

Feltham Evangelical Church

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Newsletter: April 2017

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Calendar

W/c 26th March

Sun 26th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Paul Biddle)
Sun 26th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship (Paul Biddle)
Sun 26th 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Diana)
Tues 28th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 28th 5.00.p.m. - Young People's Bible Study
Tues 28th 6.45.p.m. - YY Group
Wed 29th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Mark Henderson)
Thurs 30th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Thurs 30th 7.30.p.m. - Feltham Journey Discussion
Fri 31st 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Sat 1st 11.00.a.m. - Evangelism

W/c 2nd April

Sun 2nd 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Michael Venables)
Sun 2nd 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship (Philip Venables)
Sun 2nd 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Sheila)
Sun 2nd 5.30.p.m. - Together.
Tues 4th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 4th 8.00.p.m. - Elders Meeting
Wed 5th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Is. 49:14-26)
Fri 7th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Sat 8th 7.00.p.m - Feltham Bible Focus; Where is God when things go wrong? (James Chittenden – Tollgate Evangelical Church, Redhill).

W/c 9th April

Sun 9th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Chungman Shon)
Sun 9th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Chungman Shon)
Sun 9th 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Trish)
Sun 9th 1.00.p.m. - Fellowship Lunch
Tues 11th 9.30.a.m - Prayer Meeting
Wed 12th 7.30.p.m. - Stanwell Cong. Ch. (Mark Richards)
Thurs 13th 7.30.p.m. - Cranford Baptist Ch. (Robert Strivens)
Fri 14th 10.30.a.m. - Good Friday Service
Fri 14th 7.30.p.m. - Hayes Town Chapel (Brian Edwards)
Sat 15th 9.00.a.m. - Cleaning and Maintenance

W/c 16th April

Sun 16th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
Sun 16th 11.00.a.m. - Easter Sunday Service
Sun 16th 5.30.p.m. - Equip (Does the Resurrection Matter?)
Tues 18th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 18th 8.00.p.m. - Elders Meeting
Wed 19th 7.30.p.m. - Mission Prayer / Bible Study (Is. 50:1-11)
Fri 21st 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Fri 21st 9.00.p.m. to Sat 22nd 1.00.a.m. - Revive

W/c 23th April (Week of Prayer and Fasting)

Sun 23rd 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
Sun 23rd 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship (Philip Venables)
Sun 23rd 11.15.a.m - Sunday School (Trish)
Sun 23rd 6.30.p.m. - Prayer Meeting
Mon 24th 7.30.p.m - Prayer Meeting
Tues 25th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 25th 5.00.p.m. - Young People's Bible Study
Tues 25th 6.45.p.m. - YY Group
Wed 26th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Marc Khunan)
Thurs 27th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Thurs 27th 7.30.p.m - Feltham Journey Discussion
Fri 28th 9.15.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Fri 28th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Fri 28th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting
Sat 29th 8.00.a.m. - Mens' Breakfast

W/c 30th April

Sun 30th 9.30.a.m. - Lords Supper (Marc Khunan)
Sun 30th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship (Philip Venables)
Sun 30th 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Sheila)
Tues 2nd (May) 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 2nd 5.00.p.m. - Young People's Bible Study
Tues 2nd 6.45.p.m. - YY Group
Tues 2nd 8.00.p.m – Elders Meeting
Wed 3rd 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Rob Goodgame)
Thurs 4th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
Thurs 4th 7.30.p.m – Church Members Annual General Meeting
Fri 5th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House
Sat 6th Evangelism 11.00.a.m.

Notes

Saturday Seminar On April 1st, a seminar is due to take place at Amyand Park Chapel on the subject of 'The Holy Spirit'. This is from 10.30am to 12.30pm. The speaker is Geoff Thomas. We are invited to join with them.

YY Group, Young Persons Bible Study, Early Morning Prayer Meeting and Open House all take a break during the Easter period. See calendar for details

Open House has a special Easter-themed "Pause for Thought" on 7th April.

Feltham Bible Focus is due to take place on Saturday 8th April at 7.00.p.m. The subject is "Where is God when things go wrong?" This is always a relevant subject given the happenings in our own lives and in the world in which we live. James Chittenden from Tollgate Evangelical Church, Redhill is due to be speaking. Come along and bring others.

Week of Prayer With summer soon due to be upon us, we look ahead to a further season in the life of the church. It is important, then, that we set ourselves to move forward with God. Accordingly, during the week commencing on April 23rd we have a week of prayer planned. Let us seek the LORD that He would honour His Name among us. Details of the meetings are on the calendar above. As we seek the Lord it is good to think about the call of the Lord upon us to fast. Why not think of missing one or two (or more) meals during the week?

Equip is on Easter Sunday this year. Accordingly, we intend to consider: Does the Resurrection Matter?

A Men's Breakfast is due to be held on 29th April from 8.00.a.m onwards.

Preaching Meetings In the week preceding Easter (12th, 13th, and 14th April) we are again invited to the series of meetings arranged at local churches (see details in calendar). These are occasions when we can hear good preaching and benefit from fellowship with others.

Our Church Outing is due to take place on the second bank holiday in May (May 29th).

Spiritual Notes

Pat Retires! What does the Lord think?

As our sister Pat, draws her faithful service for the church and her Lord on a Sunday to an end, I want to ponder upon how the Lord views what she has done. One passage that can help us with our understanding is Matthew 20:1-16. This is one of the parables which indicates what the kingdom of heaven is like. Its teaching is derived from how a man went out to the market place at different times of the day to recruit workers to come and work in his vineyard. But what is being taught through this parable?

To start to understand what is taught, we need to get the context for the Lord's teaching here. The latter part of chapter 19 is dealing with the issue of rewards. In the Old Testament, when faith was in its childhood stage of development, God clearly gave tangible rewards for faithful service to Him. There was a clear connection between being devoted to the Lord and getting blessed. With this way of operating in his mind, Peter observes '**We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?**' (Matt. 19:27b). The Lord graciously accommodates Himself to this thinking when He promises rewards in v28. However, He nudges Peter's thinking forward in two ways:-

1. They are going to be judging the twelve tribes of Israel, which indicates they are in a position distinct from Israel and superior to Israel. They are moving into another phase (an adult phase).
2. The rewards are given "for my sake" in v29. This suggests a movement away from rewards as an end in themselves to rewards which result from devotion to Him.

The fact that Matthew 20:1-16 is clearly linked into this passage is seen in how 19:30 and 20:16 are the same. As we look at the parable then, we should discern what is being taught regarding the first being last and the last first.

When we come to the parable itself, we notice initially that only one of the the groups of workers actually entered into a contract with the vineyard owner. This group is the first group who agreed their terms and conditions at the beginning of the day (see v.2). Those who started work at the third, sixth, ninth and eleventh hours had no agreements (see vv.5-7). They started to work trusting that the vineyard owner would give appropriate rewards. The third, sixth and ninth hour recruits appear to have had the promise of being paid what was right, but the eleventh hour peoples did not even have this promise. Whatever the arrangement, all except those who started at the

beginning of the day enlisted for work trusting that the vineyard owner would reward them appropriately.

When it came time to pay the wages we know only that “the eleventh hour men” and “the early in the morning men” all got a denarius. This made those whom were hired first to start grumbling (see v11). They said that they had worked hard all day and could not understand how those, who had only worked in the cooler evening, had got the same amount. They thought that they should have more and therefore concluded that the outcome was unjust.

Let us ponder upon some things about the contracted labourers:-

1. What they got was a reasonable wage for the day. They agreed a decent wage for the days work. They seem to have been happy to agree that. This reflects the thinking of the religious person. I serve to get.
2. Their whole concern was with their own reward and what they were entitled to. The Lord brings his argument to a head by saying to one of those who were hired first **"Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"** (Matt. 20:15). They were not concerned about the rights of the Master.
3. They were concerned about what they got and what blessing they received. They were not concerned with how others were blessed. They were just self-interested. This is what all worldly religion is about. It is about what i can get, not what God gives. True Christianity is about what our generous God gives.
4. They had no joy in respect of how generous the owner was to the eleventh hour men. They did not understand grace. They did not understand how the undeserving could be blessed.

What is this teaching us? It is teaching about:

- those who are working for God as employees of an employer. They think: *"I will do this and I will get that."* They operate on the basis of what they perceive they deserve. This attitude looks upon God as a boss who, if you do what you need to do, will give you appropriate wages. It tends towards viewing service in the terms of a hard slog. They have no sense of God being generous.
- those who serve a generous God because they delight to serve in His vineyard. In the kingdom of heaven, the workers in His service serve with a trust that the Master will give them what is appropriate in line with His generosity. Whatever the service they do for Him; they gladly receive their reward knowing He is a generous giver. There is a sense that “the eleventh hour workers” could have said that it was

reward enough to have just been given opportunity to spend sometime profitably rather than just lolling around the market place. But, like God, the master was generous.

So in the kingdom of heaven, we happily serve in the vineyard and look to the Master to give His reward. We believe Him to be a generous master. And in that way, the first becomes last and the last first. The ones who serve for reward expect to be first because of what they have put in to their labour. The ones who serve because they appreciate the Master and want to serve in His vineyard will be first even though they may be last according to their own, and the worlds', standards. Which leads me to suggest that Pat's quiet and faithful service, which the world may consider insignificant, is very likely of great value in the Lord's eyes.

So what about us? Are we those who serve to get what is our due? Or are we those who serve in order to do our best for the Master and leave the matter of any rewards with Him? If we are the latter we do well.