

"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

19 September 2021

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

Book Study: Disciplines Of A Godly Man by R. Kent Hughes

Topic: Part 2 – Relationships: Discipline Of Friendship

All men are welcome to join the Fellowship. Please WhatsApp to Elder Paul Chan at 98171378 for the meeting link.

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

Theme: The Grace Of Humility

Speaker: Ms Rita Ong (Bethesda Pasir-Ris Mission Church)

We welcome all ladies and their friends to join us after the morning service. Please WhatsApp Susan at 81261986 if you do not have the Zoom link.

JOIN A CARE GROUP TODAY!

The Bible reminds us that our discipleship journey is more of a team effort than an individual solo run. BKC Care Groups began in our church over forty years ago and continues on till today.

If you are not in any Care Group yet, do approach Leong Kok Weng or email to him at leong.kok.weng@bethesdakatong.org.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

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

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For all giving, please specify the purpose as follows:

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or Disaster Relief Fund (DRF).

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Till In Me A Heart Of Flesh

I wonder how many of us are awed by the display of God's great power in the account of the ten plagues of Egypt? The main character responsible for causing such a series of calamities on himself and Egypt was certainly not moved.

Pharaoh's defiance towards God was in full view when he proudly said to Moses and Aaron: "Who is the LORD that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2).

And so, with each of the three plagues in the first cycle – the Nile turned into blood, land covered in frogs and dust became lice, "Pharaoh's heart became hard" (Exodus 7:22), "he hardened his heart" (Exodus 8:15) and "Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen" (Exodus 8:19).

A hardened heart has no fear of God. It is rebellious, unbelieving, and proud. Lest we think only the ilk of Pharaoh will dare to defy God, just look around us. Today's world is full of people who are "lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:2-4).

Mankind's propensity for sin harks back to the original family. Cain was angry because God favoured Abel's offering and not his. God said to Cain in Genesis 4:7, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." But instead of repenting of his anger and jealousy, Cain hardened his heart and murdered his own brother.

One unrepented sin will lead to another. With each sin, the heart gradually hardens until one can no longer hear God's voice nor want to obey him. Sin, instead of God, has us. Cain opened the door to his heart and let sin in. Pharaoh went one step further – he repeatedly defied God's order until there was no way back.

The Bible tells us that everything we do flows from our heart (Proverbs 4:23) and yet it is very deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9). How then do we keep it tender and responsive to God? By guarding it with God's word, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11).



FOCUS ON PRAYER

The praying church grows by worshipping God and serving people

1. TODAY'S SPEAKER

DOUGLAS CHAN: Pray for Deacon Dr Douglas Chan who gives us today's ministry message on the topic “**The First Cycle Of Plagues**” (**Exodus 7:14-8:19**). Pray that we will have attentive hearts to this message given to us.

2. GUARD US FROM UNYIELDING HEARTS

Adapted from Exodus 7:14-8:19

Dear Heavenly Father,

Our hearts are deceitful, and we have the propensity to sin. Pharaoh saw your mighty acts but hardened his heart. Guard us from unyielding hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

3. FOREIGN WORKERS MINISTRY:

Pray the following for our Foreign Workers Ministry (FWM):

- * Pray for the Lord to bring more people to serve in this ministry.
- * Pray for God's wisdom to meet the needs of our foreign-worker believers especially during this pandemic.
- * Pray that the Lord will protect their families from COVID-19 and unforeseen situations.
- * Praise God for one foreign worker's salvation at Alpha 2021. Pray that as they continue to do follow-up lessons with her, she will grow in her understanding and love for God. May God use her as an inspiration for others in the FWM group.

TODAY

The First Cycle Of Plagues
(Exodus 7:14-8:19)

Speaker

Deacon Dr Douglas Chan

SERMON NOTES

THEME

Living Faithfully In Times
Of Trouble

VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Exodus 8:19 (NIV)

The magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

NEXT SUNDAY

The Second Cycle Of Plagues
(Exodus 8:20-9:12)

SPEAKER

Elder Paul Chan