

Feltham Evangelical Church

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Newsletter: May 2020

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Calendar

w/c 26th April

Sun 26th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.
Sun 26th 11.00.am. - Morning Worship
Sun 26th 5.00.pm. - Small Groups
Tues 28th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 28th 7.30.pm. - Leadership Meeting
Wed 29th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study.

w/c 3rd May

Sun 3rd 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.
Sun 3rd 11.00.am. - Morning Worship.
Sun 3rd 5.00.pm. - Small Groups
Tues 5th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Wed 6th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study

Sun 10th May

Sun 10th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.
Sun 10th 11.00.am. - Morning Worship.
Sun 10th 5.00.pm. - Small Groups
Tues 12th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 12th 7.30.pm. - Leadership Meeting
Wed 13th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study

w/c 17th May

Sun 17th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.
Sun 17th 11.00.am. - Morning Worship.
Sun 17th 5.00.pm. - Small Groups
Tues 19th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Wed 20th 7.30.pm. - Mission Prayer / Bible Study

w/c 24th May

Sun 24th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.
Sun 24th 11.00.am. - Morning Worship.
Sun 24th 5.00.pm. - Small Groups
Tues 26th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 26th 7.30.pm. - Leadership Meeting
Wed 27th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study

w/c 31st May

Sun 31st 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.
Sun 31st 11.00.am. - Morning Worship.
Sun 31st 5.00.pm. - Small Groups
Tues 2nd (June) 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Wed 3rd 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible Study

News

Margaret Lee passed to be with her Lord on April 16th. She faithfully served the Lord. The online funeral service which took place on April 25th can be found online here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRMuQdQh3sc> and a montage of memories about her life can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2LXYW83nQA>

Andrew Heron was hospitalized from April 7th to 15th on account of experiencing small bowel eschaemia. He is now recovering at home with a ileostomy bag.

Dmitri Filchev qualified to be a bus driver on April 22nd

Notes

Services Given the present prevailing circumstances related to the coronavirus outbreak we are seeking to conduct to our services online. We are operating with a basic structure of services (see calendar above). We hope to be arranging other activities. Details of these will be publicized as necessary. Contact the elders Philip and Zach for further information

Finances In order to continue to serve the Lord in our ministry of giving please contact Olu.

Practical Help The circumstances of the present time mean that practical needs may arise among us such as the need for shopping or medicines. If you have need of such then please contact David Henderson who is seeking to coordinate this.

Day of Prayer and Fasting On the first bank holiday in May, May 8th we plan to give ourselves to a day of prayer and fasting to pray for ourselves, the churches of this nation and our nation. Further details to follow.

Spiritual Notes

His Protection

“The Lord will protect me” is a phrase that has been used quite a lot during the Covid-19 outbreak. It is used in the context of people going into situations and realising that they are in danger of being infected by the virus. The question we have to ask is whether or not it is a valid statement for us to make.

The scripture which is often relied upon is Psalm 91:5-11:

**You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.
A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,**

**but it will not come near you.
You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.
Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place -
the Most High, who is my refuge -
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

We immediately need to be wary concerning the use of this scripture because the last two verses were used by Satan against our Lord (see Matt. 4:6). Satan tempted the Lord to cast Himself from the roof of the temple. The Lord's response upon the use of this scripture was **Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'** (Matt. 4:7)

What we learn here is that we are not to put ourselves unnecessarily in the way of danger. To walk out into the middle of the road and say the Lord will protect me is not to honour the Lord, but to prove yourself foolish. Similarly to crassly walk around and say I will not get Covid-19 is not to honour the Lord, but prove yourself foolish. But what is Psalm 91 teaching us then? It is teaching that we are not exposed to the elements around us in a random way. Rather, God is in control of everything. A plague and pestilence cannot just come and take us without God determining such.

We can only benefit from the promises of the Lord from Psalm 91 when we are either specifically obeying the commands of Lord or walking in the way of duty in harmony with the Word of the Lord. It is only such people who are living under the shadow of the Almighty (see v1). The scripture in Exodus 15:25b-26 corroborates this understanding: **There the Lord made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer."** The promise of protection is dependant on obedience.

So how does this all work out for a Christian in a Coronavirus world? We

live in a situation where the basic message from the authorities is “stay at home” The law of the land indicates that to fail to do this other than for “essential” reasons is wrong. As those who:

- Submit to those in authority (see 1 Peter 2:13-14)
- Love our neighbours so as to prevent the spread of the disease (see Matt. 22:39)
- Seek to witness a good witness to our Lord before our neighbours (see 1 Timothy 6:13)

we go in the way of obedience by NOT just going around doing what we want, we rather “stay at home”. In doing such we can know the working out of Psalm 91 in our lives as the Lord protects us.

For some who work in the health care system or are in other hazardous situations they can trust the Lord to watch over them for good. However, they must not tempt the Lord and accordingly must wear their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Further, by way of establishing the relevant principles, if there is a bad accident outside our house with people seriously injured we do not just stay back because of social-distancing. No I suggest the law of love begs us to be involved to provide assistance. The duty of love demands such.

But can we claim a universal promise here? Can we go to Exodus 15 and Psalm 91 and say that if we go in the way of duty and obedience we will be protected from all illnesses. If we look at the book of Job, who suffered so much in body and soul, and particularly the life of our Lord, who suffered so terribly in body and soul and spirit on the cross we can see that the way of duty and obedience does not automatically exempt us from suffering. And to be specific in our present context many believers have died from the plague of Covid-19.

Two things I would mention. Firstly, the blessings of the nation of Israel were very much of an earthly nature. The blessings that we have today are primarily of a spiritual nature. Secondly, the Old Testament was very much the time of infancy in God's purposes. As a result the people were taught in very simple terms that obedience led to blessing because they could see that in their possessions and health. Today is a time of maturity we discern things spiritually. So very often in being exposed to suffering even that suffering leading to death the believer shows that we trust God because of who He is and not what we get from Him.

We return then to our Lord and his refusal to put the Lord to the test by

rashly throwing himself from the roof of the temple. Even the Lord of glory manifest in flesh would be circumspect in His ways then so should we. Faith means trusting God not tempting God. So we “stay-at-home”, put on our PPE and trust the Lord; that is the godly way.