

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANDARIN SERVICE CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Due to overwhelming response last Sun, tickets are available only for those who are already on the waiting list. If you are on the waiting list, kindly collect your tickets at the foyer today. For further enquiry, email chris.pang@cefc.org.sg

C.Y.A.N. CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Christmas is just around the corner! Covenant Young Adult Network (C.Y.A.N.) will be having a Christmas gathering. Come for a time of fun, food and friendship!

Register at <https://engage.cefc.org.sg>

Date: 16 Dec (Sat)

Time: 7pm – 9pm (dinner will be served)

Venue: 5 Little Monkeys Cafe, Pico Creative Centre, 20 Kallang Ave, #11-00

Fee: \$15 per person

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), as Park Avenue Convention Centre is not available for our use. Service timing will still be 10am (pre-service prayer at 9.30am).

MATURE ADULTS THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

Let's give thanks to Jesus for walking with us through thick and thin. Let's thank Him for going before us as we look towards 2018 and beyond. 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)

Register at <https://engage.cefc.org.sg>
Registration ends on 30 Nov. 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.

DEC DJ COLLECTION

The Devotional Journal (DJ) for Dec 2017 is now available at our church website and Covenant EFC app. Hard copies are available at the Information Counter at Level 1 while stocks last.

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, 26 NOV 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS ADRIAN CHAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: PS FABIAN GHUI

Growing Older in Life, Lordship and Legacy

PS YAM KENG MUN, DISTRICT MENTOR

One in four Covenanters will be aged 65 years and above by the time we celebrate Covenant EFC's 50th anniversary in 2028.

A question that comes to mind about this growing number of older adults is: "How do we disciple them?" We may generalise their needs to evaluating their life events, and considering emotional aspects of chronic illnesses and relational losses confronting them. Another way of examining aging is through the A.D.I.D. perspective: Life, Lordship and Legacy.

Life – deciding how we live our lives. "Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." 2 Corinthians 4:16. Chuck Dolph, a psychologist wrote: "If we live long enough, we will lose our beauty, our strength, our wealth, our independence, the control of our bodily functions, our pride, and perhaps our very self." Aging can be an opportunity to depend more on God's grace and the love

of others as we trust Him to deal with disappointments and losses.

Lordship – defining for whom we are living. Instead of retiring from serving the Lord, it's the Lord who "re-tires" us to serve Him. We go into a fresh season equipping ourselves to be "capable of teaching and leading the flock," and "serving as overseers and examples of God's flock" (1 Pet 5:1-4).

Legacy – being determined to be faithful. "The righteous flourish like the palm tree ... they still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him." (Psa 92: 12-15). Instead of growing spiritually cold, we can be teachers of good things like the men and women in Titus 1 and 2.

God requires both the young and old to serve Him. Much lies ahead, as we equip Covenanters to prepare, and present themselves to God, even when we are well advanced in years.

SERMON OUTLINE

How Will You Respond?

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 10:1-4 ■ SERMON: PAUL SHI

Introduction

A. Acknowledge Your Sin Against God (vv.1-2a)

“We have broken faith with our God ...”

B. Affirm Your Hope in God (v.2b)

“... but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this.”

C. Align Your Life with God (vv.3-4)

“... let us make a covenant with our God to put away ...”

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

3 DEC – PS BARNEY LAU (BPJ), PS KATHERINE CHAN (WDL) AND REV TAN KAY KIONG (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Confession

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

Introduction

Excellent confession prayers in the Bible: Ezra 9, Psalm 51, Daniel 9. It gives us a glimpse of the majestic holiness and lovingkindness of God in response to the stubbornness and sinfulness of man. It models an immense depth of biblical prayers in contrast to our superficial and casual modern prayers. It gives us clear guidelines and principles for our prayer life. PRAYER: “God, be merciful to me; On thy grace I rest my plea; In thy vast abounding grace, My transgressions all erase. Wash me wholly from every sin; Cleanse me from every ill within!” We live in an age of self-indulgence and vanity when we tolerate sin and call it a mistake. But not Ezra. He was deeply saddened and grieved and let out an uninhibited and unabashed prayer.

Four distinctive elements:

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

We may feel the shame and disgrace for various things in our lives but not so much for our sins. Ezra grieved over sin because he saw the extent of the sin in verses 6 to 7.

Length of their sinfulness: “From the days of our forefathers until now.”

Breadth: It affected everyone - “We and our kings and our Priests”.

Height: “Our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached the heavens.”

Depth: “Our guilt has been great ... subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation.”

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

Someone said, “The gospel becomes glorious when the depth and power of our sin is understood as grievous.” If we can feel the length, breadth, height and depth of our sins, we will appreciate the length, breadth, height and depth of God' grace. In other words, when God disciplines us in our rebelliousness, it is not terminal but restorative and redemptive.

C. Acknowledging Willfulness (vv.10-14)

No Trophy Victory concept: There are some sins that you cannot say you have 100% victory for all times. You cannot erect a trophy to say it has been won forever. It is not like the 100-metre-race trophy you won. We call this the willfulness of man. Apostle Paul says, “For what I want to do, I do not do. But what I hate, I do.” (Rom 7:15). Israel failed God again. They fell into the same sins again (see 2 Pet 1:3-4). Portia Nelson poem: There is a hole in my sidewalk.

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

Ezra's prayer is pure confession. No request for forgiveness or other petition. Its climax is – “O Lord, You are Righteous!” The ultimate mark of confession is to realise that we are at the complete mercy of God. I stand guilty as charged before the most Holy Judge. I can only depend on God's mercy alone. That's what confession is all about (1 Jn 1:9).

Conclusion

Confession: To agree with God's verdict and therefore say to Him – I am guilty as charged!