

## Reflections on the message by Paul Tarbuck on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010

### “Ambassadors in Christ”

We can see examples in the world of people who are unregenerate who think only of themselves. A regenerated person is one who is truly a Christian. They are those who are regenerate are to set their minds on the things of the Holy Spirit, not on worldly things (Romans 8:5, Galatians 5:7-25). In particular we are to serve one another (Galatians 5:13). But some do not change their lifestyles when they encounter the word of God. What should we expect from one another?

The Christian life is about reconciliation and the message of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ. He has set us free to be ambassadors and has created us to have a relationship with the living God. Reconciliation with God should lead to reconciliation with other people. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan to explain how we should treat others (Luke 10: 25-37)

How do you recognise an ambassador of Christ. Only God knows whether you are saved or not, although Christians have good reason to be confident from scripture that they are saved. But the signs of regeneration are evident. New Christians will cease from swearing, and there will be a falling away of excessive behaviour. They should dress more soberly so as not to draw attention to themselves. They should be able to accept personal criticism. A Christian is able to be knocked into shape, including by their own conscience. They are a “Samaritan” to others in the church.

You can't know what is in someone's mind. A Christian knows that God can see what he or she is thinking and tries to discipline their thoughts. Sometimes we can see what someone is thinking through their body language – a regenerate person should be more relaxed. With maturity, an ambassador puts away foolish things (1 Cor. 13:11), starting to desire meat not milk, wanting to learn and to be challenged.

So an ambassador should have changed behaviour, body language and thinking. We should expect more of Christians for we live according to a different set of rules and a different philosophy from the world. We should expect the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5: 22-23). Look at what is on display! 1 Cor. 13 tells us that the greatest of the signs is love. What does it mean? The Bible has many pages that tell us how relationships should be conducted (Rom. 12, Eph. 4-6, Gal. 5-6, 1 Tim. 6).

How do we measure up to these scriptures? It is sobering. Let us tell people how much we appreciate them before it is too late to do so. Some in BFC do not yet feel comfortable here, sitting alone on the edge but longing to be involved. What are we going to do about it. To be effective we have to function. Every Sunday, **A**cknowledge such people, **B**less them with a greeting and **C**ommunicate to them about the meeting you have just attended.