

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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 – 11 am (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!

### 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.

### 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](mailto:volunteer@newlife.org.sg)

### 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](mailto:mail@cefc.org.sg) ■ **Website:** [www.cefc.org.sg](http://www.cefc.org.sg)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch](http://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, 19 NOV 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS BARNEY LAU ■ WORSHIP LEADER: MAVIS LOW

### 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

### Go Back so as to Walk Forward

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 9:6-15 ■ SERMON: PS SHARON FONG

#### Introduction

#### A. Go Back to Our Point of Departure (vv.6-7)

#### B. Walk into God's Appointed Destiny (vv.8-15)

#### 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 LEE DA WIN

#### Introduction

We often get carried away with what we do, forgetting why we do it in the first place. The people of God fasted because they sought to please God, but He was not pleased! They didn't realise that they failed to accomplish *why* they did *what* they did.

As Christians, we too seek to please God. The reason why we do come to church on Sunday, give an offering, sing worship songs, pray, fast, etc. ultimately, is to please God. But what matters infinitely more than what we do is why we do it. So if we are to fulfill the *why* we do *what* we do, we must understand what really matters to God, in order that we may please Him!

We do what we do because ...

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

In spite of doing all the "right" things, God was not pleased with His people, because their hearts had not been set aright. They were "fasting to please [them]selves" (v.3), and instead of keeping the sabbath day holy, they were "pursing [their] own interests" and "following [their] own desires" (v.13). When they humbled themselves, they were merely "going through the motions of penance" (v.5). At the same time, they were oppressing their workers while fasting (v.3) and fighting and quarrelling (among themselves) while fasting (v.4).

God looks beyond the externality of our worship, and right into our hearts. The inward reality of our faith far outweighs the outward religiosity of our practices.

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

The kind of fasting that pleases God requires that His people to get right with others. They must stop hurting others (v.6: "Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people.") and start helping others (v.7: "Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.")

God promises to bless when His people when they do. His blessing on them will cause the world to be lighted up (v.8: "Then your salvation will come like the dawn ...", v.10: "Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon").

New Life is the face and hands of Covenant EFC to the community, demonstrating God's love in tangible ways that the community can see and experience. Through New Life, Covenant EFC sets the world alight!

#### Conclusion

Our foremost example is Jesus. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mt 20:28). He came in order that, through him, we may set our hearts aright with God. He did so, not by judging or condemning us as sinners, but by coming as a servant to serve, and even to give his life for us. And in so doing, he has brought light into our dark world, setting our world alight.