

Feltham Evangelical Church

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Newsletter: December 2017

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Calendar

December 2017

w/c 26th November

Sun 26th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper.
(Marc Khunan)
Sun 26th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship.
(Philip Venables)
Sun 26th 11.15.a.m - Sunday School.
(Sheila)
Tues 28th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Tues 28th 5.00.p.m. - Engage.
Tues 28th 6.45.p.m. - YY Group.
Wed 29th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study
(Isaiah 57:14-21)
Thurs 30th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Thurs 30th 7.30.p.m. - Feltham Journey
Discussion.
Fri 1st 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open
House.

Sat 2nd 11.00.a.m. - Evangelism.

w/c 3rd December

Sun 3rd 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper.
(Philip Venables)
Sun 3rd 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship.
(Philip Venables)
Sun 3rd 11.15.a.m - Sunday School.
(Sheila)
Sun 3rd 5.30.p.m. - Together.
Tues 5th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Tues 5th 5.00.p.m. - Engage.
Tues 5th 6.45.p.m. - YY Group.
Tues 5th 8.00.p.m. - Elders Meeting.
Wed 6th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study
(Isaiah 58:1-9a)
Fri 8th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open
House.
Sat 9th 7.00 p.m. - Feltham Bible Focus -
There Are Many Ways To God.
(Robert Goodgame - Bethlehem Chapel,
Richmond.)

w/c 10th December

Sun 10th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper.
(Philip Venables)
Sun 10th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship.
(Andrew Heron)
Sun 10th 11.15.a.m - Sunday School.
(Trish)
Sun 10th 1.00.p.m. - Fellowship Lunch.

Tues 12th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Tues 12th 5.00.p.m. - Engage.
Tues 12th 6.45.p.m. - YY Group.
Wed 13th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study.
(Isaiah 58:9b-14)
Fri 15th 10.00. a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open
House.
Sat 16th 9.00.a.m. - Cleaning and
Maintenance.

w/c 17th December

Sun 17th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper.
(Marc Khunan)
Sun 17th 11.00.a.m. - Christmas Carol
Service. (Philip Venables)
Sun 17th 5.30.p.m. - Equip.
(The Virgin Birth)
Tues 19th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Wed 20th 7.30.p.m. - Mission Prayer / Bible
Study. (Isaiah 59:1-11)
Sat 23rd 5.30 a.m. to 8.30a.m. - Revive.

w/c 24th December

Sun 24th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper.
(Philip Venables)
Sun 24th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship.
(Philip Venables)
Sun 24th 6.30.p.m to 9.30.p.m - "At Home"
at Mark and Laura's
Mon 25th 10.30.a.m. - Christmas Day
Service
Wed 27th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer and The Word.
Sat 30th 8.00.a.m. - Men's Breakfast

w/c 31st December

Sun 31st 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper.
(Philip Venables)
Sun 31st 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship.
(Marc Khunan)
Sun 31st 5.30.p.m - Together
Tues 2nd (Jan) 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Tues 2nd 8.00.p.m. - Elders Meeting.
Wed 3rd 7.30.p.m. - Prayer and The Word.
Thurs 30th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Friday 5th 10.00.a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open
House.
Sat 6th 11.00.a.m. - Evangelism.

Notes

Carol Service On Sunday 17th December at 11.00.a.m. we intend to hold our Christmas Carol Service. This gives a specific opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbours to hear the glorious gospel message of how Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Christmas Lunch After the service on Christmas Day, there is an invitation to share a Christmas lunch together. All connected with the church are welcome to join in this. So if you have nowhere else to go on Christmas Day please feel free to join with us. If you intend to stay you must inform May Lin by December 22nd so that the relevant catering can be set in place

Creation Event Cranford Baptist Church are hosting an event on Saturday 9th December from 3pm onwards with speakers Prof. Andy McIntosh and Prof. Stuart Burgess from Answers In Genesis. The two sessions are entitled: The Wonders of Creation and The Star of Bethlehem.

Equip With Christmas upon us we consider the Virgin Birth at Equip this month on December 17th at 5.30.p.m.

A Gospel Social is due to take place at Amyand Park Chapel between 3.30.p.m and 6.00.p.m. on December 2nd . Jeremy Walker is speaking. This is an event for 20's to 40's. Please see Lloyd for further information.

6.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting There will be no Thursday Early Morning prayer Meeting in December

Together On December 3rd we plan to have "An evening with Margaret." Philip will seek to interview Margaret (Lee) about her life, her missionary service and so much more. We start at 5.30.p.m.

Fellowship Lunch On December 10th we are planning to have "bring-and-share" fellowship meal.

Feltham Bible Focus This month is due to take place on December 9th when Robert Goodgame is preaching on the subject: There Are Many Ways To God. Come along and find out whether that really is true.

Open House On December 15th we intend to have a festive flavour to Open House. Besides seasonal refreshments we plan to have a Christmas message and sing some carols, starting at 11.00.a.m. (approximately). There is then planned to be a two week break with a re-start due on January 5th .

“At Home” On December 24th from 6.30.p.m to 9.30.p.m all connected with the church are welcome to join with Mark and Laura at their home for a time together.

The Feltham Journey We continue with our scheme to read through the Bible in two years. Leaflets with the readings are in the entrance hall or you can find them at the Resources section of the church web-site.

New Year's Eve On December 31st we are due to have a New Years Eve “Together” as we look back over the past year and look forward to the new year together

Spiritual Notes

Conviction of Sin

To be convicted of my sin means that I have it proven to me that sin is seriously bad and puts me in a desperate position. It must be made clear straight away, that such an experience only truly happens when this process is experienced before God, with an awareness of who the eternal Lord God is.

The reason I say that God must be included is that we can have all kinds of bad feelings about our conduct and the consequences thereof without being truly convicted of sin. So:

- If I break the speed-limit and I end up with a fine. My bad feelings can just be because I got fined and lost some money; I am not convicted of sin
- I can know through studying the Bible, or even some other religious or philosophical text, that lying is wrong and telling the truth is good. But that does not mean I am convicted of sin.
- If I get drunk I can feel ashamed before my children or spouse because of my resulting misbehaviour. But that does not mean I am convicted of sin.

True conviction of sin only happens when God is on the scene. It happens when we are aware of the greatness and glory of God. It happens when we realise our lives are lived under His gaze.

But perhaps we have hastened on in this study too quickly and we need to stop and consider the question: does it matter? Does it matter whether or not I am convicted of sin? The answer to this is a big definite, cannot be stressed too strongly – Yes! It does matter. It matters because being convicted of sin is the start on the way to receiving Christ as Saviour. If you have never had any conviction of sin then you are not a believer in Christ Jesus. In a sense, the issue could not be bigger.

The Bible says that the work of convicting of sin is specifically the work of the Holy Spirit. In John 16:8-11 we read about the Holy Spirit being sent to **prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.**

In this convicting, convincing and proving work regarding sin, righteousness and judgment we need to notice that God is at the heart of the matter. Sin is proven because of not believing in the Son, righteousness is proven because the Son has been accepted by the Father in heaven and judgment is proven because there is a sinful one, Satan, who is condemned by God and excluded from blessing.

In order to understand what true conviction is it is good to find example.

- In Psalm 51 we have David's response to his awareness of the grievous sin he had committed in committing adultery with Bathsheba and having her husband killed. When he says to God **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight** (Ps. 51:4b) we hear the words of a man convicted of his sin.
- In Isaiah 6 we find Isaiah the prophet given a vision of the glories of heaven. Upon seeing the holy beauty of the King of that place we read **'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.'** (Is. 6:5). That is conviction of sin.
- In Luke 5 Peter sees His Saviour intervene to bring in a great haul of fish. **When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!'** (Luke 5:8). This is conviction of sin.

How can we know this conviction? We need to be aware of the God who is resplendent in glory and is our Maker and Sustainer. We need to realise what He hates and loves; this is found in His law summarised in the Ten Commandments. And when we fail to keep such standards we are broken and distraught. Broken because our conduct and beings are offensive to God and we are in danger of a just and everlasting punishment.

Such a position is the great position of hope though, because the convicted sinner who moves on to repentance is on the way to knowing God's glorious salvation. When repentance flows into confession then through Jesus Christ who once shed His blood for us on the cross, we are led into salvation. The Holy Spirit in 1 John 1:9 says **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** Sins can only be confessed when they are known and they are known in the presence of God alone.

No-one has ever been saved without some experience of conviction of sin. But never stay and wallow in conviction of sin, always move on to repentance, confession and trust in Christ. And know His salvation. Such a great salvation. Such a beautiful saviour.