

## Reflections on the message by John Cavanagh, 24th January 2010

### “The Hidden Power of God” 1 Corinthians 1:17-25

There is something hidden about the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is foolishness to those who are outside. There are vociferous opponents to the gospel which is defended by ‘weak’ people, as the world see them. There is an anti-Christian theme in the media. The gospel is ridiculed by this world, but it is transforming the world. It is spread by ordinary people who have become extraordinary by the Holy Spirit. They bring the message of his forgiveness and mercy to the hopeless. The gospel is taking the world by storm. God is at work in these days.

1. The hidden power of God is at work in the world. *God* is in control of space and history, not blind nature. He is at work to bring salvation to a lost world. In the Old Testament we read the example of Joseph who said to his brothers, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good”. In the exile of Judah, God was still at work. Daniel was in a place of power and influence. And Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were in places of influence also with an unbelieving and evil king who had them thrown into a fiery furnace. Yet they trusted in God to save them from it. What faith they had! Esther was used as an instrument of deliverance. We need to keep believing that His will *will* be done. God is still moving people into positions of influence.

2. The hidden power of God is at work in the church. The gospel will not be defeated whoever attacks it. Communism in the Soviet Union has fallen apart, but the church thrives. Chinese communism is still there, but the church is thriving in China and is growing fast. Someone has said that China could be a Christian country in 20 years. After 100 years of anti-Christian propaganda and failed secularism, there are as many Christians today. People criticise mistakes in the church, and we do make them, sadly. But millions of thirsty people drink at the church. Worldwide the church is growing at five times the population growth of the world. At that rate, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) could be completed in nine years. It is the only answer to this nation's ills. It is the only way to fix broken Britain. The world has no answer for it.

3. The hidden power of God is at work in us. (There is an overlap in all this.) It is about how God loves us. His concern is for us as individuals and He transforms us.

(a) The hidden power of God is a transforming power. John Cavanagh discovered that although you can have everything in life, there is still something missing. But God transformed John and his wife and now they have helped many people. John still looks forward to a life full of purpose and destiny. God can transform your life through Him. His power is hidden from the world.

People are coming to the UK from overseas. Some come having faith in Jesus Christ, but many do not. It is not a problem but it is an opportunity to give them the gospel. Many of them are from closed countries where they would not hear the gospel.

God offers this transforming power to all, but people turn away because they think that they will lose something. They do lose; but what they lose is guilt and fear. What they gain is joy and purpose.

(b) The hidden power of God as a healing power. God hasn't changed, he still heals. 25% of the gospel is about healing by God – Matthew 9:35; 14:14, 35. The hidden power of God is at work in healing.

(c) The hidden power of God is a filling power. He fills you with His Holy Spirit and equips you to do what He has called you to do. You can know and sense the presence of the Holy Spirit. You can have spiritual revelation. It is a doorway into a different way of living, and you can have it.

These are fantastic days to live in. We could be the generations that see the return of Jesus Christ. He *is* coming back. The power of God will then be revealed in all its glory. Meanwhile we can be transformed by his power. Go for it!