



Connect Notes - 23 March 2015

THE GIFT OF SALVATION AND THE WORK OF THE CROSS - Ps Phil Pringle

Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar.

EZEKIEL 47:1 (All references NKJV)

In this passage Ezekiel the prophet is taken by an angel to the door of the temple and he sees a river. They waded down the river and the further they go, the deeper the river gets.

As they go the river brings things to life along the bank, even the dead fish in the water until finally it reaches the Dead Sea and it comes to life.

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

John 7:38

- There is a river! It isn't a theory or an idea and John says it flows from the church and from believers, bringing life as it flows.

The gospels tell of healings where people felt the power flow into them from Jesus and Jesus noticed the power flowing out of him (the woman in Luke 8 and Mark 5).

- Jesus is the door and when people come to the door, they discover the river.

'Then he brought me back...' Ezekiel 47:1

- Be a bringer.

- Many people have met Jesus at some time in their lives, they just need an invitation to bring them back, to discover the river.

- It took four friends to bring the paralytic to Jesus; together we can fill every seat in the building.

Doors have walls and buildings around them; this is why they are doors, there is a way in and out.

- Jesus made the door: the way in, when He died on the cross. He must be at the centre and if He isn't, we must go back.

- When we wander away from the cross we are left without the door without the river, we can misdiagnose our problems. We make excuses rather than an acknowledgement of sin. We redefine the problem so that we don't have to face the guilt and shame of repentance.

- Repentance is short, it gets us through the door and then there is the river: to flow into our lives and rearrange things for the better.

When you glue two surfaces together, you must clean the surface or the glue won't stick.

- Repenting is cleaning off the grime so we can have a clean start and God can connect with us.

- Just as Jesus explained to Peter, (John 13:1-10) when you have gone out into the world after bathing, your hands and your feet get dusty and need to be cleaned, but there's no need to have another bath.

- We have times spiritually when we need to wash off the dirt from the journey: come back to the door for cleansing and forgiveness.

TALK ABOUT

*** How have you experienced the river flowing in your life/at church?**

*** Did someone bring you to Jesus?**

*** Who has God placed in your world who you can bring to the river?**

*** Have you planned to "clean your hands and feet" in preparation for the period of Easter and Presence conference?**