

## Word Notes Sunday 13/07/14

### Tony Hodge – God the Son

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

**Key Texts:** Rom 8:14-16, Gal 3:26,27, 4:6 and 1 John 3:1

*“In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”*. Familiar words – even if we don’t go to church regularly we might still be aware of this “God in three persons” idea, possibly even that the “Son” part is Jesus but where does the idea that a man who lived 2000 years ago could be “Son of God” or even God himself. It didn’t start 2000 years ago. If you’ve ever been to a Christmas church service you’ll have heard the words *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given”*. It is a prophecy of the birth of Jesus who would be Messiah, Saviour. The prophet goes on to call him *“wonderful, counsellor and Mighty God”*. Believe me the Jews then, since, and now do not call anyone “God”! So this was an important prophecy. There are other prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament, well before his birth, which make similar claims. But did they mean Jesus the man born to Mary 2000 years ago?

When Mary was pregnant she went to see her sister Elizabeth who said *“Why am I blessed that the mother of my LORD visit me?”* This wasn’t a reference to some earthly lord like a local dignitary. Elizabeth used the word Kyrios, which in the Greek Bible is used for the Hebrew God Yahweh! When the angels visited the shepherds on the hillside to announce Jesus’ birth they said: *“For to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ The Lord”*. John the Baptist announces Jesus saying *“Prepare the way of The Lord”* and tells the crowds that Jesus is that very person.

Jesus identified himself as “The Lord” to the religious doubters more than once, the most forceful when he says *“Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was I AM”* using the “I AM” name of God found in the Old Testament scriptures, Jesus was claiming to be God, everlasting and eternal! Jesus calls himself “the Son of Man” (84 times in the Gospels) in direct reference to a prophetic vision of Daniel 600 referring to the Messiah. Even at his death on the cross the toughened Roman Centurion said *“Surely he was the Son of God.”*

Why is it important that Jesus of Nazareth – for whom there is overwhelming historical evidence – should be understood to be God? It’s all about mending the relationship between man and God. The Bible tells us in Genesis how the friendship between man and his creator was broken by man’s arrogance and disobedience. To set ourselves up as better than God resulted in the curse of death. God made the rules and only he could change the outcome. This rebellion is what the Bible calls “sin” and the result of rebellion – essentially “treason” is death just as it has been in many world societies. But God doesn’t want our destruction – He wants us to have life. So to sort the matter out he does the only thing possible – dies in our place.

Jesus said *“The thief seeks to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that they may have life to the full”*. What sin tries to take away Jesus bought back by paying the price – His death for ours. That’s what Christians call the Good News. Because Jesus IS God when he died it was possible to deal with God’s law that sin meant death. To prove the point God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day. Jesus himself said he was *“The Way, the Truth and the Life”* and the only way to Father God.

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Find in Bibles all the scriptures in italics in the précis above? NB at least one can be found in more than one place but only once in exactly the quoted form.

Seeing these scripture collected together what do they say to you about who Jesus was? Is there any question of his identity or any scripture that you know which argues against that? Whose job is it to convince people of this truth and what part should we play?

Discuss why it is vitally important to know Jesus both as fully man and fully God.

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Cell Challenge – organise at least one outreach social event over the summer. Aim to include close contacts and some you hardly know.