

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON BREAKING THROUGH

### *The truth on God's wisdom*

The Corinthians' many problems stemmed from their 'wisdom' in rejecting the Centrality of the Cross of Jesus Christ. The Corinthians' rejection of God's wisdom in Jesus resulted in all types of problems: division, incest, litigation among church members, prostitution, etc... Paul wrote to address their gross error early on in his letter (chapter 1) and once again (in chapter 15) to leave them with no doubt the significance of Christ.

### *The truth on God's love*

The message of God's love cannot be missed in John's letter. He used the word 'love' more than 30 times. If we google the word 'love', there is no mention of God's love, not even for the first 10 pages! That's the reality and the understanding of love in this world, may it not be so in the church. The word 'lavish' spoke to me and I had to look it up [lav.ish. /laviSH. Bestow something in generous or extravagant quantities upon]. See what great love the Father has lavished [bestow in generous or extravagant quantities] upon us that we are called children of God. 1 John 3:1.

### *The truth on God's forgiveness*

The header for Hebrews 10 says it all 'Christ's sacrifice once for all'. Christ's forgiveness is so powerful and has so much ramifications for now and eternity. 1. His forgiveness is annulment of all sins for all people. 2. For those who appropriate His forgiveness, the freedom of living daily with a clear conscience. Wow! 3. The experience of forgiveness sets us free to forgive those who wrong us. Which will happen! And the list goes on...

### *The truth on God's hope*

Notice the trend? Wisdom, love, forgiveness and now, hope, are all found in a Person.

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON BREAKING THROUGH

### WARMING UP

1. What do you think is the 'normal' Christian life?
2. Do you think the life you are living right now is what God intended?

### INTO THE PASSAGES

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 The Wisdom of God in the Cross**

3. What were the philosophies that ran counter to the Cross of Jesus Christ in the church in Corinth?
4. For the modern day church in Britain, what are other thinking or influences that are contrary to the Cross?

#### **Read 1 John 3, Romans 8 - The Love of God**

5. In all the scripture references, how is the love of God described?
6. When was the last time God tells you that He loves you? What did the affirmation do for you?

#### **Read Hebrews 10 - Christ's sacrifice once for all**

7. What did the forgiveness of our sins cost God?
8. What are the effects of forgiveness?

#### **Read Prov 23:17-18, Psalm 42:5 - Live with the end in mind**

9. Suggest some reasons why saints envy sinners.
10. What future (hope) is there for sinners and what future (hope) is there for saints at the very end?

### MOVING FORWARD

*Breakthrough happen when God breaks in [into our lives] and we breaks with [sins & unbelief in our lives].*

Have you seen the lives of people who truly have been transformed by God and secretly desire the same? Well, I did. I wanted the breakthrough because I was sick and tired of living the defeated life for so many years and knew it was not the abundant life that He promised.

*Surrender.* God cannot work as long as we continue to believe the lies and hold on to our lives. We need to surrender our lives and allow God in.

*Transformation.* God does not barge into our lives and change us overnight, though sometimes we wish He does. God does not work like that. I experienced sustained change when the Spirit enabled me to come faithfully into God's presence, reading and meditating on His Word constantly for the renewing of my mind, and obeying the things that He points out (despite the shame and embarrassment it might bring).

### LIFE TOGETHER

We are not alone in our faith journey and the temptations (& challenges) are similar (depending on your station life).

- Students - Coping with studies, pressure to conform, temptations to overcome, fear of evangelism, need of a mentor
- Working adults - Office politics, finding a life partner, loneliness, temptations to overcome, fear of evangelism
- Young families - Work & time pressure, raising godly children
- Seniors - there are no seniors in church! But there will be.

Determine to worship God in spirit and in truth, no matter what your station in life is. Pray for one another for wisdom.

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON BREAKING THROUGH

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

### INTO THE PASSAGES

#### Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 The Wisdom of God in the Cross

3. What were the philosophies that ran counter to the Cross of Jesus Christ in the church in Corinth?

**At least two, the Jewish and the Greek philosophies, were prevalent in those days. The Jews demanded signs and wonders as a testament to the calling of a prophet. The Corinthians were enthralled with the intellectuals and orators who could hold the crowd spell-bound with attractive philosophies but ultimately unable to meet men's real need - salvation and restoration to the God the Father.**

4. For the modern day church in Britain, what are other thinking or influences that are contrary to the Cross?

**Postmodernity refers to the prevailing culture characterized by rejection of objective truth and reality to the individual is defined as what he perceive and interpret to be true. Using the family unit as the barometer - in 2012 there were 18.2 million families in the UK. Of these, 12.2 million (67%) consisted of a married couple with or without children. 2.9 million (15%) are cohabiting couple with or without children. 3 million (16%) are single parent families. The remaining 135,000 (7%) are same sex cohabiting or civil partners.**

[source: Office for National Statistics website]

#### Read 1 John 3, Romans 8 - The Love of God

5. In all the scripture references, how is the love of God described?

**He is our Father and we are His children. God's love cannot be stopped.**

6. When was the last time God tells you that He loves you? What did the affirmation do for you?

**Spiritual truth is experiential. We must experience God's love.**

#### Read Hebrews 10 - Christ's sacrifice once for all

7. What did the forgiveness of our sins cost God?

**Forgiveness costs God's only Son. God sacrificed His all to forgive us.**

8. What are the effects of forgiveness?

**Some sins are pleasurable and we like pleasures.**

**The sinful life is much easier than the righteous life (narrow is the gate that leads to life, broad is the road that leads to destruction) Matthew 7.**

#### Read Prov 23:17-18, Psalm 42:5 - Live with the end in mind

9. Suggest some reasons why saints envy sinners.

10. What future (hope) is there for sinners and what future (hope) is there for saints at the very end?

**Ultimately, sinners are bound for destruction and condemnation. Whereas the saints' end is glorious.**