

Feltham Evangelical Church

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Newsletter: December 2018

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Calendar

w/c 25 th November	Wed 12 th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Marc Khunan)
Sun 25 th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper. (Philip Venables)	Thurs 13 th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Sun 25 th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship. (Philip Venables)	Fri 14 th 10.00. a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Christmas Open House.
Tues 27 th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.	w/c 16 th December
Tues 27 th 6.30.p.m. - Engage.	Sun 16 th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper. (Lloyd Mushambadzi)
Wed 28 th 7.30.p.m. - Christian Institute Meeting	Sun 16 th 11.00.a.m. - Christmas Carol Service. (Philip Venables)
Thurs 29 th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.	Sun 16 th 5.30.p.m. - Equip. (1 Kings)
Fri 30 th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House.	Tues 18 th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Sat 1 st 11.00.a.m. - Evangelism.	Tues 18 th 6.30.p.m. - YY Group
w/c 2 nd December	Wed 19 th 7.30.p.m. - Mission Prayer / Bible Study. (2 Cor. 3:1-6)
Sun 2 nd 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper. (Philip Venables)	Thurs 20 th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Sun 2 nd 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship. (Philip Venables)	Fri 21 st 9.00.p.m. to Sat 22 nd 1.00a.m. - Revive.
Sun 2 nd 5.30.p.m. - Together.	w/c 23 rd December
Tues 4 th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.	Sun 23 rd 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper. (Philip Venables)
Tues 4 th 6.30.p.m. - Engage.	Sun 23 rd 11.00.a.m. - Christmas Carol Service. (Mark Henderson)
Tues 4 th 8.00.p.m. - Elders Meeting.	Sun 23 rd 6.30.p.m to 9.30.p.m - "At Home" at Philip and May Lin's
Wed 5 th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Dmitri Filchev)	Tues 25 th 10.30.a.m. - Christmas Day Service
Thurs 29 th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.	Sat 29 th 8.00.a.m. - Men's Breakfast
Fri 7 th 10.00 a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House.	w/c 30 th December
Sat 8 th 7.00 p.m. - Feltham Bible Focus – Virgins Don't Have Babies?! <i>(Robert Goodgame - Bethlehem Chapel, Richmond.)</i>	Sun 30 th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper. (Philip Venables)
w/c 9 th December	Sun 30 th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship. (Philip Venables)
Sun 9 th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper. (Chungman Shon)	Mon 31 st 5.00.p.m to 8.30.p.m - New Years Eve Party
Sun 9 th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship. (Chungman Shon)	Wed 2 nd (Jan) 7.30.p.m. - Prayer and The Word.
Sun 9 th 1.00.p.m. - Fellowship Lunch.	Thurs 3 rd 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.
Tues 11 th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting.	Friday 4 th 10.00.a.m. to 12.00.p.m. - Open House.
Tues 11 th 6.30.p.m. - Engage.	Sat 5 th 11:00.a.m. - Evangelism.

Notes

The Christian Institute who seek to be a witness for the Lord in political and legal matters are due to be with us on November 28th. They are due to give a presentation on their work.

Feltham Bible Focus This month we have the last of our scheduled Bible Focus evenings. On December 8th Robert Goodgame will seek to teach us about the truth and implications of the Virgin Birth of our Lord. The title is "Virgins don't have babies?!"

Fellowship Lunch On December 9th we are planning to have "bring-and-share" fellowship meal.

Open House On December 14th 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 4th.

Carol Services On Sundays 16th and 23rd December at 11.00.a.m. we intend to hold Christmas Carol Services. These give specific opportunities to invite family, friends and neighbours to hear the glorious gospel message of how Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Equip Having had to postpone our study in 1 Kings last month we plan to continue to look at our studies in the Old Testament by looking at that book on December 16th.

"At Home" On December 23rd from 6.30.p.m to 9.30.p.m all connected with the church are welcome to join with Philip and May Lin at their home.

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.

New Year's Eve On December 31st we are due to have a Church Family New Years Eve party together. We plan to have some games, food and a time of worship and prayer. This is due to be between 5.00.p.m and 8.30.p.m.

6.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting The early morning prayer meeting on a Thursday continues. This is open to all and gives a great opportunity to seek the Lord with His people.

The Feltham Journey In January 2019 we plan to re-commence our scheme to read the Bible in two years. Reading plans are due to be available later in the month. For further information please speak to Mark.

Spiritual Notes

Sin and the Christian

Does a Christian sin? Yes. Should a Christian sin? No. Let us look at the Christian's relationship to sin.

At the cross the one who believes in Jesus has full forgiveness of sins. We are truly "ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven" as the hymn by Henry Lyte says. The blood of Jesus Christ deals with all of our sins; past, present and future. As Paul puts it after having run through the gospel message in the previous chapters of Romans there is now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1). Glorious and wonderful these facts are to us. In Christ Jesus we are perfectly acceptable to God; all our sins is taken away because Jesus died to take them away; praise Him!

However, in God's ordained purpose we are not yet in heaven. In heaven we will have sinless perfection. Alas in this world we still struggle with the reality of the flesh (sinful nature) still being within us pushing us to sin. So John says that we are self deceivers if we say that we are without sin: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8).

Whenever sin does arise in our lives we should consider it to be a terrible development. After all sin is darkness and we are called to live in the light (see 1 John 1:7). Sin is such a terrible thing that we should be willing to cut off the parts of our body that are the cause of such sin (see Matthew 5:29-30). Sin is such a terrible thing because it is an offence against the beautiful holiness of God.

If we are aware of the vileness of sin what are we to do? We must confess it. We must acknowledge it for what it is and repent of it. I must say to God that I want an end of such terrible conduct in my life. Upon that confession we can know the cleansing of the blood of our Lord Jesus shed on the cross for us, we can know restoration of our relationship with the Lord and we can enjoy the Christ-obtained fellowship with our God. John puts it like this If we confess our sins, he

is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)

If we consider that a Christian cannot sin we will end up twisting our minds and our souls. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us (1 John 1:10). The sin which occurs in our lives will be defined in an alternative, lying way if we believe a Christian cannot sin. In so doing we make God a liar. To deny sin for what it is, is to act contrary to God's Word. So if we commit adultery, which is a sin and condemned in God's Word we will alternatively define it. Such an action leads a mess as we live in denial. Repentance which is the key that releases us into God's favour will be gone from our lives. So there will be no joyous fellowship with God (see 1 John 1:3-4).

In 1 John 2:1 John goes on to explain the mechanics of what happens in God working to keep us in a secure relationship with Him. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. The basic issue is that we should not be sinning as Christians. In fact John will go on to say bluntly later in his letter that if we do just continue on in sin: No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him (1 John 3:6).

Sadly, all Christians have lapses into sin, although that is not how it should be. In such a case we have the joy of the fact that Jesus speaks up for us, as our advocate, right there in the presence of God. He has no sin of his own; He is righteous. But He pleads before the Father how He gave Himself for us; shedding His blood for our sins. As a result of His work on the cross being accepted by God to finish our sins so we are accepted by God. We can never lose our eternal blessings. Nothing, and that includes our sin, can eternally separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

So fellow Christian you should not sin. But if you do sin, repentance for your sin and knowing Jesus stands in heaven is all you need. Through this you know all is well (Jesus is in heaven for you) and you can experience that all is well through your repentance.