

"Though the fig tree does not bud & there are no grapes on the vines ... though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour."
Habakkuk 3:17-18



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A WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY

17 January 2021

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Today, 10:15am over Zoom

Book Study: The Man In The Mirror, Part 6: Solving Our Integrity Problems - Leading A Secret Thought Life
All men are welcome to join the Fellowship. Please WhatsApp to Elder Paul Chan at 98171378 for the meeting link.

LADIES' MEETING: Today, 10:15am over Zoom

Topic: Spiritual Renewal - Giving All To Christ
Speaker: Prof Koh Siang Kiang (Singapore Bible College)
We welcome all ladies and their friends to join us after the morning service. The meeting link will be broadcast on Saturday, 16 January.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops. Proverbs 3:9

Via PayNow

Log in to your mobile banking app. Make transfer to UEN: 19500088K or scan the QR code.



Bank Transfer/ATM

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Crossed cheque made payable to "Bethesda (Katong) Church".

For all giving, please specify the purpose as follows:
General Fund (GF);
Missionary Fund (MF);
COVID-19 Support Fund (CV)
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ENGLISH CONGREGATION FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE

Weekly Average Attendance	Year	Monthly Average	
		General Fund	Missionary Fund
190 ^(a)	2020 Q1	\$19,776	\$13,206
160 ^(b)	2020 Q2	\$34,187	\$10,457
159 ^(c)	2020 Q3	\$23,664	\$12,588
168 ^(d)	2020 Q4	\$38,837	\$14,703

(a) Beginning of Pandemic (b) Commencement of online Zoom service (c) Number of devices logged into the Zoom service (d) Online and onsite attendance

Rend Your HEART AND NOT YOUR garments

In Hebrew custom, tearing one's clothing was a visible and striking expression of extraordinary emotion, usually of horror, terror or grief. The tearing of one's clothing was sometimes accompanied by other signs of humility and grief such as wearing

sackcloth (2 Samuel 3:31), shaving one's head (Job 1:20), and sprinkling dust on oneself (Job 2:12).

There are times when one should tear their garments, but did not. When the prophet Jeremiah received the word of the Lord of an impending judgment on Judah, he wrote the prophecy in a scroll and delivered it to King Jehoiakim. When the king heard all these words, he cut the scroll off bit by bit with a knife, and threw it in the fire pot. Alas, the king and his servants neither showed fear, nor did they tear their garments (Jeremiah 36:23-24). There was no remorse for their sin and they had no fear of God.

In Joel 2:12-13, the people were facing an impending judgment too, just as was the case in the days of the prophet Jeremiah. This fearsome "Day of the Lord" is described in Joel 2:1-11. However, God was not seeking so much an outward show of repentance and humility as he was more concerned for true and genuine repentance from the heart. While God can certainly execute his fearsome wrath, he much prefers to leave a blessing if the people would return to him, for God is "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity" (Joel 2:13). This is a refrain we see in Exodus 34:6 and Psalm 103:8.

Genuine repentance is more than just feeling sorrow for one's sin. It also involves a complete change of heart. This involves a full surrender and submission to God, not just a partial one. Even then, it is not something we can do on our own. Even as we truly repent, we are still not perfect. God himself will have to give us a new heart and put a new spirit within us (Ezekiel 36:26). The extent of God's grace and compassion, and his rich love is ultimately seen in the gift of his Son Jesus Christ to us. He died so as to free us from sin. In Jesus Christ, the love and justice of God meet.

What of your heart does God need to work on?

Have you truly repented and are you living a fully surrendered life to him?



FOCUS ON PRAYER

The praying church grows by worshipping God and serving people

1. TODAY'S SPEAKER

DR SAMUEL GOH: Pray for Dr Samuel Goh (Brisbane School of Theology) who gives us today's ministry message on the topic **"The Locusts Attack"** (Joel 2:1-17). Pray that we will have attentive hearts to this message given to us.

2. PRAYER OF REPENTANCE AND THANKSGIVING

Adapted from Joel 2:1-17

Heavenly Father,

May we return to you in genuine repentance, to rend our hearts and not our garments. Even as we do so, we give you thanks that you are a God who is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and who relents from sending calamity. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

3. JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL (JSS)

Pray the following for our JSS:

- * Praise the Lord for the teachers who continue to serve faithfully in this ministry: Yeo Ai Leng, Roselyn Chan, Cecilia Ezekiel, Poh Po Ting, Gaby George, Doris Lau, Eve Yap, June Neng and Sharon Rodrigues, and for their new teachers, Jonathan and Cassandra Lee;
- * Thank God for the new opportunities for them to reach out to nine non-BKC children during this time of the pandemic;
- * Pray that the teachers will continue to be led by the Holy Spirit as they prepare the Zoom lessons each week;
- * Pray that they will be able to find a suitable timing for all 35 children to join in regularly in 2021;
- * Pray along with them as they explore the possibility of a hybrid JSS and as they come up with fun and interesting programmes that will slowly ease the children and their families back to physical Sunday School.

TODAY

The Locusts Attack (Joel 2:1-17)

SPEAKER

Dr Samuel Goh
(Brisbane School of Theology)

SERMON NOTES

NEXT SUNDAY

A Promise Of Restoration (Joel 2:18-32)

SPEAKER

Dr Scott Callahan
(Baptist Theological Seminary)

THEME

Living Faithfully In Times Of
Trouble

VERSES FOR THE WEEK

Joel 2:12-13 (NIV)

¹² “Even now,”
declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your
heart, with fasting and
weeping and mourning.”

¹³ Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and
compassionate, slow to anger
and abounding in love, and he
relents from sending calamity.