

# **Feltham Evangelical Church**

**A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith**

## **Newsletter: August 2019**

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## Calendar

### **w/c 28<sup>th</sup> July**

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)  
Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship (1 John 2:15-27; Philip Venables)  
Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 1.15.pm. - Church Picnic  
Tues 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Wed 31<sup>st</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study (Marc Khunan)  
Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> 11.00.am - Evangelism

### **w/c 4<sup>th</sup> August**

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper (Marc Khunan)  
Sun 4<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship (1 John 2:28-3:10; Philip Venables)  
Sun 4<sup>th</sup> 5.30.pm. - Together  
Tues 6<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Wed 7<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer and The Word

### **w/c 11<sup>th</sup> August**

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper (Josh Venables)  
Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship (1 John 3:11-24; Philip Venables)  
Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 1.00.pm. - Fellowship Lunch  
Tues 13<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Wed 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer and The Word

### **w/c 18<sup>th</sup> August**

Sun 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)  
Sun 18<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship (1 John 4:1-6 Philip Venables)  
Sun 18<sup>th</sup> 5.30.pm. - Equip (Why I'm A Cessationist)  
Tues 20<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Wed 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer and The Word  
Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> 9.00.pm to Midnight - Revive

### **w/c 25<sup>th</sup> August**

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)  
Sun 25<sup>th</sup> 11.00.am. - Morning Worship (1 John 4:7-21; Philip Venables)  
Mon 26<sup>th</sup> 10.30.am. - Church Fellowship Day  
Tues 27<sup>th</sup> 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting  
Wed 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30.pm. - Prayer and The Word  
Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> 7.00.pm. - Muslim Evangelism  
Sat 31<sup>st</sup> 11.00.am - Men's Breakfast

## Notes

**Fellowship Meal** On August 11<sup>th</sup> we intend to have our fellowship meal together. It is on a bring-and-share basis.

**Prayer and The Word** The Wednesday evening gatherings, during August will take the form of a “Prayer / The Word” time when all are free to pray and share from the Word.

**Equip** This month we look at the issue of whether or not spiritual gifts continue on in the church. Philip is due to be leading us and the title is “Why I’m a Cessationist”. This is due to be on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Church Picnic** On July 28<sup>th</sup> we plan to have a picnic lunch together at Bedfont Lakes. Bring your food and share together. We meet at the Ashford entrance after our Morning Worship Service.

**Baptism** If you are connected with church and have become a true follower of Jesus Christ then you need to move forward to baptism. If you want to be baptised please speak to one of the elders.

**Muslim Evangelism** This month, on August 29<sup>th</sup>, we plan to have further opportunity for training in reaching out to Muslims. We are due to meet in Hounslow at 7.00.pm. Jimmy Aitkenhead from London City Mission will be leading us.

**Open House** is closed during August. It is due to re-open on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Car Park** In order to make it easier for all to use the car park please could those who come first park nearest to the fence / wall on either side.

**Preaching** At our 11.00.am Morning Worship we continue our studies in the Letters of John during August.

**Fellowship Day** From 10.30.am. on August 26<sup>th</sup>, Bank Holiday Monday, we intend to spend a day together based at the church premises. Pray for a great day and come along if you can. It is planned that the day will include:

- Bible Teaching (focussing on the subject of unity/uniformity) and Worship in the morning,
- Lunch together with barbecue type food
- Activities in the afternoon.

## Spiritual Notes

### Persecution.

Persecution is the experiencing of opposition, mockery and violence because of taking a stand for a cause. Persecution is the story of the church. But is persecution a good thing or a bad thing? Our Lord Jesus said to His followers that **Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.** (Mark 10:29-30).

The insertion of the statement “with persecutions” should shock us. It is shocking because the whole context of our Lord's speech is that of blessings. But in the middle is something we conceive of as a curse; namely “with persecutions”. But, are we right to think of persecutions as a curse? Could it be that what we immediately consider to be a curse is actually a blessing?

If we look at the church in the West over the last two centuries, where open persecution has largely been absent, can we conclude that this has been a good situation? Alas, I fear that we have to answer in the negative. The church over that time has displayed a prevalent spirit of Laodisceanism. Our Lord says of the church at Laodicea **“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.** (Rev. 3:15-17). The church which is not being persecuted tends towards half-heartedness.

On the contrary persecution of the church has led to the fruitfulness of the church. History has proven the truth of Tertullian's statement that *“the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church”* So why is it that persecution is beneficial to the church?

**Sifting:** When there is sifting taking place then the different parts of substance are separated. Persecution sifts the church. It means that those who are half-hearted and not true cross-bearers decide that they do not want to face the rigours of persecution and so they leave the people of God. Moreover, when the church is being persecuted it is only those who are genuinely cleansed by the blood of Jesus who want to take their stand with

Him.

**Devotion:** Persecution drives away worldliness. Worldly attitudes invade the church when the world presents its sweet and pleasant face. Satan tricks people into thinking that we can live with twin-loves for the world and God. In such a situation worldliness rather than godliness overwhelms the church. Persecution makes us see the world for what it really is. It is the system which operates in opposition to God whether that be in the political, economic, social, entertainment or whatever realm. Persecution causes the godly to realise what is happening and reject the delusion of being twin-lovers and devote themselves singularly to loving the Father. In all this we remember the words of John that **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him** (1 John 2:15b).

**Passion:** In 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 Paul says to the casual Corinthians Christians **Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.** When the church is dominated with those who profess Christ, but live half-heartedly, showing they have no knowledge of God, then that affects everyone. True believers are dragged back and their passion ebbs away. Persecution rids the church of the half-hearted and leads to a more passionate church. This in turn attracts those who are passionate. As Augustine said: *"One loving spirit sets another on fire."*

When persecution arrives it brings a great wake-up call to the church. So how do we view our situation now? We would be foolish to relish the implications of persecution from the authorities and our society in terms of all that it may mean concerning our jobs, buildings and freedoms. However, it may usher in better days for the church in the UK.