

Feltham Evangelical Church

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Newsletter: September 2019

Feltham Evangelical Church, Manor Lane, Feltham TW13 4JQ

T:020 8844 0352

W:www.felthamevangelicalchurch.org.uk

E: info@felthamevangelicalchurch.org.uk

Calendar

w/c 26th August

Sun 25th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Philip Venables)

Sun 25th 11.00.am. - Morning Worship
(1 John 4:7-21; Philip Venables)

Mon 26th 10.30.am. - Fellowship Day

Tues 27th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

Tues 27th 8.00.pm. - Leadership
Meeting

Wed 28th 7.30.pm. - Prayer and the
Word

Thurs 29th 7.00.pm. - Muslim
Evangelism

Sat 31st 8.00.am. - Men's Breakfast

w/c 1st September

Sun 1st 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Dmitri Filchev)

Sun 1st 11.00.am.- Morning Worship (1
John 5:1-12; David Henderson)

Sun 1st 5.30.pm. - Together

Mon 2nd 7.30.pm. - Prayer Meeting

Tues 3rd 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

Wed 4th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (Lloyd Mushambadzi)

Thurs 5th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (at
church building)

Thurs 5th 7.30.pm. - Prayer Meeting

Fri 6th 9.15.am. - Prayer Meeting

Fri 6th 10.00.am. to midday. - Open
House.

Fri 6th 7.30.pm - Prayer Meeting

Sat 7th 9.00.am. - Prayer Meeting

Sat 7th 10.00.am. - Evangelism

w/c 8th September

Sun 8th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(David Legg)

Sun 8th 11.00.am.- Morning Worship (1
John 5:13-21; David Legg)

Sun 8th 1.00.pm. - Fellowship Lunch

Tues 10th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting

Tues 10th 8.00.pm. - Leadership
Meeting

Wed 11^h 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (Lloyd Mushambadzi)

Thurs 12th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (at
Andrew and Brenda's)

Thurs 12th 7.30.pm - Church Members
Meeting

Fri 13th 10.00.a.m. to midday – Open
House

w/c 15th September

Sun 15th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper (Clay
Gibbons)

Sun 15th 11.00.am. - Morning Worship (2
John; Clay Gibbons)

Sun 15th 5.30.pm. - Equip (Fasting)

Tues 16th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

Wed 18th 7.30.pm. - Mission Prayer /
Bible Study (Lloyd Mushambadzi)

Thurs 19th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
(at Andrew and Brenda's)

Fri 20th 10.00. am. to midday - Open
House

Sat 21st 8.30.am. - Ladies Breakfast

w/c 22nd September

Sun 22nd 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Philip Venables)

Sun 22nd 11.00.am. - Morning Worship
(3 John; Philip Venables)

Tues 24th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

Tues 24th 8.00.pm. - Leadership Meeting

Wed 25th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (2 Cor. 7:2-7)

Thurs 26th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
(at Philip and May Lin's)

Fri 27th 10.00 am. to midday - Open
House

Fri 27th 9.00.pm to midnight - Revive

w/c 29th September

Sun 29th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Philip Venables)

Sun 29th 11.00.am. - Morning Worship
(Philip Venables)

Tues 1st (Oct) 9.30.am. - Prayer
Meeting

Wed 3rd 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study
(2 Cor. 7:8-16)

Thurs 4th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting (at
Philip and May Lin's)

Sat 6th 11.00.am. - Evangelism.

Notes

Fellowship Day Join with us on August 26th for our day of fellowship together from 10.30.am. In the morning we are due to look at the Word (considering Unity) and Worship the Lord together. Then there is a lunch with bbq type food together and activities in the afternoon. And this year we are due to have the special treat of a bouncy castle.

Week of Prayer and Fasting With the autumn term ahead we want to put all the affairs of the church in the Lord's hands. Accordingly, we are due to have a week of prayer and fasting in the week beginning on September 1st. We need the power of the Lord upon us by His Spirit, Our particular focus during the week is that of evangelism, discipleship and knowing the power of the Lord among us.

Fasting it is good to think of giving up meals during the week to seek the Lord. In particular we plan to use the period of 8.30.am on Friday 6th to 8.30.am on Saturday 7th as a fasting time. From 8.30.am on the Saturday we intend to break-fast together at the church building.

Equip On September 15th Robert Goodgame from Bethlehem Chapel in Richmond is due to be leading us in a study on fasting.

An Evangelistic Event is due to take place on October 12th at 7.30.pm. Paul Levy from the International Presbyterian Church in West Ealing is due to speak. The theme is "Love Thy Neighbour". See Mark for more information.

Leadership Meetings The elders (Philip and Zach) and evangelist (Mark) plan to be meeting together twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays, to seek the Lord and consider the affairs of the church. Pray for them.

Breakfasts There is opportunity for the men on August 31st at 8.00.am. and the ladies on September 21st at 8.30.am. to have fellowship together over breakfast.

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

Bible Study On September 4th, 11th and 18th Lloyd Mushambadzi will be leading us in some studies in Hosea.

Open House recommences this month, after the summer break, on September 6th

Church Members' Meeting On September 12th the church members meet for fellowship and to consider issues in the life of the church. Pray for a time of knowing the Lord and his way for the church together.

Fellowship Meal On September 8th we intend to have our fellowship meal together. It is on a bring-and-share basis.

Spiritual Notes

Pharaoh's Hardened Heart; Whodunnit?

Many have investigated and sought to reach a conclusion of who was responsible for Pharaoh's heart being hardened in Exodus 1-14. Some have concluded that God holds sole responsibility and therefore is a tyrannical ogre who should not only be rejected, but also despised. But are they right? So let's look at the evidence and then you conclude "whodunnit"; who did harden Pharaoh's heart?

Biblical Context. Genesis 3:1-6 casts a gloomy shadow over the whole of the Bible and the whole of history. As a result of the rebellion of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, the whole of their descendants are part of a cursed race. We falsely presume that we are nice people deserving that God should do us lots of favours. However, the reality is we are all wayward like Pharaoh and we all deserve to have hardened hearts (and far worse) because of our rebellion.

Egyptian Context. The Pharaoh of the hardened heart, is never specifically named. This is in order to show that it is not necessarily the individual Pharaoh that is the focus, but the whole Pharaoh system which treated the Pharaoh as a god. In Exodus 1-14 we have the clash between the LORD, who God of the universe, and Pharaoh who was seen as a divine figure. Which of these is sovereign? That's the big question. The clash is all the more graphic as "the god" of Egypt seeks to trap the people who own the LORD as God. If Pharaoh is proven to be divine and in control then everything is different.

Different use of heart hardening There are four different phrases used in

Exodus 1-14:

- The LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart(see Ex. 10:27); The Lord is responsible.
- The heart of Pharaoh was hardened (see Ex. 9:35; responsibility is uncertain.
- Pharaoh hardened his heart (see Ex. 8:32); Pharaoh is responsible
- Pharaoh's heart remained hardened (see Ex. 7:22); responsibility is uncertain

God's Sovereignty For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen (Rom 11:36). This is Paul's observation concerning God's control. We must notice that it says all, not 50% or even 99.99%; "all". God was responsible for hardening Pharaoh's heart as He is for everything in this universe.

Man's responsibility. Humans are always portrayed in the Bible as being personally responsible for their sin and thereby for every judgment that comes therefrom. Never can anyone say that they sinned because God made them to.

God is gracious. In giving the nine plagues between Exodus 7:14 and 9:29 the Lord was shaking Pharaoh's kingdom; He was giving Pharaoh opportunity to turn back to Him. Each plague was a powerful visual aid to show the impotence of the Egyptian gods because each plague hit a sphere in which one of their gods was supposed to be in control. The plagues showed that their gods were not in control. Thereby each plague was pointing Pharaoh to come to the true LORD, who is in control, in repentance. The plagues were a gift.

Order The whole order of the universe flows harmoniously from the LORD and to the LORD. Sin always disrupts this order. When God is honoured for whom He is, then all is well with us, the planet and all creation. Sin messes everything up very badly. Our welfare, everyone's welfare, every being's welfare comes to flourish when God is honoured and magnified and glorified. Each of the plagues was a message to Pharaoh, and us that blessing only comes when in repentance and faith we trust in the Lord. Otherwise it is darkness and disaster.

The pattern. At the beginning of the plagues Pharaoh is seen to be hardening his heart. In the first five plagues Pharaoh either hardened his heart (see 8:15 and 32) or the Word says his heart was hardened (see 7:22, 8:19 and 9:7). Whereas in the latter five plagues God does the hardening (see (9:12, 10:1, 20 and 27 and 11:10), or once Pharaoh hardened his heart (9:34). Here is something of the outworking of Romans 1:24,26 and 28 of God giving Pharaoh what he wanted. Pharaoh did not want God's way and God, thereupon, gave him what he wanted.

God is ultimate in everything. There is nothing that happens that happens outside of God's ordained plan. However, there are a multitude of happenings that come together to determine various happenings and activities. God is the ultimate cause of every sin, but He is never the immediate cause. We read in James 1:13-15 **Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God", for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**

The blame. From this teaching by James we further learn, that humans can never say that God made them to sin. The responsibility is with every individual person. Pharaoh could never say that He sinned because God hardened His heart.

The Honouring of God. In Romans 9:14-18 we have the New Testament's view on what happened with Pharaoh. **What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."** So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, **"For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."** So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. God was working through the exodus events including the hardening of Pharaoh's heart to honour His Name and we should rejoice in that.

So who did harden Pharaoh's heart? You decide. And remember in making your decision that we are all part of a culture that boasts in making much of ourselves and belittles God. But God's order is not that way and we should not be either. God is ultimate in all things. God is in control.