One – not any human spiritual leader – who offers us access to God.

Soli Deo gloria (“to the glory of God alone”) emphasises that our goal in life is to glorify God alone, not to conform to human tradition or standards so as to please men.

Each of the five solas was a strong corrective response to the faulty practices and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church of that time. But they are also a positive biblical declaration. They call us to focus on Scripture, accept salvation by grace through faith in Christ and by no other means, and to live for God's glory. And this is how, in a nutshell, the Reformation from 500 years ago has changed the course of Christian history and remains etched in the practice of our living faith today.

SERMON OUTLINE

How Will Your Journey End?

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 8:31-36 ■ SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

A. Will you arrive where you HOPE for? (vv.31-32)

B. Will you be able to ACCOUNT for your life? (vv.33-34)

C. Will there be THANKSGIVING? (vv.35-36)

Conclusion

How will your journey end?

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

29 OCT – BISHOP EMERITUS ROBERT SOLOMON (BPJ, WDL AND EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

A Sacred Trust

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 8:24-30 ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Ezra's leadership - stewardship (accountability) and holiness (consecration)

A. We Are Accountable to God for Our Lives (vv.25-27, 29)

1. The Weight of Responsibility that demands personal leadership
 - a. Personal Responsibility – Emphatic first person personal pronouns in all the “I [verb]...” phrases (v.15,16,17,21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28).
 - b. Vocational Responsibility – priests and Levites were appointed to their sacred tasks of managing and transporting the holy offerings (per Num 3-4).
2. The Crux of Stewardship that exudes personal Integrity
 - a. Precise Accountability – Practical (“I weighed ...” repeated in vv.25-26) and detailed (42 out of 186 words in 7 verses spoke of silver, gold and utensils) accounting of the offerings (silver 22 tons and gold 3.75 tons for a total > S\$200M by today's prices) in the presence of the priests and Levites.
 - b. Principled Accountability – Priests/Levites were:
 1. Holy – “You are holy to the Lord...” (v.28).
 2. Faithful – “Watch and keep them until you weigh ...” (v.29).
 3. Accountable – “... to bring ... to house of our God.” (v.30).
3. Our stewardship is holy to the Lord! We steward what has been made holy. Stewardship is Discipleship! Take personal responsibility, walk in personal accountability in our: Lives (marriage, family, passions), Resources (time, gifts, wealth, energies), and Calling (gospel, vocation, work, ministry).

B. We Must Be Consecrated to God in our Lives (vv.24, 28, 30)

1. The Priests/Levites were “set apart” (v.24), i.e. separated by Ezra from the rest of remnants for a specific purpose – a calling to be “holy to the LORD” (v.28).
2. “You are holy ... the utensils are holy ...” (v.28, Heb. קִדְּשׁ, *qōdes̄*) – “i.e. the essential nature of that which belongs to the sphere of the sacred and which is thus distinct from the common or profane (Lev 10:10, Ezk 22:26)... That which was dedicated to God was conceived of as entering the sphere of the ‘holy’.”¹
3. God's tripartite covenant formula with Israel in the Old Testament: “I am the LORD your God, and you are My people, and I dwell among you.” (Exo 6:6-7; 29:45-46)
4. To be “holy to the LORD” is to be [a] loyal to the LORD, [b] because we belong to the LORD. [c] Thus, we are distinct from that which is common/profane.
5. God's promise in 1 Peter 2:9-10 repeats and reinforces this very same tripartite covenant formula with us as followers of Christ in the New Testament!
6. Old Testament Israel was to be made holy by the Law of God; New Testament believers are made holy by the Lord's blood on the cross!
7. Our holiness is to be stewarded in the Lord! Change our Perspective: Holiness is a privilege of belonging to the Lord. Change our Posture: Holiness is a faithful stewardship of that calling. Holiness is the outcome of Discipleship!

Conclusion

We are entrusted with a sacred trust: How we steward our lives is holy to the Lord, and a holy life is a life that is stewarded in and for the Lord.

¹ Thomas E. McComiskey, “1990 קִדְּשׁ,” ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 787.