

MARANATHA MESSENGER

Weekly Newsletter of

Private Circulation Only

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

-16 October 2016-

"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

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Sunday School: 9.45 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

The Establishment of Emmanuel Reformed Bible College in the Sovereign Will of God

Introduction

Ezra 7:10, *'For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.'*

There is a grave need to theologically equip and train pastors in the reformed tradition for the many BP churches and mission stations and Singapore is a hub for theological training in Asia. The above verse is where we derived our college motto from, *To Seek, To Do and To Teach* (which is also my life verse). By divine guidance, we thank God for the official inception and registration of the Emmanuel Reformed Bible College on 5 August 2016. This follows 7 years of our humble beginnings as Emmanuel Reformed Bible Lectures (with 168 part time students from more than 30 churches in our present semester and 10 students have been awarded the certificate In biblical studies so far) by a group of like-minded BPCs (supported by the pastoral fraternal of 15 pastors who have been meeting monthly since August 2007). We praised God that we were officially approved by ICA on 19 September 2016 to receive foreign students in our new college as well.

The website (www.erbc.sg) was launched recently and it has most of the information in the Prospectus. The ERBC Board and faculty, adjunct faculty information are at <http://www.erbc.sg/staff>. Take your time to explore the website. The time-table of courses that will be offered in January - May 2017 is given below for your perusal and for those with a calling (local and abroad) who are interested. Each student will be placed under a mentor in a church for practical training and there will be sound reformed teaching from experienced pastors in the equipping of the next generation of pastors and preachers to serve the churches and missions as the Lord leads.

We thank God for many copies of the prospectus that have been distributed as requested. Some ERBL students have asked for copies of the prospectus and some have applied to study with us .If you know of any who are called and interested, they are welcome to apply as the Lord leads. Our courses are in-depth and comprehensive, dedicated to the theological

examination and application of the various books of the Bible and the study of its original languages for some students. Courses offered range from a basic certificate in religious knowledge to master degrees and the subjects from church history, Christian apologetics, Old Testament and New Testament to systematic and biblical theology to missions, evangelism and discipleship, biblical counselling, Christian education and others and lay people are welcome to take some ERBC courses on a credit or audit basis as well .

God willing, the first semester of ERBC will open with registration of new students on Friday, 6 January 2017 at 11 am at No. 1 Tao Ching Road (Calvary BP Church). The faculty and some board members will be present. All are welcome to attend and interested applicants too.

Paul in 2 Timothy 2:2 says, *‘And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.’* We covet your prayers for godly wisdom for the faculty members (14 including the adjunct lecturers with Rev Charles Seet as the Principal) as we serve Him in this reformed college that it will equip and train God-fearing and Bible-based pastors, preachers, missionaries and leaders for the full time and part time ministry in the Lord's vineyard as He wills.

Dr Jack Sin
 Dean of Students
 Emmanuel Reformed Bible College

Courses offered in Semester 1 (January - May) 2017 :

Subject	Lecturer	Day	Time
Church History 1 (Terms 1 & 2)	Rev Dr Jack Sin	Tue & Thu (10 Jan – 11 May)	0900 – 1000
OT Historical Books (Term 1)	Rev Charles Seet	Mon & Fri (9 Jan – 3 Mar)	1000 – 1200
Homiletics (Term 1)	Rev Isaac Ong	Tue & Thu (10 Jan – 2 Mar)	1000 – 1200
The Book of Job (Term 1)	Rev Lee Hock Chin	Wed (11 Jan - 1 Mar)	1000 – 1200
The General Epistles (Term 2)	Rev Ho Chee Lai	Mon & Fri (20 Mar – 11 May)	1000 – 1200
Bibliology & Theology Proper (Term 2)	Rev Dr Jack Sin	Tue & Thu (21 Mar – 11 May)	1000 – 1200
The Intertestamental Period (Term 2)	Ms June Tan	Wed (22 Mar – 10 May)	1000 – 1200
Basic Biblical Greek I	Rev Ho Chee Lai	Mon, Wed & Fri (9 Jan – 12 May)	1200 – 1300
Introduction to Christian Education (Terms 1 & 2)	Rev Isaac Ong	Tue & Thu (10 Jan – 11 May)	1200 – 1300



Christian Apologetics Course at ERBL from January to March 2012

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In Praise of Jehovah

2008 was the year of contemplation,
To incept a Bible college as a fulfilling mission.
ERBC was the blessed outcome,
All sincere aspirants are welcome.
Prayers and heartwork are part of the process,
To birth a reformed, premillennial school with success.

The Lord has provided the needed faculty,
In spite of obstacles and human difficulty,
He also supplied the spacious facility,
ERBC has become a final reality.

All students are welcome to this college,
In search of truth, wisdom and knowledge.
To plough through with assignments, quizzes and tests,
They will complete with godly zest.

The spirit of Ezra 7:10 will be taught in this hall,
Sound Calvinistic teaching and training for all.
Reformed doctrine and scriptural separation,
Defending the doctrine of biblical authority and inspiration.

Who are those who will stand in the gap?
The Lord called all ye Gideon men who lapped.
For the battle for the truth against all wrong,
Be in the thick of it and be thou strong!

Jack Sin
18 August 2016

Questions of Comfort from God

(Isaiah 40)

Introduction

There is a hopeless cry of man representing entire mankind (v. 2, vv. 6-7) "I am in a hopeless warfare. My soul is in distress. My sins are too much. I deserve to be punished severely. I am a dying person. I am like the grass and flower. I wither and fade away. My hopes of obtaining pardon and not perishing is gone because of the sins and we are under the judgmental Spirit of the infinitely holy and just God."

To this miserable cry comes the answer from God (v.1, vv. 7-11), "Be comforted my people. Be comforted. I am telling you good news. That is all you can cry. But, I have something more in mind for you. My glory shall be revealed and I will come to save you, shepherd you, feed you, gather you, carry you, and rule over you."

The Questions

It is common to explain the greatness of the one who saves or provides comfort. For example, if a person is sick, we comfort them saying, "Don't worry. This doctor is a great man of skill. He has treated and cured many hopeless cases. In fact, he is the master of such a specialty." Many such examples could be provided. But Isaiah records such great comforting questions from God Himself that are simply incomparable and matchless in its majesty.

1. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand? (v. 12). Can you collect the waters of the oceans and prepare a place to keep them? God does it just like scooping water with bare hands.
2. Who has meted out heaven with the span? (v. 12). Can you measure the entire universe with your hands? For God it is nothing but like measuring a piece of paper with a scale.
3. Who has comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure? (v. 12). Can you gather the entire sand of the cosmic world? The literal sense of this can mean that God can hold it between His two fingers and thumb.
4. Who has weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? (v. 12). Can you even think about lifting and checking the weight of mountains and hills? He weighs and checks the proportions to put them appropriately.
5. Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord? (v. 13). Who told God to do things in a certain manner? The angels do not give ideas and neither do men. They are all the products of His wisdom.
6. Who is teaching him by being his counsellor? (v. 13). Who needs to teach Him things? What does He need to learn? He is the One who teaches. He is the source of truth and truth itself.
7. With whom did he take counsel? (v. 14). Did God take lessons and advice from anybody? Does He need to be given counsel? All nations with their great committees, constitutions, and councils are counted as nothing and vanity before Him (v. 17). He is the Wonderful Counselor.
8. Who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge? (v. 14). Who has to tell God what is right and what is wrong? Who has to teach Him about skill and knowledge? He is the fountain of all knowledge and He is the infinitely holy Judge.
9. Who showed to him the way of understanding? (v. 14). Who has to explain to Him the various

considerations in knowledge and comprehension to progress in the right path? He is the Way.

10. To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? (v. 18). Is there anything comparable to Him? Can God be likened to men, angels, animals, beasts, monsters, mountains, or anything created by man, or some influence, or some graven images? All these would be idolatry.

11. Have ye not known? (v. 21). God asks, "Don't you know that all your imaginations are foolishness? You know all these things about me. You also know that you suppress all this knowledge and create a counterfeit in my place."

12. Have ye not heard? (v. 21). God asks, "You know all these things have been declared unto you by the entire nature and more so by my written Word. You have heard it for sure from godly men of past, and also from your inner conscience."

13. Has it not been told you from the beginning? (v. 21). God asks, "From the beginning of creation and your first parent Adam, it has been declared to you. You cannot come to me and explain that it was not told. My promises were there from Eve, Abraham, and even till now."

14. Have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? (v. 21). From the beginning of the world, the invisible things, the eternal power of God has been revealed all through His natural revelation. You are aware of it. The appeal to repent from your sin and trust in me has always been standing. Don't say that God does not see and God does not judge? (v. 27).

15. Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? (v. 28). Don't be disheartened that it is impossible with God.

16. To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? (v. 25). There is no equal for God. Don't look for any other place to take refuge. Only He is the all-wise, all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-sufficient God. Isaiah says in short, "Behold, your God!"



Conclusion

The answer came from God whose words never fail. Exactly as He foretold, Jesus Christ came to save sinners some 700 years after the promise. The glory of God was revealed to those who were in the miserable state of sin, seeking to be delivered by the true Savior. God, the Holy Spirit whose name itself is Comforter continues to apply this comfort to His people. Are you a recipient of this divine comfort? Are you experiencing the comfort from God?

Elder Belin K
Covenant BP Church
Bangalore, India

(NB. Pray for the MBPC mission team of 8 who will be ministering there at CBPCI from 5 to 13 December 2016 and for divine provision for the progress of the extension of the 2 upper floors of the church building.)

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Thank God for 9 new friends who came from the Punggol dorm and heard the gospel.

Pray for the salvation of the Chinese workers and come and attend the Sunday evening service at 7pm.



Brother Zu Jia Wei speaking to the monthly Chinese fellowship.

Ministry of comfort and the preaching of gospel at the vigil service of sister Helen Tau and pray for her relatives' salvation.





Sister Angie Sin leading the Church choir in preparation for the 26th anniversary.

Family worship at the home of brother Seow Zi Fa and Li Fang.



Theme for the Quarter :

Christian Resources in Facing the Terrible Ds

English Worship Service

Dn Chen Ching Hong
speaks on

Lessons on Facing Disappointments in Life from the Book of Job
(Scripture Text : Job 1:1-21; Responsive Reading : Psalms 34)

[End of MM]