

Introductory Session

Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?

Introduction

- Objections
- Misconceptions

What does Christianity have to do with life today?

I. Direction For A Lost World

- a) Hunger for meaning and purpose
- b) First Order questions of life
 - What am I doing of earth?
 - What is the point of life?
 - Where am I heading?

Jesus: "I am the way"

II. Reality In a Confused World

Does it matter what we believe?

- a) Truth as something understood
- b) Truth as something experienced

Jesus: "I am the truth"

III. Life In a Dark World

- a) Created in God's image
- b) Fallen in to sin
- c) Forgiven in Christ

Jesus: "I am the life"

Conclusion

- **Not boring: it is about living life to the full**
- **Not untrue, it is the truth**
- **Not irrelevant, it transforms the whole of our lives**

Session 1 Who is Jesus?

Introduction

1) He existed

- Evidence outside the New Testament about Jesus includes:

- Tacitus and Suetonius, Roman Historians
- Josephus, Jewish Historian

- Evidence within the New Testament

F.F Bruce

Issue: How do we know that what they wrote down has not been changed over the years?

Work	When written	Earliest copy	Time Lapse	No. of Copies
Herodotus	488-428 BC	AD 900	1,300 years	8
Thucydides	C.460-100BC	C. AD 900	1,300 years	8
Tacitus	AD 100	AD 1100	1,000 years	20
Caesar's Gallic War	58-50 BC	AD 900	950 years	9-10
Livy's Roman History	59 BC-AD 17	AD 900	900 years	20
New Testament	AD 40-100	AD 130 (Full manuscript AD 350)	30-130 years	5,000 + Greek 10,000 Latin 9,300 others

2) He was fully human

Human body

Tired (John 4:6)

Hungry (Matthew 4:2)

Human emotions

Anger (Mark 11:15-17)

Love (Mark 10:21)

Sadness (John 11:32-36)

Human experiences

Temptation (Mark 1:13)

Learning (Luke 2:46-52)

Work (Mark 6:3)

Obedience (Luke 2:51)

Issue:

Was he more than just a man?

Was he more than a great human/religious teacher?

(Matthew 16:13-17)

I-What Did He Say About Himself?

1) Teaching centered on himself

- **I am**

I am the bread of life (John 6:35)

I am the light of the world (John 8:12)

I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25,26)

I am the way and the truth and the life (John 14:6)

- My kingdom (Luke 22:30)
- Come to me (Matthew 11:28,29)
- Follow me (Mark 1:17)
- Receive me – Receive God (Matthew 10:40)
- Welcome me – Welcome God (Mark 9:37)
- To have seen me is to have seen God (John 14:9)
- Claims man's supreme love (Matthew 10:37, Luke 14:26)

2) His indirect Claims

- To forgive sins (Mark 2:5)
- To judge the world (Matthew 25:31,32,40,45)

3) His direct claims

- Messiah (Mark 14:61,62)
- Son of God (Mark 14:61)
- God the son
 - "...before Abraham was born, I was (John 8:58)
 - My Lord and my God (John 20:28)
 - Claim to be God (John 10:33)

II. What Evidence Is There To Support What He Said??

- 1) His teaching: eg. Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- 2) His works (John 10:37,38)
- 3) His Character
- 4) His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy
- 5) His conquest of death

Evidence for the Resurrection

a) His absence from the tomb

Theories:

Jesus did not die (John 19:33,34)

Disciples stole the body

Authorities stole the body

Robbers stole the body (John 20:1-9)

b) His presence with the disciples

- Hallucination?
- Number of appearances
 - a) at least 10 different occasion
 - b) 500+people
 - c) period of six weeks
 - d) nature of appearances (Luke 24:37-43)

c) Immediate effect (Birth and growth of Christian church)

d) Effect down the ages (Experience of Christians down the ages)

*"We are faced then with a frightening alternative". Either Jesus was (and is) exactly what he said or else he was insane or something worse. To C.S Lewis it seemed clear that he could neither have been insane or evil and thus he concludes, "however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that he was and is God." **C.S Lewis***

Session 2

Why Did Jesus Die?

Introduction

The cross lies at the heart of the Christian faith (1 Corinthian 2:23)

I-The Problem

“All have sinned...” (Romans 3:23)

Results of Sin:

- Pollution of sin (Mark 7:21-23)
- Power of sin (John 8:34)
- Penalty for sin (Roman 6:23)
- Partition of sin (Isaiah 59:2)

II- The Solution

(1 Peter 2:24)

The self-substitution of God- John Stott
Agony of the Cross

III-The Result

(Romans 3:21-26)

Four images:

- The Temple “God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood” (v.25) pollution of sin removed
- The Market place “The redemption that came by Christ Jesus”(v.24) Power of sin broken
- The law Court :”justified freely by his grace” (v.24) Penalty of sin paid
- The Home Reconciliation

“God was....in Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:19) Partition of sin destroyed

Conclusion

“Righteousness from God”

(Romans 3:22 Isaiah 53:6)

He died for you and me (Galatians 2:20)

Session 3

How Can I be sure of my Faith?

Introduction

“...Those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old is gone. A new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 New Living Translation)

But experiences vary... some immediately know the difference....for others it is more gradual.

When we receive Christ, we became a child of God (John 1:12)
(N.B. Believed + Received)

God wants us to be sure

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life”

(1 John 5:13)

I-The word of God

We must not trust only our feelings which can be changeable and may even be deceptive at times but rely instead on God’s promises

“I will come in”(Revelation 3:20)

“I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20)

“I give them eternal life” (John 10:28)

Faith=taking God’s promises and daring to believe them.

II-The Work of Jesus

We cannot earn God’s forgiveness, but Jesus Christ died on the cross so that we might be reconciled to God

-God loves us and died to prove it (John 3:16)

-He took our sins upon himself (Isaiah 53;6-2Corinthians 5:21)

III-The Witness of the Spirit

When someone becomes a Christian, God’s Holy Spirit comes a dwell within them (Romans 8:9)

1- He transforms us from within

Our Characters (Galatians 5:22-23)

Our relationships

Which of the following changes have you already experienced in your life?

- New Love
- Desire to read the Bible
- Sense of forgiveness
- New Concern for others
- Enjoyment of worshipping God
- Desire to meet with other Christians

2-He brings a deep, personal conviction that I am God's child (Romans 8:15-16)

Session 4

Why and How Should I read the Bible

Introduction

- The most popular book
- The most powerful book
- The most precious book

I- God Has Spoken-Revelation

(2 Timothy 3:15-17)

“Theopneustos” – God – Breathed

Therefore it is our authority for :

- Teaching
- Rebuking
- Correcting
- Training in righteousness

Ie: our manual for life

II- God Speaks – Relationship

“Salvation through faith in Christ”

(2 Timothy 3:15. John 5:39,40)

1-To those who are not Christians
(Romans 10:17 John 20:31)

- 2- To those who are Christians
- Become like Jesus
(2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - Joy and peace in the midst of a storm
(psalm 23:5)
 - Guidance (Psalm 119:105)
 - Health/Healing
(Proverb 4:20-22)
 - Defense Against Spiritual Attack
(Mathew 4:1-11)
 - Power (Hebrews 4:12)
 - Cleansing (John 15:3)

III- How do we Hear God Speak Through the Bible

1-Time

Plan ahead

- Develop a regular pattern

2- Place

A solitary place (Mark 1:35)

3- Method

a) Ask God to speak

b) Read the passage (try to use Bible reading notes)

c) Ask yourself: What does it say?
 What does it mean?
 How does it apply?

d) Respond in Prayer

e) Put it into Practice

Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice (Matthew 7:24)

Recommended reading

Nicky Gumbel

Alpha International Publications

ISBN 1 9027 5081 0

Session 5

Why and How Do I Pray?

I-What is Prayer?

(Matthew 6:5-13)

The most important activity of our lives.

The whole Trinity involved

To the Father

“ To your Father” (v.6

Immanence

In Heaven (v.9)

Transcendence (Matthew 6)

Through the Son

(Ephesians 2:18)

3) In the Spirit (Romans 8:26)

II- Why Pray?

Developing a relationship with God

Model of Jesus

(Mark 1:35

(Luke 6:12

(Luke 9:18

(Luke 9:28)

(Luke 11:1)

Rewards of prayer

(Matthew 6:6)

Joy (John 16:24

Peace (Philippians 4:6,7)

Results of Prayer

(Matthew 7:7-11)!

III- Does God Always Answer Prayers?

Also Matthew 7:7-11

But:

- Unconfessed Sin (Isaiah: 59:2
- b) Unforgiveness (Matthew 6:14,15)
- c) Disobedience (1 John 3:21,22)
- d) Wrong motives (James 4:2,3)
- e) Misapprehension of the will of God “ Good Gifts”
(Matthew 7:11)

Yes/No/Wait

No:

“either not good in themselves, or not good for us or for others, directly or indirectly, immediately or ultimately

John Stott

IV- How do we pray?

- A-adoration
- B-confession
- C-thanksgiving
- D-supplication

Model of the Lord’s prayer

Hallowed be your name (v.9)
 Your kingdom come (v.10)
 God rule and reign In people’s lives
 Return of Jesus
 Presence of God’s kingdom now

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
 Give us today our daily bread

Everything necessary for the preservation of life, like food, a healthy body, good weather, house, home, wife, children, good government and peace, Martin Luther.

V. When should we pray

1) Always

- (1 Thessalonians 5:17
- (Ephesians 6:18)
- 2) Alone (Matthew 6:6)

Regular Pattern
 Best part of the day (Mark 1:35)

With Others (Matthew 18:10 Session 6)

Session 6

How Does God Guide Us??

Decisions eg. Marriage, job, home, money, giving, holidays, use of time, possessions etc.

- God promises to guide (psalm 32.8)-(John 10:3,4)
- God has a good plan for our lives (Jeremiah 29:11) (Romans12:2)
- We need to consult God before making major decisions (Isaiah 30:1,2)
- Jesus is the supreme example (Luke 4:1)- (John5:19)
- Our attitude needs to be one of humility (psalm 25: 14)

“I am the Lord servant and I am willing to do whatever he wants” (psalm 37:5,6)

I-COMMANDING SCRIPTURE

General will (2 Timothy 3:16) General information for marriage, work, money, children, elderly relatives
Particular will (psalm 119:105,130-133) May bring to light a particular verse

II-COMPELLING SPIRIT

They know his voice (John 10:3,4 Acts16:7)

God speaks as you pray(Acts 13:1-3)

- the good thought
- strong impressions
- feelings

Needs for testing (1 John 4:1)

- is it loving?(1 John4:16)
- is it strengthening, encouraging, and comforting? (1 Corinthians 14:3)
- Does it bring the peace of God? (Colossians 3:15)

Strong desire to do something

To will and to act according to his good purpose (Philippians 2:13)

Sometimes he guides in more unusual ways

- Prophecy eg. Agabus
- Dreams (Matthew 1:20)
- Visions/Pictures (Acts 16:10)
- Angels (Genesis 18) (Matthew 2:19) (Acts 12:7)
- Audible voice (1 Samuel 3:4-14)

III-COMMON SENSE

« *Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle*”.(psalm 32:8)

“*Reflect on what I am saying for the Lord will give you insight into all this*
(2 Timothy 2:7)

God’s promises of guidance were not given to save us the problem of thinking John Stott

Eg marriage, job /career
(1 Corinthians 7:17-24)

VI-COUNSEL OF SAINTS

“...*The wise listen to advice* (proverbs 12:15)

Plans fail for lack of counsel but with many advisers succeed (proverbs 15:22)

Make plans by seeking advice”(proverbs 20:18)

But:

-who is responsible?

-whom should we consult?

V-CIRCUMSTANTIAL SIGNS

In your heart you plan your course, but the Lord determines your steps
(proverbs 16:9)

Sometimes God closes doors (Acts 16:7)

Watch the circumstances but don’t put too much weight on them

Sometimes we need to persevere despite the circumstances

Conclusion

1)Don’t be in a hurry

2)We all make mistakes-God forgives(Joel 2:25)

Talk 1

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Introduction

For a long time in the church the person and work of the Holy Spirit has been:

Ignored

- a greater concentration on the Father and the Son

Misunderstood

- Holy Ghost He not it Resisted
- He wants to take control

I-He Was Involved in Creation

- bringing order out of chaos (Genesis 1:2)
- giving life to man (Genesis 2:7)

II-He Came Upon Particular People At Particular Times For Particular Tasks

Eg:

- Bezalel – for artistic work (Exodus 31:1-5)
- Gideon – for leadership (Judges 6:14-16,34)
- Samson – for strength (Judges 15:14,15)
- Isaiah – for prophecy (Isaiah 61:1-3)

The promise of a “new thing”

- “They will all know me” (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

III- He Was Promised by the Father

- “I will put my spirit In you”(Ezekiel 36:26,27)
- “A river flowing from the Temple” (Ezekiel 47)
- “I will pour out my spirit on all people” (Joel 2:28,29)

But the prophecies remained unfulfilled for at least 300 years

With the coming of Jesus there is a great activity of the spirit

But still on a few particular people

John the Baptist (Luke 1:14-15)

Mary (Luke 1:35)

Elizabeth (Luke 1:41)

Zechariah (Luke 1:67)

Simeon (Luke 2:25-27)

IV-John the Baptist Links Him With Jesus

Luke 3:16

In Greek “Baptidzo”

to overwhelm, immerse, plunge, drench

Jesus, the Spirit-filled man

Jesus received power through the anointing of the Holy Spirit at his baptism

(Luke 3:22)

(Luke 4:1, 14, 18)

V- Jesus Predict His Presence

(John 7:37-39)

But tells them to wait in the city until they are clothed with power from on high

(Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4,5,8)

At Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit and received:

-new languages (Acts 2:4-12)

-new boldness (Acts 2:14)

-new power (Acts 2:37-41)

Conclusion

We live in the age of the Spirit.

God has promised to give his

Spirit to every Christian

(Acts 2:38,39)

Just as we are physically born into human family-so the Holy Spirit gives us a new birth into God’s family.

Point one

We are forgiven for all that we have done wrong

We become God’s Children

Point two

-Getting to know God better

Point Three

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray
The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Bible

Growing in the family likeness

The Holy Spirit helps us to become more like Jesus in every part of our lives and in every way.

Talk 2

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

Introduction

New Birth (John 3:5-7)

Born into a family

I- Sons and Daughters of God

- 1) forgiveness (Romans 8:1-2)
- 2) Sonship (Romans 8:14-17)
 - great privilege (v14)
 - closest community (v 15)
 - deepest experience (v16)
 - most secure hope (v17)

II-(Ephesians 2:18)

- 1) He helps us to pray (Romans 8:26)
- 2) He enables us to understand God's word (Ephesians 1:17,18)

III-The Family Likeness

(Galatians 5:22-23)

2 Corinthians) 3:17,18

IV- Unity in the Family

Ephesians 4:3-6

V-Gifts for all the Children

Each member of the family is different (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

-Free gifts

-To each one

-For the common good

VI-The Growing Family

-He empowers us to witness for Christ

-Power for service (Acts 1:8)

Conclusion

Every Christian has the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9) but not every Christian is filled with the Spirit.

Be filled (Ephesians 5:18-20)

How?

(Revelation 22:17)

Talk 3

How can I be Filled with the Spirit

1-What happens when people experience the Holy Spirit?

Outpouring of the Spirit in Acts:

- 1) Pentecost (Acts 2:2-4)
- 2) Samaria (Acts 8:14-17)
- 3) Paul (Acts 9:17-19)
- 4) Ephesus (Acts 19:1-6)

2-What did they experience?

What happened to Cornelius and his household when the Spirit came upon them?
(Acts 10:44-46)

1) They experienced the power of the Holy Spirit “...*The Holy Spirit came upon all who heard the message. The circumcised believers ...were astonished*” (Acts 10:44-45)

Experience is different for everyone

(Acts 8:16)
(Ephesians 3:17-20)
(Romans 5:5)

Fruit of the Spirit

2) They were released in Praise
“*for they heard them....praising God*”(Acts 10:46)

-Fear of emotion
-All relationships should involve emotions
-Private versus public
-Emotion versus emotionalism

3) They receive a new language
“for they heard them speaking in tongues (Acts 10:46)

1) What is the Gift of Tongues?

- **A form of prayer (1 Corinthians 14:2)**
- **Builds up individual**
- **Transcends language barrier (1 Corinthians 14:14)**
- **Speaker in full control**

2) Not all Christians speak in tongues

-Not necessary a sign of being filled with the Spirit

-There are no first or second-class Christians

-It is not the most important gift

3) Why is it helpful?

-Praise/worship

-Praying for oneself

-Praying for others

4)-Does the New Testament approve?

-(1 Corinthians 14)

-Context: excessive public use

-Nevertheless....(vv5,18,39)

-Private versus public

5) How do we receive this gift?

“Eagerly desire

Ask God

Co-operate with the Spirit

Believe

Persevere

What are the Common Hindrances to being filled with the Spirit?

Three common Hindrances (luke 11:9-10)

Doubt (vv 9,10)

Fear (vv11-13)

Inadequacy

God bless you all

Session 7 How Can I Resist Evil?

Introduction

Reality of spiritual warfare

Satan = Fallen Angel?
(Isaiah 14, Luke 10:17-20)

Old Testament
(Job 1, 1 Chronicles 21:1)

New Testament
A personal, spiritual being who is in active rebellion against God and has the leadership of many demons like himself.

(Ephesians 6:11,12)

Not to be underestimated

- Cunning
- Evil
- Powerful

I-Why should we believe in the existence of the Devil

1) Biblical (Scripture)

- Old Testament
- Jesus
- Peter (1 Peter 5:8-11)
- Paul (Ephesians 6:11-12)

2) Christians down through the ages (tradition)

- Church fathers
- Reforms
- Ordinary Christians

3) Common sense (reason)

Mistaken views:

- Unhealthy interest
- Disbelief

II-What are the Devil's Tactics?

- 1) Aims to destroy (John 10:10)
- 2) Blinds people (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- 3) Doubt (Genesis 3) (Matthew 4:3-6)
- 4) Temptation (Genesis 3:6)
 - Permission, prohibition, penalty
 - Consequences of disobedience (Genesis 3)
 - Shame/Embarrassment (v7)
 - Friendship with God broken
 - They hid (v8)*
 - Afraid (v.10)*
 - They blamed each other
- 5) Accusation
 - Accuses God
 - Accuses Christians before God (Revelation 12:10)

III-What is our Position?

Colossians 1:13

Satan defeated on the cross (Colossians 2:15)

Jesus disciples given authority over demons (Luke 10:17-20)

Dominion of Darkness	Kingdom of Light
Satan	Jesus
Sin	Forgiveness
Slavery to sin	Slaves of God
Death	(Freedom in Christ)
Destruction	Life
	Salvation

IV- How Do We Defend Ourselves?

'Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's scheme'(Ephesians 6:11)

- 1) **Belt of Truth (v14)**
 - A grounding in Christian doctrine/truth to counter Satan's lies (John 8:32)
- 2) **Breastplate of righteousness (v.14)**
 - The righteousness of Christ given to us (Philippians 3:9)
 - To protect the heart against guilt and condemnation

3) Boots of the gospel of peace (v15)

- The readiness to speak of Christ (Isaiah 52:7-10)

4) Shield of faith (v.16)

- The opposite of cynicism and skepticism

5) Helmet of Salvation (v17)

- Past, Present, Future
- To protect the mind against doubt and accusation

5) Sword of the Spirit (v.17)

- The word of God
- The only offensive piece of armor (Hebrews 4:12)

V- How Do We Attack?

“The whole world is under the control of the evil one”(1 John 5:19)

The Kingdom of God advances through:

1) Prayer

“ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:4)

2) Action (Luke 7:22)

- Preaching the gospel
- Casting out demons
- Healing the sick...

Session 8

Why and How Should We Tell Others?

Introduction

- Great commission (Matthew 28:16-20)
- Needs of others
- Gospel = good news (about Jesus)

Two opposite dangers:

- Insensitivity
- Fear

Key = it arises out of a relationship

Co-operation with Spirit of God

I-Presence

(Matthew 5:13-16) We are called to be salt and light (v.13-14)

When people know we are Christians, they watch our lives (v16) eg. Spouses

“...If any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives (1 Peter 3:1,2)

II- Persuasion

“Since... we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade people” (2 Corinthians 5:11, Acts 17:2-4)

Work out the answers to common questions

Eg. "What about other religions? "How can a God of love allow suffering?"

II-Proclamation

(John 1:39-42)

- 1) 'come... and you will see' We are not all called to be “evangelists” but we are all called to be witnesses (v.41)

- 2) Explain ourselves

III-Power

- 1) Do and Tell
- 2) A Miracle arouses great interest!! (Acts 3)

V- Prayer

- for them – to open blind eyes (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- for ourselves – to have boldness (Acts 4:29-31)

Conclusion

Don't give up (Romans 1:16)

Appendix

Preparing your testimony

Suggestions:

- **Make it short, aim for three minutes- people switch off after that**
- **Make it personal – don't preach Use "I" or "We – not "you"**
- **Keep Christ central – they need to follow him, not you!**
- **Format**
 - A little of your former life**
 - How you came into your relationship with Christ**
 - Something of what it has meant since then**
- **Write it out in full – it's easier to see the waffle when it's down on paper.**

Lord Jesus Christ,

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life.

Take a few moments to ask his forgiveness for anything particular that is on your conscience).

Please forgive me. I now turn from everything which I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.

Thank you that you now offer me this gift of forgiveness and your Spirit. I now receive that gift.

Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever.

Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Session 9 Does God Heal Today?

Introduction

Introduction of Healing to this church

Our own experience

I- Healing in the Bible

1) Old Testament

- Promise of God eg. (Exodus 23:25-26) (Psalm 41:3)
- The character of God “I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26)
- Example of God healing (2 kings 5 :Isaiah 38,39)

CHART 1

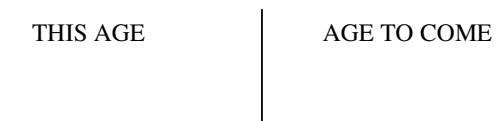
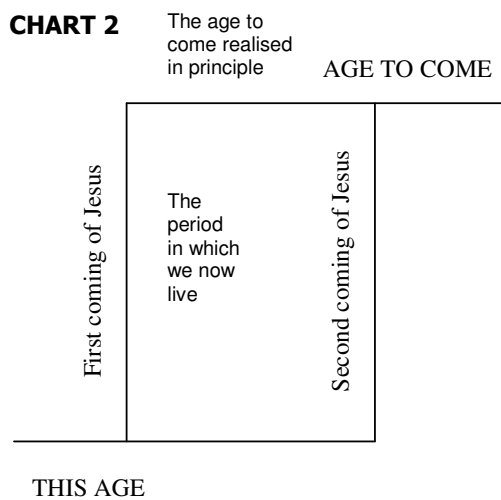


CHART 2



2) The ministry of Jesus

- His teaching (the kingdom of God “Mark 1:14) proclaimed and demonstrated
- His healings 25% of the Gospels
- His commissions
 - a) commission of the 12 (Matthew 9:35-10:8)
 - b) commission of the 72 (Luke 10:1-20)
 - c) commission of the disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)
(Mark 16:15-20) (John 14:9-14-especially v.12)

II-Healing in Church History

Many examples of healing and miracles (Acts 3:1-10, Acts 5:12-16)

Early Church History

Eg. Irenaeus (140-203)

Origen (c.185-254)

Augustine (354-430)

III-Healing Today

- 1) Simplicity
- 2) Love (Matthew (9:36) (Mark1:41)
- 3) Words of Knowledge (Pictures- Sympathy pain- Impressions – Hear or see words – words formed on tongue)
- 4) Prayer
 - Where does it hurt?
 - Why does the person have this condition?
 - How do I pray?
 - How are they doing?
 - What next?

Conclusion

Persevere

Session 10

What about the Church

Introduction

Popular Misconceptions:

- Church = Services
- Church = Clergy
- Church = a particular denomination
- Church = the Building

What is the church?

I- The People of God

(1 Peter 2:9-10)

Greek word "ekklesia" = an assembly or gathering of people

Church /Kingdom

Baptism is the visible mark of being a member of the church

Baptism signifies:

- Cleansing from sin (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- Incorporation into Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5)
- (Colossians 2:12)
- Sealing of the spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13)

1) Universal church (Ephesians 3:10,21 – 5:23,25)

1,900 million Christians in the world today

- Persecuted church
- Third church
- Free church

2) Local Churches "Galatian churches" (1 Corinthians 16:1)

"The churches in the province of Asia" (1 Corinthians 16:19)

"All the churches of Christ"

◇ Celebration services

- Festive occasions (Passover, Pentecost, New Year)
- Sense of God's greatness
- Weakness: difficult to make friends

◇ Congregation

- Pastoral group 12-50
- Small enough to know others and to be known
- Ministry to each other (Ephesians 4:12)
- Exercise of gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
- Open group

◇ Cell

- Small group (4-12)
- Close friends
- Keynotes:
 - a) Confidentiality
 - b) Intimacy
 - c) Accountability (1 John 4:19)

I-The Family of God

(Ephesians 2:14-18)

- God as our Father (John 1:12)

Importance of Unity

Jesus prayed "...that they may be one"(John 17:11)

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3)

"On the necessary points, unity, on the questionable points, liberty, in everything, love" *Rupertus Meldeni*

- Brothers and Sisters to each other (1 John 4:19 – 5:1)

Faithfulness (Galatians 6:10)

Forgiveness (Matthew 18:15,35) (Matthew 5:23,24)

Fellowship (Acts 2:42-47)

- Fellowship with God- Father, Son and Holy Spirit

(1 John 1:3)-(2 Corinthians 13:14)

-and with one another (1 John 1:7)

(Hebrews 10:24,25)

III-The Body Of Christ

(1 Corinthians 12:1-26)

“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? (Acts 9:4)

- Unity (Ephesians 4:3-6) “the unity of the Spirit”
- Diversity (vv7-11) “to each one of us grace has been given”
- Mutual dependance (vv14-26) “builds itself up in love, as each part does its work”

IV- A Holy Temple

(Ephesians 2:19-22)

- Built on foundation of apostles and prophets (v20) New Testament
- Jesus as the cornerstone (v20)
- Indwelt by God’s Spirit (v21) “a Holy Temple”

V- The Bridge of Christ

(Ephesians 5:25-27,32)

- Christ’s love for his church (v25)
- Christ’s purpose for his church (v27) (Revelation 21:2)
- Our response (1 Peter 2:9)
 - Holiness
 - Worship
 - Witness

Weekend Talk 4

How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?

Romans 12:1-21

I-What Should We Do?

- 1) Break with the past

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world” (v2)

“Do not let the world around you squeeze you into its mould”(v2 J.B Phillips)

- 2) Make a new start

“Let God transform you inwardly by a complete change”(NEB)

-Sincere love (v9)

-Enthusiasm for the Lord (v11)

-Harmonious relationships (vv9-21)

II-How do We Do It?

-“Present your bodies...”

- 1) Acts of will
- 2) Ears
- 3) Eyes
- 4) Mouths
- 5) Hands
- 6) Sexuality
- 7) Time
- 8) Ambitions (Matthew 6:33)
- 9) Money

“as living sacrifices”

It will involve sacrifice

It may involve suffering

III- Why Should We Do It?

What God has planned for our future

“His good pleasing and perfect will”

What God has done for us

“In view of God’s mercy”

