

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 21st May 2017

ROOTED IN CHRIST – Consummate Love

As we Gather

God is known through and in His creation, yet even today we cannot assume that all religious people know God/Jesus and the importance of salvation. To create common ground between ourselves and these others we can only witness convincingly to what we believe when we apply in our lives what we know and understand about the Bible, and when we speak of our personal experiences as believers.

Reading Scripture Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:7-19 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21

Thinking Together

Jesus gave to His disciples the renewing power of the Holy Spirit just before His ascension (John 20:22), and later the Holy Spirit was poured out on all believers at Pentacost (Acts 2). Christ's message of salvation and victory over the death of sin is not limited – God has given everybody time to come to Him (Romans 6:1-7 2 Peter 3:8-9).

Are you prepared to tell others what Christ has done in your life? Discuss

Just as fire refines precious metals, so troubles refine our character, helping us realise that life is a gift from God to be cherished; and through the work of the Holy Spirit, helping us develop a new and deeper wisdom and ability to discern truth from falsehood.

How do you use the gift of life God has given you? Discuss

How does your daily life witness / bring glory to God / Jesus? Discuss

By faith we can claim / appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit each day and receive through Him – the Spirit of Truth – a whole new way of looking at life and living our lives as the Spirit of Jesus indwells us (John 14:17-18).

Share with the group an occasion on which you consciously asked for the power / help of the Holy Spirit to assist / guide you

For John there was only one test of love and only one proof of love, and that is obedience (John 14:15+21). Jesus showed His love for the Father by His commitment and obedience – consummate / perfect love (1Peter 3:18-19), and His followers show their love for Him in their conduct and their obedience / commitment to Him.

Is it easy to live as Christ would / by His standards of love? Discuss

What help do we have? Discuss

Wiersbe writes that salvation means we are going to heaven, but the obedience of love means that heaven comes to us as the Father and the Son share their love with us and make their home with us (Genesis 18 Romans 5:5 John 14:15-21)

How does this knowledge make you feel? Discuss

Fellowship with God – obedient, trusting love – leads to Jesus revealing Himself to the believer more and more fully

How does God / Jesus manifest Himself to you each day? Discuss

As believers we are all part of the greater faith community – the Church; and the Church has as its purpose to be the witness of God’s love in the world

How does your local faith community / church do this? Discuss

How is it possible to assess the success of this witness? Discuss

In Closing

The best way to live in a deepening relationship with God / Jesus is through prayer (John 14:15), and to let the Spirit of God reveal His love to us as we commune with and worship Him – as we bathe in / saturate ourselves in His love (John 14:19b).

When last did you soak yourself in God’s love?

PRAYER

O God, you reveal yourself in love.
Pour into our hearts such love towards you,
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may experience / obtain your promises. Amen