

Word notes Sunday 27/9/09 – Tony Hodge
Believing is seeing

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

Key Text: 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:10 especially 2:9

Paul is putting the church at Corinth straight – whom you were baptised by or which church faction you belong to is junk. Salvation is not about clever arguments, in fact the opposite: God's wisdom confounds the wise. The central truth of the Gospel, which Paul says he was determined to speak about to the exclusion of anything else is Jesus and Him crucified.

Just as then so it is now. Folk seek after knowledge and earthly wisdom then use that to argue against God, or chase after any "spiritual" thing that promises healing or wholeness however wacky.

Paul "didn't come with clever arguments", but he told the Truth of the Gospel and demonstrated it by the Spirit's power. Paul had Christ in him – he was a Christian and demonstrated God's power by the Spirit just as Jesus did. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that when we believe we will see –that our hope is not some blind faith but certainty through faith.

When it comes to spiritual matters there are two kinds of people in the world, saved and lost.

- If you are saved, you know your God. One of our former Pastors used to say you "know in your knower", a certainty that you have met with God, in Jesus, and have received His Spirit.
- If you're lost you may know a lot of things, you may even say you're a Christian but actually deep down you know you're are lost – there is no central core of your being that rests on the Rock of Jesus from where you draw strength.

If you're lost you need a signpost. Paul reminded the church at Corinth that there was only one way – the way of the cross. Jesus' life was about showing the Way, his death about opening the Way and his resurrection about demonstrating that the power of God and the promise of new life was for real.

Read Also these scriptures shared at the end of the talk: Isaiah 40:3-5. Ephesians 6:13-18 (The Message)

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

If God is God then let Him be God. Read Isaiah 40: 3-5 as applying to preparing a way in ourselves.

LOST: You don't have to be lost, don't have to struggle anymore. The weight that grinds you down you were not meant to carry, Jesus has paid the price to take that burden and swap it for a lightness of being.

SAVED: Are you serious about God? Are you content with where you are in the Lord or do you hunger for more? Where does your mind go when you're alone and with time on your hands?

BOTH: Decide then act.

- **LOST** – decide now that you want to receive Jesus, pray with them a sinners prayer..
- **SAVED** – decide to give Jesus those parts he has no Lordship over, seal in that decision in prayer.

ALL: how can we best support each other in these decisions?

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

It's the start of a new school term and often a time to plan events from now till Christmas. What might the Cell do to reach out to non-Christian friends, neighbours etc? Start to pray and plan.