

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

16 August 2020

English Worship Service

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

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

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Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.30 pm

Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415); Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045)

"Go, do all that is in thine heart" (2 Samuel 7:1-29)

When we are doing well and we want to do something for the Lord, do we rely on our thoughts and our own ideas? Do we do what we think is right in our own sight?

King David had conquered all his enemies and there was peace in the land (v1). He was a man of war in the time of peace. He thought to himself, that he should do something for the ark of God, to put it into a grand temple and not a mere tent. He thought about God. This would be a good work, but would it be the will of God? King David told the prophet Nathan his thoughts (v2).

The Prophet Nathan's immediate answer was that it would be right to do so (v3), to build a temple for God's ark. However, this answer was not from God, but from Nathan himself, not as a prophet, but a wise and good man. Nathan did not know the secret will of God, that David should not do this. God soon rectified this. That very night (v4) God spoke to Nathan and told him to tell David that He never commanded that David should build a temple (v7)

God had promised David and the Israelites that He would build a house for Himself (V11-12) with a seed from David, but that God would be his father and that He should be His son (V13-14). This was a direct reference to Jesus Christ, who would come from the seed of David and would call God, Father, born of a virgin.

The prophet Nathan was faithful to God and spoke only the Word that God had spoken to

Him. We should do the same and speak only according as He has spoken to us, in His Word found in the Bible.

God subsequently used David's son, King Solomon, to build the temple.

There are five lessons we can learn from this account:

First. Always study scripture in context. Never quote a bible verse without considering the events in which you find the text. Consider the circumstances and all the characters involved to truly understand and know what is going on. For we all must be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15). We should all diligently search the word of God to see if what we think is right and what we should do, always seeking the will of God and not ours. For His thoughts are not our thoughts (Isa 55:8-9)

Second. When studying the Bible, remember that scripture interprets scripture and the Word of God is never contradictory. God does not say something and then changes his mind later, for God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. When studying the Bible, we must remember that the clear parts must be used to explain those parts that are not so clear or are ambiguous. Interpret the obscure in the light of the clear should be our guiding principle.

Remember that from God's point of view, every imagination of the thoughts of (man's) heart was only evil continually (Gen 6:5) and deceitful above all things (Jer 17:9-10) God does not look at the appearance of man but what is in the heart (1 Sam 16:7)

Third. We should never presume the will of God is the same as what we think is right. We must always seek His will in His Word, else we fall into presumption. We must remember that God is sovereign and that His will is always to glorify Himself and at the same time, for the best for the people of God, that in the end, they might all be with Him in heaven.

Fourth. God's plan is always best for us even when it does not seem that way to us. We must trust Him in things and at all times, both good and bad. We can hold on to His promise that He does all things for our good and His glory (Rom 8:28)

Fifth. Remember that the Bible is not about us. It is about God's work and God's plan, specifically about why Jesus Christ had to be incarnated and what He had to do in the flesh to save His people. Jesus Christ was born of virgin, lived a life we should have lived, in obedience to God the Father, even unto death, was resurrected after three days and now sitteth on the right hand of God forever.

We should all learn that the only thing worth knowing, is Jesus Christ and him crucified

(1 Cor 2:2), For he died for sinners such as us, Him who was sinless, that we might be more than conquerors. Pray that He create in each one of us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us (Psa 51:10).

Not our thoughts, not our ways, but the thoughts and the way of God for He is sovereign. His way is always right.

We thank Him for His mercy towards us and for His Son, even Jesus Christ, who died for us, that we might be called the sons of God and be with Him for eternity. Amen.

Elder Peter Ong

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Theme for the Quarter :
FREE IN CHRIST
(An Exposition on the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians)

English Worship Service :
Rev Colin Wong speaks on Call to Apostleship (Galatians 1:11-16)