

# MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3 January 2021

## 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); Elder Royce Yeo (HP : 9362 3067)**

## FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD

(Psalm 119:69-72, Part 2)

Paul said, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Are you weak in faith? The answer to your weak faith is the Word of God. Read it and be strengthened by it.

**The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart (69).**

The proud are the "holier than thou" people. The proud see themselves better than others. The proud have no respect of God. The proud have no regard to the commandments of God (21). Here the Psalmist said that the proud had forged a lie against him. The verb "forge" expresses the idea of complete fabrication. The proud are so clever in fabricating lies that no one can detect it. I heard from some people who do business with the Chinese that they are so good in telling lies that you can't tell whether they are speaking the truth or they are lying. They are forgers of lies.

Satan is the greatest liar. He is the father of all lies (John 8:44). He lied from the beginning – "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1). God told Eve in Genesis 2:16 and 17 that every tree of the garden she may freely eat but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil she shall not eat of it, for in the day she eats it she will surely die. However, when Satan came to the garden to tempt her and told her that it is okay to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, she succumbed to it. As a result, she not only fell into Satan's trap, she also dragged her husband along (Genesis 3:6; 1 Timothy 3:14).

How will you deal with a liar? How will you respond to a slanderer? Will you fight back? Will you defend yourselves against all the lies spoken against you? How did the Psalmist respond to liars? He said, "...but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart."

To keep God's precepts means to practice God's precepts. And God's precepts are to be kept wholeheartedly. We cannot pick and choose what to keep and what not to keep. We are to keep them wholeheartedly. When we live by the word, people will see your good manner of life and give glory to

God (1 Peter 2:12). The human tendency is to fight back. If we try to answer lies by our words, we may engage ourselves in endless exchanges. However, a holy life is an unanswerable refutation of all false accusations hurled against us.

Let us not fight back but practice God's Word in our lives. The rest God will take care because he says, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay" (Romans 12:19).

**Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law (70).**

Physiologically speaking, the fat of the human body is absolutely insensible and only those lean, membranous parts are sensitive. Here the Psalmist speaks figuratively about the proud mentioned in the preceding verse. He said, "Their heart is as fat as grease." The use of the fatness of heart by the Psalmist expresses the insensibility, stupidity and sensuality of the proud. The proud are carnal, insensitive and full of sensual indulgences. While they indulged themselves fully in carnal endeavours, the Psalmist delights himself in the Word.

While the people of the world are indulging themselves in worldly pursuit, we Christians should indulge ourselves in reading, studying and meditating God's Word and occupy ourselves in the Lord's work.

**It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes (71).**

In verse 67 the Psalmist was afflicted so that he might learn obedience and here he was afflicted so that he might increase his knowledge of God's will. That is why he said, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted."

The lesson is obvious. It is good for us to be afflicted so that we may learn not only obedience but also God's Word that reveals God's will for our lives. Let me read to you the words of this wonderful song – O Rejoice in the Lord :

God never moves without purpose or plan  
When trying his servant and moulding a man.  
Give thanks to the Lord though your testing seems long;  
In darkness he giveth a song.  
I could not see through the shadows ahead;  
So I looked at the cross of my Savior instead.  
I bowed down to the will of the Master that day;  
Then peace came and tears fled away.

Now I can see testing comes from above;  
God strengthens his children and purges in love.  
My Father knows best and I trust in his care;  
Through purging more fruit I will bear.

O rejoice in the Lord, he makes no mistake.  
He knoweth the end of each path that I take.  
For when I am tried and purified,  
I shall come forth as gold.

Let us submit ourselves wholeheartedly to the Word of God so that we may know the will of God for our lives.

**The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver (72).**

How would you value God's Word? The Psalmist valued God's Word more than gold and silver. Thousands was the largest word for number in common use among the Hebrews. The expression is as strong as it would be for us to say millions.

Why the Psalmist valued God's Word so invaluablely? The answer to this is this: God's Word provides guidance (105), cheers the downhearted (Jeremiah 15:16), strengthens the weak (28), quickens our soul (40, 50), provides counsel (24), gives light to the blind (130), and gives direction (133). Furthermore, God's dealings are good (64), holy judgment is good (66), affliction is good (67), God is good (68), and God's law is not only good, but is better than the best of treasure (72).

Let us treasure and cherish God's Word above all things. Let us utter a prayer to the Lord to make us good through his good Word. Amen.

*Pastor Colin Wong*

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

**Rev Colin Wong speaking at the English Service on  
Consecration before Christian Service (Romans 12:1).**