# ODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL









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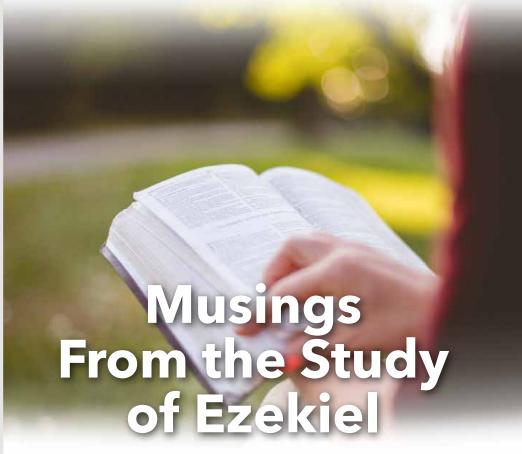
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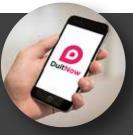
Ezekiel is a book that seems to belong to the mysterious and difficult part of the Bible. We seldom hear sermons undertake small group studies on Ezekiel. For many of us, we associate Ezekiel with the Sunday school song 'Dry Bones'.

Sitting through the series of lectures by Dr Leong Tien Fook on the book of Ezekiel, I was very struck by the message that the word of God is sweet as honey only to those who have repentant and submissive hearts. Otherwise, the word of God is as bitter as wormwood to the listener. Again and again, I was shocked by the response of Ezekiel's listeners. God warned them of their idolatry and the approaching judgement but they refused to heed the message.









To Talk To Whatsapp or Call TalkToUs at +6011 5788 4805

In Ezekiel 20, the leaders of Israel would go to Ezekiel to inquire of the Lord, only to be rebuked by God. In His rebuke in Ezekiel 14 and 20, God exposed their hypocrisy and idolatry. They only wanted the "word of God" that would support their false hopes and misplaced trust. They refused to believe in the impending judgement on Judah, and they refused to repent. They thought that God could not see their evil deeds.

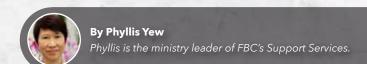
I could very well be like them - reject clear teaching and purposefully misinterpret scripture, and go through the acts of praying and asking God for guidance and direction when I have no intention of submitting to God's will and plan. It was utterly sobering and scary to see the deception of the heart. But I also heard the good news in Ezekiel, that God will give His people an undivided heart and a new spirit; a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19, 18:31, 21:7, 36:26). With an undivided heart and the Holy Spirit in me, I will be able to do the right thing, even when no one is watching, because I know that God is with me and He sees me. He will enable me to have a repentant and submissive heart.

The phrase "Then you/they will know that I am the Lord" is found repeatedly through the book of Ezekiel. It spoke to me of the holiness of God, His majesty, His sovereignty, His magnificence. God is Lord over the whole earth. He holds judgement over all nations and all peoples. And He is to be given

due honour and respect. Yet, in Israel, they exchanged Him for false idols. They even put idols in the temple of Yahweh- the central place of worship. And God would not put up with the blatant adultery of their worship.

In Ezekiel 16 and 33, the language is graphic and forceful in expressing how much God abhors sin. I learnt that God is so holy that He is an all-consuming power. He sets the standard, and yet in His holiness we can see His mercy and grace. I had to repent of my 'tidak apa' attitude towards God, taking for granted His forgiveness and His mercy.

Ezekiel is critical to our understanding and appreciation of the New Testament. There are many more lessons I took away from this study of Ezekiel. May I encourage you to listen to the Ezekiel lectures given by Dr Leong. It is available as 10 one-hour video lessons on **FBC's YouTube Channel**.





### **Should I Join Conferences?**

There are an endless number of conferences online. Are they profitable? Which ones should we join? I recently joined an online conference with KVBC NextGen, and would like to share my experience with you.

### Some background information

KVBC NextGen aims to raise, equip and encourage the next generation of Christian leaders to grow in godliness, to teach the Bible faithfully in their ministries, and to proclaim Jesus for the glory of God across Malaysia!

At the conference, delegates are taught:

- How to read the Bible for themselves;
- How to prepare a Bible study for small groups;
- How to apply the Bible faithfully in their lives; and
- Practical ministry skills.

### My personal experience

There are 3 strands (levels) to complete before you receive a certificate to say you have completed the NextGen course. After attending two years of the conference (one physical and one online), I can say I have greatly benefited from the event, especially the second year. Now, I just need to attend another year to get my certificate!



You might think the online conference may lose some of its appeal and engagement with the audience, but I have seen the opposite happen. Here are some of the extra benefits that I believe an online conference offers:

 Zoom chat opens a new way for you to share your thoughts with the whole group or conference. Whereas, during a physical conference, only the 3-4 persons sitting closest to you can hear your thoughts.

- You can rewatch the lessons or videos if you were distracted and didn't catch everything that was said. I personally like watching videos in 2x speed so I have more time to watch it a few times.
- You can express your thoughts and feelings in more than one way online! (The younger audience may be able to better relate to this.) For example, you can post memes, GIFs, and stickers in the conference's Facebook Group as a response/ to share how you feel.
- There is wider interaction with the whole group without the need for verbal expression. If you are an introvert like me, this means you can express your thoughts through typing instead of bringing all the attention to yourself by speaking up.

It is encouraging to meet other young adult Christians who are just as invested or even more passionate about God's word and work. For me, it was humbling to meet and interact with them, and I felt like a big fish in a small pond of FBC. The next KVBC NextGen conference may be a physical one, depending on the pandemic. But even if it continues to be held online, the benefits of the event will not be negated.

If you are a young adult (aged 18 to 35 years old) who is interested in attending a KVBC NextGen conference, you can check out their **website** or **Facebook page**, and keep a lookout for announcements on their next annual conference!

If you are not a young adult, I would like to encourage you to promote it to the young adults around you - your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17



### FBC NEEDS YOU

Are You Wondering How You Can Serve God In Church? Find Your Opportunity Here:



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We are looking for teachers.
(Men, especially!)
You will be involved in facilitating Sunday School classes and building relationships with the children of

### **ALPHA**

We are looking for facilitators and befrienders. You will be involved in creating a safe space where people from all walks of life can discuss faith, life, and God.

### ZOOM

**Host & Co-Host** 

We are looking for Zoom Sunday Worship Service hosts and co-hosts. You will be involved in posting announcements in the chat and ensuring that worship services run smoothly.

### **ZOOM**Breakout Room

Facilitators

We are looking for volunteers to facilitate Zoom Breakout Rooms after Sunday worship services. You will be involved in facilitating conversations in your Breakout Room and reporting any issues to the Zoom host. You can also propose a room/ topic (eg "Dog Lovers", "Badminton Kaki") and lead the room in the

## FBC COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Ft3C

We are looking for coordinators, copywriters, graphic designers and social media managers. You will be part of a team that reaches out to the community through live webinars relating to current issues and concerns.



CLICK to register or call the church office to sign up today! 03-5621 2623

### | Pulpit Program

September 26, 2021 The Yoke of Jesus (Matthew 11:25-29)



**PREACHER**John Lee

October 3, 2021 **Genuine Repentance**(Psalm 51)



**PREACHER**Ps. Massimo Gei

October 10, 2021 Jesus the Lord of the Sabbath

(Matthew 12:1-13)



**PREACHER**Dr. Peter Ng

October 17, 2021

To Be Announced



**PREACHER**Dr. Hew Fen Lee

### | Worship with Us



03-5621 2623



- 1. Pray for wisdom in how to survive.
  Ask the Lord to guide the people
   especially our brothers and
  sisters in how to deal with
  interrogations and brutalities in
  the days to come.
- 2. Pray for believers. Pray for fellowship among the believers and that they will receive the pastoral care that they need. Pray for supernatural boldness and that they will remain faithful. Pray that God will remind them that they are not alone, but are part of the global body of Christ.
- **3.** Pray for children in Afghanistan. Pray for schools and educational programs to function. Pray that

God will preserve the dignity and wellness of children, by raising up bold warriors who will guard children's safety and fight for their protection from all kinds of abuses.

- 4. Pray for health and wellness. Pray that clean water will continue to run in taps so that diseases will not spread through contaminated water. Pray for medical aid to be delivered as medicines are in short supply.
- **5.** Pray for food to be accessible and affordable. Pray for the people who are struggling because supply chains have broken down.
  Although they are slowly being reinitiated, inflation and access is a problem.
- **6.** Pray that God will provide work. Pray for the day labourers and others who are currently without income.
- --- Adapted from **Open Doors**

### | Upcoming Events



Romans
From Wretchedness
To Righteousness
Every Wednesday
For more information, contact
Church Office at 03-5621 2623



Sermon on The Mount Explore the Teachings of Jesus on the Beatitudes Every Tuesday 8:00pm - 9:45pm

To register/ for more information, contact **Lammy Tan** at **012-386 8460**.



Is There More to Life Than This?

Every Thursday 8:00pm

**CLICK HERE** to register for the next Alpha program starting January 2022.



Daily Prayer
Meeting
Every Saturday
to Thursday
9:00pm
Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray



Monthly Prayer Meeting 30 October 2021 (Saturday) 2:00pm to 3:30pm Zoom ID: 869 8003 5137 Password: pray



FBC (E) Members Special Meeting

3 October 2021 (Sunday)

3:00pm

Zoom ID: 914 5121 9747 Password: fbc

**More Information on Upcoming Events**