

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CASE FOR CHRIST MOVIE TICKETS

There is a new screening slot for the movie *The Case for Christ* on 2 Dec, 11am at 321 Clementi. The movie tickets are available for sale at the foyer for \$16, as the cinema is under WE and not GV. There will be a priority queue for those who have registered in the waiting list.

SERVE IN NEW LIFE

Be a Steady Readers Volunteer Mentor! Help children overcome challenges in reading and instil a love for books in them.
Dates: Weekly from Jan to May 2018
Time: 8pm – 9.30pm

Training sessions will be held on 6, 7, 13 and 14 Jan (choose one training session only) from 1pm to 5pm at Fajar Youth Hub.

To sign up or enquire, contact Jason Lee at 9635 1135, Lewis Woo at 9634 9457, or email volunteer@newlife.org.sg

BAPTISM CLASS

The next Baptism Class will be held on 4 Feb 2018, Sun, 1.00pm to 3.30pm at BPJ Centre. Sign up at the Information Counter.

MATURE ADULTS THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

Changes in health, work and family relationships may lead to unexpected crossroads in our lives. Why do they happen? Where should you go next? If you're aged 50 and above, still working or retired and worshipping in Covenant EFC, this is for you!

Date: 2 Dec (Sat)

Time: 9:30 am – 11am (breakfast will be served from 8:30am to 9:30am)

Venue: WDL Centre Chapel (Level 4)

Registration starts today and ends on 30 Nov. Register at <https://engage.cefc.org.sg/> If you need help to register, head down to the Mature Adults Booth at the foyer after the service **today**. See you there!

COVENANT EAST SERVICE ON 10 DEC

Please take note that on 10 Dec 2017, Covenant East will be holding Sunday service in the Grand Ballroom at Hilton Hotel Singapore Level 3, 581 Orchard Road, Singapore 238883. Service timing will still be 10am (pre-service prayer at 9.30am).

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

BUKIT PANJANG CENTRE, 19 NOV 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS YAM KENG MUN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: LOW WEI SHING

To Whom Are You Giving Your Devotion?

PS VALERIE CHAN, DISTRICT MENTOR AND INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

During my recent reflection on John 12:1-8, which is the account of Mary anointing Jesus' feet with a pound of expensive ointment, I distinctly heard God asking me, "To whom are you giving your devotion?" My answer was obvious, "To You, Lord!"

Then came another question: "How much? Like Mary who gave her all sacrificially?" My instant reply was, "Yes, I have, Lord. You know how I have served You with deep commitment and passion all these years. How I have made sacrifices along the way, even sacrificing my time with family. How I said yes to be a District Mentor again this July which means more time away from my children. How ..." Before I could finish, His distinct voice came, "If you have truly made sacrifices, why do you grumble and complain?"

Ouch! That was a very painful truth I had to confront that day. I admitted I have a deceitful heart. My head would want to make the sacrifices as

my expressed devotion to the Lord, but my heart would often grumble if the way is inconvenient, costs me financially, or stretches my health a bit too far.

That day, I repented of my calculative devotion. Mary's devotion in John 12 – she broke the jar of ointment (which cost a year of wages!) on the feet of Jesus – was a sacrificial devotion!

I was reminded that God doesn't call us in our convenience or to our convenience, but calls us to a union and a communion with Him. As I give my devotion to Him, I am entering into a deeper communion with Him — a privilege given to me. So why grumble and complain?

C. T. Studd said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

So when God asks me, "To whom are you giving your devotion?" I can now, by His grace, say with a clear conscience, "To You Lord!"

SERMON OUTLINE

Confession

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 9:6-15 ■ SERMON: REV TAN KAY KIONG

Introduction

A. Grieving Over Our Sins (vv.6-7)

B. Remembering God's Grace (vv.8-9)

C. Acknowledging Our Willfulness (vv.10-14)

D. Depending on God's Mercy (v.15)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

26 NOV – REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (BPJ), PAUL SHI (WDL) AND REV TONY YEO (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Why Do We Do What We Do?

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 58:1-14 ■ SERMON: PS EDMUND WONG

Introduction

God looks for people who are ready to go beyond lip service (Devotional Journal entry on 6 Nov).

Verses 1 to 3 – the people were so serious in their religion that they even fasted (at least five times a year after the exile). But true religion has to be much more and much deeper than the props and posture!

We Do What We Do Because:

A. Setting Our Hearts Aright Matters to God! (vv 1-7)

1. Verses 4 to 5 – why there was quarrelling and oppression. Possible scenario of heavy taxation under foreign powers, and of famine which affected their crops. Jews forfeited the Sabbath of their workers (v.13) to squeeze them dry. The people had to mortgage their land and property, even sell themselves to slavery. They borrowed money from fellow Jews who charged them interest when they were not supposed to (Neh 5:1-4).
2. Verses 6 to 7 – chains are for prisoners and yokes are for animals. That was how they were treated.
3. The irony – they were praying for their own oppression to be lifted when they were doing the exact same thing to their fellow Jews. God said enough was enough! Focus: Hurry and technology kills empathy. We end up living life with tunnel vision for our own needs, interests and ambitions. Time to create margin in our schedules and space from our phones.

B. Setting Our World Alight Matters to God! (vv 8-14)

1. Verses 8 to 10 – When God's people serve others with compassion, His presence is like the dawn that creeps to scatter the darkness slowly but surely. Until it is like the noon sun. You see the effects and feel the warmth.
2. God's presence will be so obvious, like the pillar of fire that went between the Israelites and the Egyptians, that the Egyptians themselves gave glory to God (Exo 14:25).
3. Verses 11 to 12 – When that happens, lives are rebuilt like ancient cities upon layers of rubble, raised above others and becoming fortresses. The ripple effects of transformation will be for generations!
Focus: Start where we are. Who are those in the next generation whom God has already put into our lives? Make space and time in our schedules for them.

Conclusion

Jesus came with a mission to save the world by setting our hearts aright. He calls us to join Him to set the world alight!