

Hearing God's
Word in Rural
Tasmania

Rural Bible Network

Realities of New Covenant Ministry

2 Corinthians 2-5

Murray Capill

Saturday 16 May 2009

Latrobe Memorial Hall

Programme

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11:00 Talk 1

‘Not what you might expect’

12:15 Soup & Sandwich Lunch
(Main Hall)

1:30 Talk 2

‘A Glorious Work’

2:30 Afternoon tea

3:00 Talk 3

‘A brilliant strategy’

Welcome to the Rural Bible Network May Forum.

We hope you enjoy your time with us and find encouragement to live Christ centred lives through this ministry.

The Rural Bible Network works to bring top quality, faithful Bible teaching to rural Tasmania. Our aim is to bring nationally recognised Bible teachers from around Australia to our rural community. The Rural Bible Network continues to provide opportunities for us to enjoy opening God's Word with top Bible teachers.

Today we welcome Dr Murray Capill from the Reformed Theological College in Geelong. Murray will be opening 2 Corinthians 2-5 with us.

I trust that you will find today's Rural Bible Network helpful as we focus on the Bible as God's Word and hear what God has to say to us today.

Chris Stafferton

Co-ordinator, Rural Bible Network

Talk: 1**2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3****‘Not what you might expect’**

Chapters 2 – 5

- Candid
- On the back foot
- A long digression
- New covenant ministry

1. A strange triumph

- v14 – triumphal procession

- it's not our party

2. A mixed blessing

- v14-15 – incense, fragrance, aroma

- v16 – who is up to it?

- v17 – an audience of one

3. A special letter

- credentials

- humility

Talk: 2 2 Corinthians 3:4 – 4:6

'A Glorious Work'

Losing heart

- 4:1, 16
- Paul's perspective
- Glorious

Two glorious things about new covenant ministry...

1. People are given life

- Old covenant glory
- New covenant glory
- The Holy Spirit
- Keep at the main game
- Don't change the key

2. People are transformed completely

- Fading glory

- Unfading glory

- Unveiled hearts

- 3:18 – metamorphosis

- Progressive glorification

- Beholding

Conclusion: How could you give it up?

2. God's gospel strategy generates hope

- Gives us all a go
- Much can be done through us
- Keeps our eyes on what really counts
- You can put it all on the scales
- Fix your eyes

2 Corinthians 2.14-4.18 (NIV)

¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. ¹⁵For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? ¹⁷Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

3 ¹Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. ³You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶He has made us competent as ministers of a

new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Glory of the New Covenant

⁷Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. ¹¹And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of

the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Treasures in Jars of Clay

4 ¹Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on every side,

but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. ¹²So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹³It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. ¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Rural Bible Network - 2009

Next Rural Bible Forum will be held on:

Saturday 29 August

David Hohne - opens Paul's letter to the Colossians

Please provide your contact details so that we can let you know about Rural Bible Network activities.

Contact the Rural Bible Network by email:

rbn@becausechrist.net

Check our website for news:

www.RuralBible.net

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The Rural Bible Network brings
nationally recognised Bible teachers
to the rural community.

*"For whatever was written in the former days was written for
our instruction that through endurance and through the
encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."
Romans 15.4*