

Being saved through seeing.

Matt 16¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

All of our faith hinges on this one question; “*But what about you?*” he asked. “*Who do you say I am?*”

Would you give your keys to just anyone, No, only to those who know me.

What is revelation?

Rom 16²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Something that is hidden until you saw it. It is not obvious, otherwise it wouldn't be a revelation.

Encarta the revealing of something previously hidden or secret.

A revelation of the Lord comes when the blindness is removed and we see something for what it is.

Acts 26 I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may

receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

It is often confused with knowledge. The western mind is geared this way and that is why western Christians do course upon course but only 2% of us witness to others.

Rom 8:14b.....those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Knowledge is important but it needs to always be preceded by revelation..

Col 1:10b....bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,..

Knowledge without bearing fruit is hypocrisy and pharisaic. When preceded by revelation it leads to maturity.

1 Cor 8 We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But the man who loves God is known by God.

A man who loves God has a revelation of God. It is impossible to love God without having a revelation of Him.

The Lord needs to help us open our eyes and see His Kingdom.

When we find Him as King we find everything, in fact we don't find Him He finds us. He reveals Himself to us and we need to respond to that revelation.

This is so important to know because we cannot argue anyone into the Kingdom. We are looking at evangelism this month and the first building block to see someone saved is revelation.

Revelation for 98% of us and revelation for 100% of those we are reaching for our King!!

Charles Spurgeon

Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself, be sure of that!

Practical Atheism is a word Bill Johnson used to describe Christians who solve problems in the same way that those who don't believe in God do.

An Christian gets wisdom from a dimension where the Lord is King. This Kingdom operates on a totally different basis to the Kingdoms of the world. A practical atheist says he is a Christian but does things like He used to do before.

We need a revelation of our dilemma. Unfruitfulness is not common to Christians who have had a revelation of who God really is.

If we really knew we would realise that our friends around us, our colleagues, family and acquaintances will inherit hell without a revelation of who God is. That revelation alone should spur us on. The reason it doesn't is that most Christians today don't think hell is a reality.

When we engage with those who have not have had a revelation of Christ as Lord we need to be led by the Spirit. Many folk could back any unsuspecting sinner into a corner and lead him with a well programmed evangelism technique into making a reluctant confession. That is not the aim of evangelism. The aim of evangelism is that people come to Christ and not have a 20min exposure of my intelligence.

Where does revelation come from?

Gal 1 ¹¹ I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

The Lord is speaking to you right now. He spoke to you yesterday, He has imprinted Himself in nature at the most basic level of communication and revelation to us. (Rom 1:20)

Revelation for salvation comes from the Lord often in the valley.

Revelation → Repentance → Transformation.

Group notes

Ice breaker.

1. Have you ever seen someone being saved from serious trouble and danger.
2. How do you feel when you watch an animal like a lion preying on a defenceless animal like a zebra or other buck.

What's the Word on it?

Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:8; see the other Scriptures printed in the sermon notes.

1. Have you shared your faith with anyone yesterday..... last week..... last month?
2. How did you get saved?

Another word for evangelism is "love".

We are caught up in every day life and evangelism has been relegated to a much lower order of priority. Why is this? It is the same reason why people will stampede each other to the ground when there is a special sale on at a shop. We basically are only concerned about ourselves

Our worship is just lip service if we don't concern ourselves enough for lost. Jesus said if you love me you will obey my commands. Only about 2% of all Christians share their faith actively. This is terrible. Here we sit with a life changing message but never share it with those that need it.

We need a revelation of who God is and then we need a revelation of our wretchedness in not sharing our faith.

Questions for the group.

1. What do you understand about revelation?
2. Why is revelation important?
3. Who is God to you, describe Him?
4. Tell us about your experiences with sharing your faith?

Prayer

Let us pray for each other this week to get a revelation of who God is and then see the need to act on that revelation.