

2 Peter 2

These are the leaders notes from the Kielder Bible Study Group for the meeting that was held on 21st March 2012

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

This is something good to remember - we have to assume that Jesus is with us now. I know we are a small group and sometimes do we think what can we do as a group?

There have been two things recently that have made me think about this, firstly positive comments I have had on my blog about things we have discussed at these meetings. I was quite surprised at getting some responses, secondly I recently read a couple of in an encouraging articles about how God works with small groups and I thought it would be good to share some points from it. The articles highlighted various Christian activities

March for Jesus – started from the worship group that Graham Kendrick developed, eventually leading to 10 million people marching on a single day in 1994, by 2000 60 million people had taken part across 170 nations.

The Alpha course started as a Bible study course in the 1970's, since then it has been developed by Nicky Gumbel and now has over 11 million people coming along to courses in 163 nations.

The 1904 welsh revival - which was started by Evan Roberts a conscientious Sunday School Superintendent, had been praying for revival for over 11 years. Having been converted as a young teenager, he continued to pray regularly that God would visit again the nation in Revival Power. On September 13th 1904 he became a pupil of the Newcastle Emlyn Grammar School to prepare for Trefecca Theological College and 2½ weeks later he found himself at Blaenannerch and he starts preaching. God worked miraculously through him and 100,000 new converts resulted

The articles also goes on to mention the 24-7 prayer rooms – a chain of continuous prayer and the Jubilee 2000 Debt Relief

So next time we fell down remember it is God works miraculously – it's God's power not our own. Getting back to Peter we have learnt from Peters letters that they were written to encourage Christians in their walk with God.

Recap themes from Last week – 2 Peter 1

- You cannot be a Christian unless you know God/Jesus personally – It is not a hypothetical tick box exercise
- If you know Jesus then you can experience his power, and should want to.
- Prayer comes into this as well, as this is how we get to know Jesus better.
- Lots and lots of Love
- We should be growing in faith

- The history of the church both old and new testament is important.

2 Peter 2 1-3 False teaching

Q How do we go about recognising false teachers?

Deny that Jesus is the Son of God

Generally destructive rather than constructive

Q Where does money come into this?

Read 1 Timothy 6 1-5, 6-10, 11-16 17-21

Q What is this saying to us?

2 Peter 4-9

Q We have three examples of Gods judgement here – What about them

Fallen Angels v4 – Difficult to understand but this could refer back to Genesis 6 1-4 sons of God – There is two views on the meanings here

- Could mean angels It is implied that them having sex with human women was wrong.
- Or could mean Sethites – these were descendants of Seth (Son of Adam) who remained faithful (unlike the descendants of Cain) but became corrupted by the worldly line of Cain

Fallen People – v5 Genesis 6 5-8 Noah and the flood Story carries on till end of Genesis 7

Fallen Cities – v6-8 Genesis 19 1-29 Sodom and Gomorrah

Can we put this into a summary -

- No-one is exempt from Judgement
- God has shown what his Judgement is
- God is in control v9
- Living a Christian life in an ungodly world is hard

In the next section Peter goes on to look at False Teachers in more detail

2 Peter 2 10-12

From the message -10-11 God is especially incensed against these "teachers" who live by lust, addicted to a filthy existence. They despise interference from true

authority, preferring to indulge in self-rule. Insolent egotists, they don't hesitate to speak evil against the most splendid of creatures. Even angels, their superiors in every way, wouldn't think of throwing their weight around like that, trying to slander others before God.

Q So what does this mean in everyday language? A Teachers inventing Gods rules

2 Peter 2 13-16

Ties in with Romans 6 6-11 – People blaspheme without realising what they are doing – this is similar to wild animals acting on instinct..

Balaam Donkey - 2:15 way of Balaam. Jewish exegetical tradition had made Balaam proverbial for his greed, so the false teachers with their desire for gain are compared with him .

Numbers 22 21-41 The story of Balaams Donkey

2 Peter 2 17-22

Q What do we think Peter is saying in v17? This is a picture of cruel deception – Seeming looks as if water is present from afar but when get there none. It ties in with v20? – Teachers who wilfully go astray are not good news.

Read Romans 8 28-39

Here v39 is the key verse. This probably implies that false teachers were not really saved in the first instance.

Q What about the proverbs quoted in v22 & v12 A.It is in an animals nature to act as it does.

So to recap – False Teachers are not good news, and they will be punished

Q As Christians what are we to do about false teachers? A Be aware of them by testing teaching from the bible

Q How do we know if the teaching being given is Biblical We must have read and studied our Bibles