

World Without Windows

Mens Day Away – 9th June 2007

The day started early for a Saturday with a fantastic fried breakfast expertly cooked by Steve Morrow, who along with Ian Rouse and a few others had been hard at work in the kitchen from 7:00am

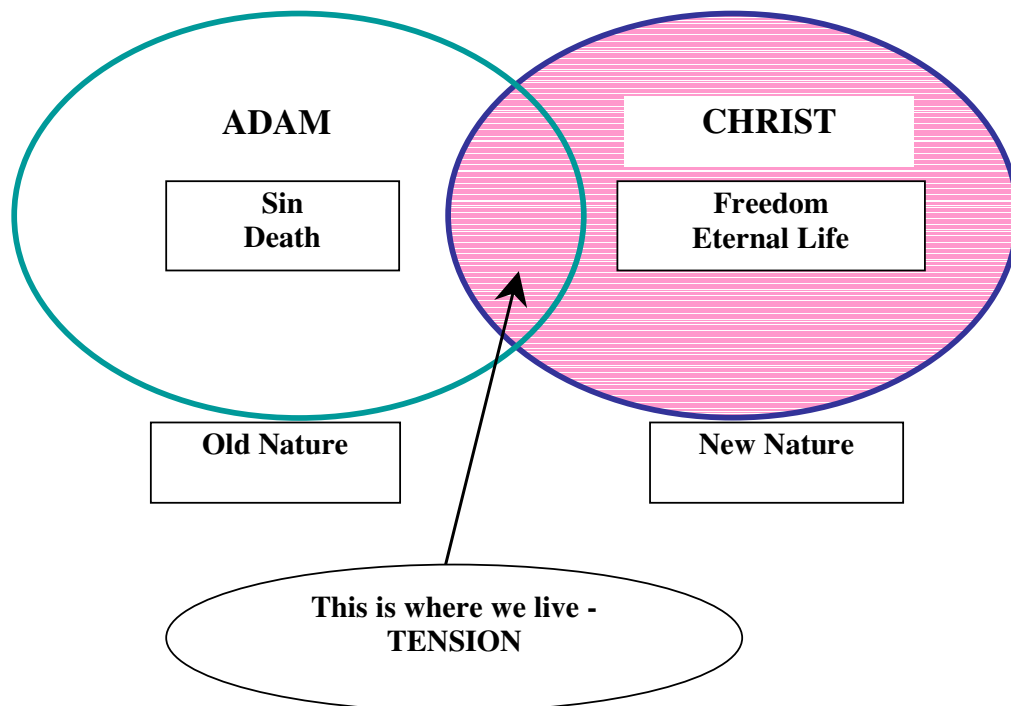
The guest speaker Doug Olsen, originally from the USA, now based at St Helens, Bishopgate London came to speak to us on the subject of a “World without Windows”.

Doug’s first talk was called the “Absolute Truth”.

If you lived in, say, the Church Centre and never left it or looked out of the windows you might come the conclusion that all there was to life is wood cladding, carpet and electric light. Similarly without God you might conclude that all there is to life is what you can see around you. Knowing God as the Maker of our universe, broadens our horizons.

God created Adam and Eve and told them not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, because he knew that they did not have the capacity to deal with it. They ignored his command and a Perfect World with Imperfect people resulted. Sin is rejecting and not listening to God.

After coffee we reconvened and Doug discussed “How to relate to God”. We are all saved by the Cross of Christ – no one has earned it. It is given freely to us. A very helpful diagram showing our Old Nature, sin and death contained within one circle and freedom and eternal life in another as our New Nature.



In reality these two circles overlap and that is where we experience tensions in our lives. Doug made the point that whichever of those natures are fed the best; that is the one that will overcome the other. We therefore need to feed our new nature through such things as prayer triplets, quiet times and better, deeper relationships with each other.

After lunch, we split into three groups; and went off to play golf, snooker or walking. Having spent an enjoyable three hours in glorious sunshine at Pytchley Golf Course I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed my game of golf and the expert tutoring I received.

Having exercised we all went for dinner at Overstone Golf Club for a great meal and then returned to the Church Centre for the third talk: "God is Love: God is Light". This was based on 1 John 1:5 -2:3.

We need to confess to God our sins and he will forgive us. We need to agree with God that we are all sinners and let Him deal with it. If we do not confess our sins then we deceive ourselves. The great thing is that we have Jesus as our advocate who pleads for us and has already paid the price of our sins.

After this third talk it was getting late and so the final activity – Food Quiz was abandoned for an opportunity another day.

Practically we had had a Men's Weekend Away condensed into a single Saturday. We all took a lot away from the day and we also all got a free book: called "Cut to the Chase" which is an excellent book for men. We heard some very moving testimonies from men of our congregation and we had some great fellowship.

I would recommend these events to all men at Moulton Church as an opportunity to learn, reflect and to develop deeper relationships within the fellowship of Moulton Church. Often we get no deeper than discussing the weather. We need to build each other up in the faith and support each other in our daily Christian lives. I look forward to the next day/weekend away and to seeing you there!

Roger Smart
8th July 2007