

Overview

18th June 2020

1. Review of

Learning is meant to lead to a redemptive insight into our human condition and motivate us to change and adopt godly values.

Every day we ought to discover something. We should be "lifelong learners" and not remain as spiritual infants.

Many people resist learning because it brings change, and change forces them into the mystery of the unknown.



John 13:21-30 : One of You Will Betray Me

21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."



HUMILITY, like gratitude, comes from a heart that has experienced the mercy of God.



It is the acceptance of who we are – the grace to joyfully embrace our own identity, role, circumstances and calling rather than to live by pretence.

It teaches us not to envy others.

It frees us to gladly celebrate their gifts, blessings and abilities.

2. Jesus Teaches a New Commandment (John 13)

3. Jesus Goes and Prepare a Place for us (John 14:1-14)

“INSIGHTS” CORNER



Vacant

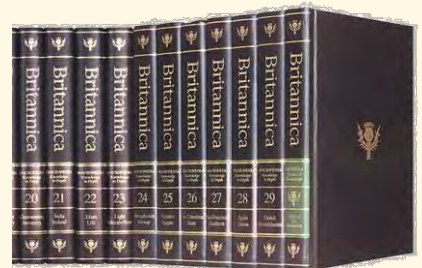
Learning is meant to lead to a redemptive insight into our human condition and motivate us to change and adopt godly values.

Celebration
OF LEARNING

Every day we ought to discover something. We should be “lifelong learners” and not remain as spiritual infants.

Many people resist learning because it brings change, and change forces them into the mystery of the unknown.

Life doesn't
come to us
like



Life comes to us in a series of unorganized, unexpected, uncontrolled and uncoordinated events and encounters, over the course of time.

But there is something to be learnt in every untamed, unplanned and unexpected episode, encounter and experience.



Experience is not always the best teacher.

Evaluated and reflected experience is the best teacher.

When we approach life as a student, eager to learn the lessons God wants to teach us, we gain **true wisdom** and discover new joy in being a child of God.

Don't be afraid to ask questions!

What about doubts?

Questions will not necessarily drive us away from God. They can draw us nearer to Him.



The wise are believable, not so much because of their profound ideas or sayings, but because of the consistency of their lifestyle.

Wisdom is insight and applied knowledge.

The wise are those who have walked the strenuous road and know something of the challenges of the journey as well as the way to navigate the terrain.



Two Practical Pointers: 1. Be Teachable

Proverbs 13:18 Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honoured.

In His desire to teach and form us, Jesus will use the most ordinary things to reveal his extraordinary love



We just need the eyes to see and the ears to hear; and be open to the Spirit.

Two Practical Pointers: 2. Be Humble

Our pride makes us unwilling to be corrected, unwilling to be warned, unwilling to learn and unwilling to change.



Because of our self-deception, we **don't** realise **we're** so unwilling and prideful. We just think **we're** seeing things as they really are.

Proverbs 14:12 **“There** is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

Each day God sends you chances to learn, discover, grow, serve and step into your best. Don't miss them.



Some opportunities never come again.

Regret is a choice.

Learning only what comes naturally does not contribute much to our development. Learning is reaching, reaching with all the stretch **you've** got.

John 13:21-30 : One of You Will Betray Me

21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."



The wounds inflicted by a trusted confidant can go very deep.

Psalm 55:12-15

For it is not an enemy who taunts me — then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me — then I could hide from him.

But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng.

A captured **soul's** unseen guards are bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness.

Unless and until we are willing to let go and forgive, our soul will remain imprisoned in our hateful dungeon.

Betrayal forces you to review your faith and belief, and perhaps more frighteningly, to take a stand. Ask yourself honestly, **“What** do I really stand for – hatred or **love?”**





1. Why do some Christians betray their faith and Christ? What can you do to make sure you don't do the same?
2. How do you forgive the betrayer and put the situation behind you?

HUMILITY, like gratitude, comes from a heart that has experienced the mercy of God.

HUMILITY

It is the acceptance of who we are – the grace to joyfully embrace our own identity, role, circumstances and calling rather than to live by pretence.

It teaches us not to envy others.

It frees us to gladly celebrate their gifts, blessings and abilities.

Humility is an elusive virtue.

The moment you think you've successfully cultivated it, you lose it!

Its finishing line is constantly moving, within your sight to keep you motivated, but not near enough to prevent you from claiming victory.

Crossed the Finishing Line?



It's a paradoxical goal.

We must make it our goal yet we know that **we'll** never completely attain it.

It's elusive because **we're** competitive by nature – **we're** self-centred beings.

To protect or project our interests, we are driven by this almost insatiable urge to make comparisons.



To overcome our ego, we must “empty” ourselves as Christ had done and acknowledge Him as the Lord of our lives.



Unless we take steps to unlearn our expectations and demands, we will never be able to let go our **“neediness.”**

The Kingdom of the Mighty Self tends to be a Kingdom of:

- **“this** is what I **deserve,**”
- **“this** is my **position,**”
- **“this** is what belongs to **me,**”
- **“this** is how you should treat me.”



Such an attitude insists that the glories of the here-and-now world are the only glories worth living for.

It narrows your vision and makes it hard to see beyond the borders of your own life.



Letting go of carnal expectations is a big part of enjoying eternal life.



Selfish Expectations Equal Big Delusions!

Selfish Expectations Will Set You Up to Feel Like a Victim!



The antidote to selfishness is Christ-centredness – “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). He is our deliverer as well as our pace-setter.

What does God expect of us?

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

“**And** now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your **good?**”

- What can I learn about **Christ's** attitude? How do I replicate this in my life?
- What proud patterns am I repeating constantly so that I wind up in the starting line no matter how strong my starting motivation to be humble? How can I break this debilitating pattern?



Continuation from where we last stopped...



John 13:31-38 : God is Glorified

31-32 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

Five times the verb "glorify" appears here. Why this shout of victory at the very moment Judas was dispatched for the act of betrayal?

Daniel 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man,

and man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Revelation 1:7

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

- He came as the Lamb of God;
- He will come as a roaring Lion.
- He arrived as the Suffering Servant;
- He is returning as the King of Kings
- He came in humility;
- He is coming in glory.
- He brought salvation;
- He is bringing judgment.

The title "Son of Man" appears 12 times in the **John's** account. As the "Son of Man,"

- Jesus reveals divine truth (1:51);
- He has a supernatural origin (3:13; 6:62);
- His death by being "lifted up" achieves salvation for men (3:14; 8:28; 12:34);
- He exercises the prerogative of final judgment (5:27);
- He provides spiritual nourishment (6:27).

33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'

Little children: This is the only place in the Gospels where Jesus addressed His disciples as such – not as an insult but a concern because of their dependence and immaturity.

You Cannot Come: A shocker!

They had literally left everything to follow Jesus, and expected to be high-ranking officials in His government.



Peter: “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” (Matthew 19:27)

After three years they now heard Him say He would leave.

34-35 **A new commandment** I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

New: implies freshness, or the opposite of outworn, rather than recent or different.



It **isn't** that this commandment was just invented, but it will be presented in a new, fresh and refreshing way.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

That you love one another: there should be a special presence of love among followers of Jesus Christ.

Love would be the identifying mark of His disciples.

The longer we are Christians, our love for others should grow, mature and become richer.



Respect is love's careful guardian. Its essence is acceptance – to hold another as “irreducibly valuable.”

We become what we behold, so as we behold him in love, we become more like Him.

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Who and what we look at matters.

If we are in love with God, then out of that love relationship will flow a love for others.

His heartbeat becomes our heartbeat;

His passions become our passions;

His priorities become our priorities.

Always meditate on His love.

His love, which claimed us before we were even born, can take us beyond ourselves, as it did Jesus.

Our love for each other is not about approval; it's about acceptance.

Unconditional love creates a holding environment in a relationship that makes it safe for you to be yourself.



Love is NOT an **AUDITION**

You don't have to turn yourself into a pleasing image in order to get the part.

John 13:36-38 : Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial

36 Simon Peter said to him, **“Lord,** where are you **going?”** Jesus answered him, **“Where** I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”

Peter was determined to follow Jesus both to prison and to death.

He did not realise that he did not have the power to do so.

True power comes from above.



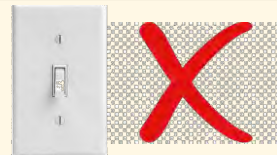
When a crisis, tragedy or unexpected event threatens to break up the normal pattern of our lives, we often feel as though we have totally lost control.

It may lead to either growth or disaster!



We have to wait for **God's** power.

We **don't** control it. He does.



It's His power, and He dispenses it at will. He wants us to wait on Him for it.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.



But the problem is we don't like waiting.

We want what we want when we want it.

37 Peter said to him, “**Lord**, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”



Peter could not understand why Jesus did not accept his intentions as fact.

Peter had only imperfect knowledge of his own strength, whereas Jesus had full knowledge of all things.

Peter's unwillingness to accept Jesus' words revealed his weakness even in his boldest assertion of strength.

38 Jesus answered, “**Will** you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times. **Second Shocker!** First Judas. Now Peter would deny the Lord!

Matthew 26:33 Peter answered him, “**Though** they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

Mark 14:31 But he said emphatically, “**If** I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

Luke 22:33 Peter said to him, “**Lord**, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.”

Brave and courageous words are easier said than done.

1 Corinthians 10:12 – Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.



Never make arrogant or boastful assertions and professions.

When the time of temptation comes, it is not nearly as easy as it was to talk about it.

Barclay: Jesus knew, not only what Peter was, but also what he could become...he was sure that the day would come when he, too, would take the same red road to martyrdom.

It is the greatness of Jesus that he sees the hero even in the coward; he sees not only what we are, but also what he can make us.

He has the love to see what we can be and the power to make us attain it.

John 14



I Go to Prepare
A PLACE FOR YOU

1 **Let** not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

4. **And you know the way to where I am going.”**
5. **Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”**
6. **Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

7. **If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”**
8. **Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”**
9. **Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?**

10. Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.
11. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

12. **“Truly,** truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.
13. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

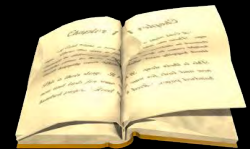
John 14 is Good Medicine for Our Hearts, for We Live in an Age of Anxiety and Uncertainty.

Fear of the Covic-19 pandemic is rampant, and controversies about how to control it or cope with it – or even survive it – seem never ending.

People are searching for explanations, answers and assurances.

The link between anxiety and not knowing shows itself in our craving for knowledge of the future.

People are like that impatient reader who flips to the last page of a thrilling and suspenseful novel to know **what's** the final outcome...



For some believers...

it's pretty much the same thing, insecurely dressed in religious trimmings and trappings:

- asking God for signs,
- claiming a Bible promise out of context, or
- attaching significance to dreams or **“prophetic words.”**

Christ's Comfort (14:1-14)

1a **“Let** not your hearts be troubled.”

= **“Don't let your heart shudder.”**

The supper with its tragic revelations was over.

Judas had departed, and all of the disciples were in a state of shock and grief. Even Peter would deny the Lord!

The forces of darkness appeared to be in control.

Jesus appears to be assuring them: **“It** may look like your world is disintegrating and the darkness is going to overwhelm you, but **don’t** let your heart be troubled.”

No weapon or threat formed against you can prosper.

Just because everything in your life seems spinning out of control does not mean you have to.

There are some problems that we cannot solve or fix, but we can take them to the One who does.

Jesus knew that the apostles were about to face troubles far greater than anything they understood at that point.

He had just informed them one would betray Him.

He had repeatedly told them that He was going to die.

These events would cause great distress and disillusionment to the disciples.

**Of course, it's
easy to say it...**



In order to last the distance, we must not try to control and manipulate others to secure our futures, but rather give them to God. He is sovereign.

Stress, anxiety, worry, scheming, and fretting will not take you to your destination any quicker. In fact, they are likely to sabotage your future.

We must come to the place where we trust God and not flesh.

Don't give lip service to God as your source, and yet live as orphans.

Jesus says, **"I** will not leave you as orphans; I will come to **you"** (John 14:18).

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you **forever"** (John 14:16)

1b “Believe in God; believe also in me.”

The way to have an untroubled heart is to believe in God and believe in Jesus. That is all there is to it.

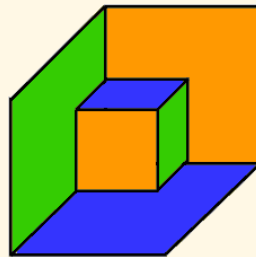


Constantly keep in mind the attributes of God — His sovereignty, His omniscience, His omnipotence, His omnipresence — our hearts would not be troubled like they often are.

So often His perspective is different from ours.

IAMNOWHERE

When it comes to the purposes and plans of God, **it's** all about perspective.



A cube in a room or a cube with a bit missing?

Many are locked in the prison of their situation and circumstances because they have lost sight of His promises for their lives.

An eternal perspective will inform us of something more (and better) than what we can see.

We see complexities. He sees possibilities.

We see a blind alley. He sees destiny.

There is no problem too hard for God to solve...

no promise too hard for Him to fulfil...

...God **didn't** remove all the problems from our path.

Problems and challenges are part of this world.

But...

He had earlier told them that He and His Father were one (10:30), and to believe in Him is to believe in the Father (12:44) because the Father sent Him.

The Father and Son are united in will and nature. They confirm one another's claims.

It is impossible, therefore, to truly believe in one while rejecting the other.

Let's build up our



If we have that faith in Jesus, we will not be greatly disturbed by unhappy and difficult events, even when we do not understand His role in the matter.

We will have confidence that He is acting in our best interest and the result will be for our good...



Our faith is what pleases God. We must resolve never to get so self-reliant and self-sufficient that we omit the faith element from our lives.



2 **“In** my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for **you?”**



Mansions or Rooms?



“μοναί” is related to the verb, **“μένω”** which means **“to dwell”** or **“to abide”**

Our interpretation of “μοναί” as “mansions” or “rooms” depends on our view of the “Father's house”.

If we assume that the Father's house is a massive single block building, then “μοναί” would be “rooms” inside that building.

However, if we think that the Father' house is an massive city, then “μοναί” would be “massions” inside that city.

Question is, is the Father’s house a city or building?

Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared (same verb as John 14:2) as a bride adorned for her husband.

God will provide the best for the believer. The Christian has a **“new”** Heaven and Earth where the curse of this present Earth is not found.

NEW!

kaine means **“new in character,” “fresh”**

God has set eternity in our hearts so that everyone longs for a forever state.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

This **“eternity”** (Hebrew word **“olam”** from the root word meaning **“veiled from sight”**) is like the vanishing point on the horizon – we know **it's** there, but it remains beyond our reach.

3-4 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

The “mansion” (or “suite”) is ready. The property is prepared.

But Jesus still has plans of coming again to bring us home, so that we can be where He is.

We shouldn't fear death because we know whom we have believed and we have His promises for what He will do for us when we die.

Heaven is far better than anything we can enjoy in this world.

It's an inheritance that is beyond our imagination.

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

The former things have passed away: The New Jerusalem is distinguished by what it *does not* have –

Set your mind and heart on the eternal. The outcome is a transformed sense of identity.

We become more mindful and joyful that we are aliens (sojourners and foreigners) and strangers in this world (1 Peter 2:11).

Since we are not of this world, we must not behave like the world.

