

5-8-2018 Pre-Study Notes
1 Cor 6 Review

- Why is Paul unhappy? What happened?
 - something happened between believing brothers and they went to court
 - in vs 1, the word for “judgment” does not have the same meaning as “shen pan” 審判 in Chinese
 - in Chinese, it sounds like it’s punishment for a crime or sin
 - here, the emphasis is on two believers who have a dispute
 - e.g. “you owe me \$500” “no, I already returned the money”
 - conflict arises
 - they find a way in the community to resolve it
 - someone helps them talk through the conflict, they agree on why one owes the other a certain amount (arbitration?)
 - but Paul is angry at this method between believers – WHY?
 - in doing this, it hurts their reputation as God’s people before the Gentiles/outside
 - one sees from his perspective, another from his own perspective (like Seller not caring about Buyer’s welfare, but Buyer thinking “you should care”)
 - they not only argue, but sue each other before Gentiles
- We all think of ways to not “chi kui” 吃虧 suffer loss/be taken advantage of/get the worst of a situation
 - Uncle Peter, when he was young, said “我什麼都會吃, 我只不吃虧” “I will eat anything (I am willing to be daring to extremes), but I am not willing to suffer loss/let others take advantage of me”
 - We think of all the possible ways so that we will not “lose”
 - (especially financially)
 - But where is the love, the forgiveness? the testimony of the church?
 - Paul is angry: if you have a problem, should take care of it in the church
 - It is hard to learn to suffer loss
 - BUT is it easy to learn to suffer loss if you know what is important, and what is not
 - e.g. if we see money as huge, we will see the wrong things as big and small
 - If we believe God will not allow us to suffer loss – if you know that by going through loss, you will actually EARN, then it’s not that hard to learn to suffer loss
 - Jesus, Paul, others hit them
 - the times they challenged others was when others were acting against God’s law (you had to have a certain status to be allowed to strike others)
 - Jesus and Paul were not trying to escape from being beaten (Jesus on the cross didn’t challenge the lower rank Roman soldiers)

because they had the authority to nail him, whereas the Sanhedrin had no authority to strike him)

- When you are dealing with money, try to think from the other person's perspective
 - are they thinking: this person is really hard to deal with, I don't really want to deal with them again?
 - or are they thinking: this person is reasonable
 - would they want to deal with you again
 - e.g. 佔大便宜 "zhan da pian yi" are you unfairly profiting at someone else's expense = opposite of "chi kui"
- Reasons to be willing/not willing to suffer loss:
 - Forgiveness
 - Asking of us higher expectations
 - We will judge the angels vs. 3
 - What is coming is so glorious
 - We will sit with Jesus
 - And what Paul says here is REAL!
- Structure:
 - First Paul has to address some basics:
 - Eating food sacrificed to idols
 - Relationships between men and women
 - Chapters 5-6 he reproves them with wrath and indignation
 - First he gets the bad stuff out of the way
 - Ch 6:12-20 is the second half of this chapter, kind of goes along with Ch 7
 - From 6:12 on is advice and encouragement
 - vs. 9 "the wicked" is related to vs. 8 – what they are doing is not just this little thing
 - vs. 1 "ungodly" = Gentiles
 - vs. 9 "the wicked" those who continue to do these things separate themselves from God
 - don't lie to yourself, don't deceive yourself
 - don't think you are righteous if you aren't
 - someone might say they respect, love and serve God
 - but if you are still doing these things, like a pig that has been cleaned going back to mud
 - you are already saved, you already have this privilege (vs. 11) – how can you (want to) go back?
 - some people enter eternal life abundantly
 - other people enter "only as one escaping the flames" (1 Cor 3:15)
 - Many people are not afraid of God – they do things, even though they know God doesn't like it, because they are already saved

- you give in to money, flesh, emotions, anger – for a little while
 - but you will pay a big price
 - vs. 2, vs. 3 “Do you not know?” “this is so important ... YOU SHOULD KNOW!”
- Which verses cause you to jump for joy?
 - vs. 11b “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
 - vs. 20 “you were bought at a price”
 - vs. 2, vs. 3 “judge the angels” “judge the world”
 - vs. 17, vs. 19 “he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.” “your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God.”
 - HOW can there be something so good!
 - vs. 12 “Everything is permissible for me” – can do anything, and anything you do is within God’s will – is there anything more free?
- A note on “everything is permissible” and teaching/reproaching carefully
 - Sometimes if you say something to someone, it will hurt them/the situation because they think they are doing something right – they don’t know they are doing anything wrong
 - Some years ago, there was a new girl in Smile who did not dress very modestly, and she hadn’t been taught what the Bible said about it
 - It was very difficult for the brothers
 - Uncle Peter talked to her about it, but then she never came back to Smile/church again
 - sometimes it’s better to let them know slowly what is right
 - Another example: unmarried couples living together
 - need to be taught, not just say “don’t do it” – especially not in front of others
 - Some people might say “I don’t think it’s wrong”
 - They don’t know their life is a testimony of God’s life in them, of God’s house
 - They don’t think of their lives as living a good testimony – their thinking has been “poisoned”
 - They think: if I like, why can’t I do this?
 - rather than: our lives, our actions, our bodies can glorify God
 - many Smile kids don’t have that thinking now
 - need to be taught
 - some have already been taught, but think they are okay
 - these – can only hand them over to God, and they will be judged by God
 - Clothing: men and women are different
 - girls might think: you look so good! so pretty!
 - most girls don’t know how they end up “dead”

- Today's kids don't know that if you sow the seed, it will grow, and they cannot handle the tragic results
 - e.g. movies, we know it's not real
 - but for others, they follow it and don't know how tragic the end is
 - really very scary
 - Teaching others on clothes and actions, going to church on Sunday:
 - why do we do these things?
 - not regulations
 - real reason: to worship God
 - God treasures this, and we do these things from love
 - true freedom – God's biggest blessing: is that you do what you want, but it's what God wants! how great a blessing
 - it depends on if you are truly overcoming in God's kingdom
 - if not, the result is no use – it controls you
 - "everything is permissible" – ask yourself:
 - aside from my feeling good, is there any good to it?
 - for short term
 - or eternal good?
 - I can do anything, but is it of use?
 - e.g. gaming, reading novels, watching dramas
 - will you be controlled by it? if so, it's no good
 - gaming:
 - often kids in a new environment, with no friends, finally learn a little bit of English, and everyone around them is gaming
 - what do they do?
 - some, very few, can just not care and do their own thing
 - most kids want acceptance and eat together, they will eat with each other, watch, ask "what's this?" "you don't know? you haven't played this?"
 - even monks, 70 yr old women, are gaming, play Pokemon Go, both guys and girls are gaming
 - who doesn't:
 - some people are not willing to
 - others have no time to play
 - those who are gaming:
 - have nothing else to capture their attention
 - it's hard to stop them
 - and hard to grab them to another decent cause/undertaking
 - at least some kids can put down their games, drama, manga to help when they are called
 - if they say "wait" and do not come for an hour, that's worse
- There are very GOOD verses in this passage

- vs. 20 “honor God with your body” “glorify God in the body”
- vs. 19 the Spirit is from God, you are not your own, you are bought back to glorify God – if God is in you, you can show forth his glory!
 - if it’s all the flesh, how can you glorify God?
- Some notes on suffering loss:
 - If you prepare a meal for a teen, or an unbeliever, and they don’t tell you til the last minute that they can’t come (or they just don’t tell you), you are NOT suffering loss – they are the ones suffering loss
 - “attitude determines altitude”
 - this kind of situation strengthens and expands your ability to be magnanimous
 - Some time ago, people used to drop their kids off at church and just pick them up after service was over, using church as babysitting – but God uses Christians to take God’s things and show God’s love – this is an opportunity to spread the gospel to those kids
 - the gospel: willing to suffer loss
- When sharing the gospel, or spreading the gospel, do you need to be moved, or just invite them?
 - In whatever you do, do not rush and bring them
 - If you do, they will not want to talk to you ever again :) (they will associate you as the person who just wanted to share the gospel with them)
 - need to pray for wisdom
 - naturally attract them and invite them
 - The gospel is not “going hunting”
 - It’s not finding and bringing back something successfully
 - and if you fail, you are suffering loss
 - that is “hunting”
 - The real attitude in the gospel is loving people’s souls
 - thinking of their eternity – really loving them, praying for them
 - and God will do the work
 - Jesus is the one who most suffered loss
 - There are those who just came to America, don’t have a lot of friends, and seem to have not much response to the gospel, but will come
 - stay on harmonious/friendly terms with them
 - keep praying
 - love people
 - the rest is God’s work
 - Some people believe in God who we wouldn’t imagine would ever – we are amazed when they do
 - Others we think will for sure believe, but they don’t
 - It’s all in God’s hands