

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANDARIN SERVICE CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Come and hear artiste Li Nanxing's (李南星) testimony with a pre-believing friend at our Mandarin Service Christmas Eve Outreach on Sun, 24 Dec, 7pm to 9pm at WDL Centre Main Sanctuary (Level 2). Due to limited space, free entry tickets are available at 1 Friend per 1 Christian on a first-come first-served basis. Tickets are moving fast so get your tickets at the foyer today. Reservation is not allowed. For 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

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.

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 – 11 am (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.

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).

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

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 26 NOV 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS EDMUND WONG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: BENJAMIN & SHARON TAN

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: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

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: PS IVAN HO

Introduction

Christians today are in increasing danger of taking God's grace for granted. We can see four elements in Ezra's prayer of confession:

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

1. “Ashamed”, “blush” (or “disgraced”, NIV). It seems unreal to feel shame and disgrace over our sins before God. We've become desensitized! We hardly feel grief over our sins. We've trivialised sins in our lives. Cf. Susanna Wesley's definition of sin.
2. Seeing the extent of our sinfulness. Ezra grieved over Israel's sins because he saw the extent of their sinfulness. Ps David Chan: “the length, breadth, height and depth of Israel's sinfulness”.
3. The Holy Spirit of God grieves over our sins. See Ephesians 4:20-32.
4. Do we grieve over our sins? It is both our individual and corporate responsibility. When was the last time you grieved over a particular sin in your life? Over the sins in our church? Or the church in Singapore?
5. Application: In the remaining weeks of this year, ask God for tears to grieve over our sins. Invite God to do a deep work in our hearts – cleansing, healing and restoring our hearts – to love and obey Him.

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

1. God's grace in Israel's history. Despite the Assyrian captivity (722 BC) and the Babylonian captivity (586 BC), God has been gracious to His people to preserve a remnant to carry on in Judah and Jerusalem. The existence of a remnant ensured the fulfilment of God's purposes and covenant promises.
2. God's grace in Jesus Christ. God's grace to us the New Covenant people of God is shown to us in His Son. Jesus' body was broken for us; His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Through faith in Jesus, we are united with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. Instead of the divine wrath and judgement we deserve, we receive forgiveness and blessings, which we don't deserve.

C. Acknowledging Willfulness (vv.10-14)

1. The reality of willful sin. The people of Israel knew God's commands through His prophets (Exo 34:15, 16; Deu 7:3; 23:6). Yet they still willfully disobeyed Him and broke His commandments again and again.
2. After experiencing God's grace, beware of choosing to sin continually against God. Don't take God's grace for granted.
3. Application: Not seeking balance here; stay close to Christ! Not seeking the boundary; stay in the centre!

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

1. “You are just” (“You are righteous”, NIV, NAS) is a declaration of praise to Yahweh, the God of Israel. If God were to punish us for our sins, even destroying us, He would be fully justified. We have no valid defence. We are guilty as charged: “None can stand before You”.
2. God has shown mercy and grace to us in Christ. He is no less just in letting the guilty go free on Christ's account (1 Jn 1:8-9).

Conclusion

Fear the Lord. Take decisive action to confess and deal seriously with our sins.