

THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

BULLETIN

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**GOD DESIRES
YOUR HEART,
NOT YOUR GRADES**

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

Vision

To be a "House of Prayer for all nations" - Isaiah 56 :7b

Mission

A praying and witnessing church who have a close personal relationship with The Lord, to change the world for the glory of the Lord.



Bethany International Church



office@bethanymelb.org.au



@bicmelbourne



www.bethanymelb.org.au



+61396999077

FOUNDING PASTOR

Rev Niko Njotoraharjo

SENIOR PASTOR

Ps Djohan Handojo

PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

Associate Pastor

Ps Unggul Santika

Ps Iwan Adinugroho

Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan

Ps Suzana Tahir

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Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

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Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

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Ps Lily Karto

Office Manager

Ps Suzana Tahir



COOL LIST

MAIN

Canaan — Kezia, Freddie
Ephratah — Steven, Henry
Berea - Bethesda — Romy
Bethlehem — Felix, Fransisca
Jordan — Sony, Wilfred
Horeb — Ferry, Febria
Bethany — Paulus, Erina
Bethel — Adel, Patricia
Cana — Bobby
Philadelphia - Pniel — Dwi, Vero
Moriah — Elve, Calista
Ephraim — Sonia, Kendrew
Ekklesia — Edo, Ica
Emmaus — Fabian, Priska
Galilee — Kevin Y, Corine
Gennesaret — Reinetta, Albert
Gilgal - Carmel — Erika, Mike
Hebron - Philippi — Yoseph, Rian
Zion — Monica, Raymond
Eden — Jennifer

FAMILY

Antioch — Jahja, Gunady
Tiberias — Andre, Albert
Gethsemane — Michael, Rudy
Jerusalem — Hestu
Mt Hermon — Lily, Unggul
Phillipi — Hariyanto, Ivan
Shekinah — Alice
Tabernacle — Sandi
Westal — Michael

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Macedonia — Eric, Alicia
Shiloh — Daniel, Clarissa

NEXT GEN

Judea — Valentina, Sylvio
Judah — Aldo, Kezia M.
Israel — Catherine, Jerry
Jeremiah — Sinta, Kevin W.
Heaven — Pauline



God Desires Your Heart, Not Your Grades

By Sonia Pranatha

It's that time of the semester again. The time where all of our endless visits to the library, our sleepless nights, and our hard work are judged by a set of questions on a piece of paper that will determine whether we will proceed to the next semester, whether we will graduate, or whether we will redo the subject once again if we fail. It is no wonder why the exam period can be a dreadful period for most, if not, all students.

But despite the whirlwind of anxieties and negative emotions that may storm into your heart during this stressful period, I would like to give reflections and encouragements for all of us students who are battling against the fear and the stress of exams, so that you and I may find peace in the certainties of God's overflowing love for you in the midst of uncertainties that exams and assignments may bring upon your life.

Grades are the currency of our education. There is no doubt about it. The higher one's grade is, the more likely they enter a better college, score a better job, and be appreciated and praised by their families and friends. Grades become the measurement of our progress and a determining factor for our success in life. And while the grading system is not necessarily bad, it does not go hand in hand with our nature of sinfulness.

With every performance-based measurement system comes the desire for humans to strive for all the wrong reasons. When we receive excellent grades, we feel proud because our hard work has paid off. But when the contrary happens, we feel ashamed, bitter, and even think our effort is not being justly assessed. Then our hearts start to get into turmoil. We start to compare ourselves with others' performances. We start to think that our future will

be hopeless and ruined if we get a passing grade, or even worse, the word 'fail' engraved on our academic report.

We start to feel grade becoming the deciding factor for our happiness and hope. The states of our heart, soul, and mind are dependent on the score we receive. Grade is no longer the measurement of our performance, it has become an idol in our heart.

The Bible has explicitly mentioned that as followers of Christ, we are not to give our hearts to idolatry (Matthew 6:24). We will only be devoted to either of them, not the two of them. When we put grades as the source of our joy and hope for the future, we will devote every sweat and tears to achieving high grades in the hope that the score will bring the success and comfort we dream of. And I can say with certainty when we put our hopes in the idols we build in this world, disappointment is inevitable.

But there is one good news for you, one that you may have heard countless times that you may even know by heart. The good news is that you can find peace and joy in doing your exam (and other aspects of your life) if God is the priority in our heart. Why is that? Because when God becomes the sole focus of our life, when He becomes the centre of our life, we can find assurance that He will take care of His beloved people. After all, Jesus Himself said so in the ever popular chapter Matthew 6:25-34.

When we find our heart's greatest longing is to glorify God in our daily lives, we would not find ourselves getting anxious for things such as exams and assignments, because we know that God will sustain us. We will not fear that our grades will affect our future, because we know that our future is already secured in the mighty hands of God. We no longer do our best for exams as burdens

and pressure, but it becomes an act of worship for God.

One thing I want all of us to remember is this: God desires your heart, not your grades. Your grade will not predetermine how your future would look like. God is more powerful than your grades will ever be. What God wants from you is not for you to rely on your own strength and knowledge to build a path for your own, but what He wants from you is a heart that wants to cling on to Him, a heart that wants to rely on the Father who cares for His children.

I pray that in the exam periods, you will continue to walk in faith and be assured that God is there with you and for you. To God be the glory, Amen!





MINISTRY LIST

Vocal — Jessica Sutiono
Musician — Raynaldo Ali
Multimedia — Budi Sendjaja
Lighting — Budi Sendjaja
Sound — Steven Santika
Usher — Elbert Pranoto
Translator — Elbert Pranoto
Caring — Felix Hariyadi
Dancer — Priska Sunaryo
Drama — Jennifer Chandra
Sunday School — Reinetta Tanujaya
Hospitality — Tasmin Ifah
Intercessor — Monica Haryanto
Mission — Felix Chietra
Media Art — Sonia Pranatha
Community Kitchen — Yolanda Tjong
Cultivated Podcast — Ravello Satria
Youth — Rio Susanto

A serene winter scene featuring a small, dark wooden cabin nestled among snow-laden evergreen trees. The cabin's roof is covered in a thick layer of snow, and a single warm light glows from its doorway. The air is filled with soft, falling snow, creating a peaceful and quiet atmosphere. The overall color palette is a mix of cool blues and whites, contrasted with the dark wood of the cabin.

*“Until sin be bitter, Christ
will not be sweet”*

THOMAS WATSON