

mpc study guide – week of Feb 8th

What – and how - to Teach

Preparation: Read the whole letter to Titus again, highlighting every occurrence of the phrases "so that." (They're a good indicator of the purpose behind what he's writing.)

Action: In this study, we're focusing on paragraphs **k** to **u**, which lay out for Titus "what he has to teach" to various groups in the church. Maybe you're struck by the idea that Paul's syllabus seems a bit outdated? Women being subject to husbands? Slaves being subject to masters? Maybe the views expressed in this recently published letter summarise your response...

A Letter to the Editor – Sun Herald, Jan 15, 2006

Recognise love and good

As one who has a degree in theology, of course I am aware of the passage in Romans to which Shirley Banks refers (January 8). The reality is that the Bible is a complex set of writings, all of which cannot be sustained in the light of the new revelations which come to us from a living God.

To give just two examples of this from the Paul who, of course, wrote the *Letter To the Romans*, to which she refers, we would never, I hope, now honour Paul's instructions for slaves to obey their masters; and Paul tells his followers it is better not to marry at all... Many churches around the world have now moved to celebrate responsible and committed relationships between people of the same sex. They have seen a God who has a greater imagination than people of earlier generations perceived, and have done as Jesus asked them to do: to recognize the love and good which flows from something, rather than simply applying laws.

Rev Dorothy McRae McMahon

Rozelle

- a) What's your reaction to Ms McMahon's comments? (Notice she is arguing on the issue of the recognition of same-sex relationships – but the logic is similar.)

Before things get too heated (?), let's stand back and look at the overall shape of the teaching Paul spells out.

- b) According to paragraph **κ**, what is the basis for the teaching syllabus?
- c) From your general observations, how "doctrinal" or "theoretical" are the things Titus is to teach?
- d) What one characteristic do you see in common between the lists of things to be taught to each group? (Paragraphs **λ** to **υ**)
- e) From paragraph **ρ**, what is it that enables and empowers Christians to be **self controlled** and godly?
- f) On three occasions, Paul encourages people to be "subject" to others. Make a note of them:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

g) On three occasions, Paul uses the words “**so that**” to highlight the goals of the teaching Titus is to give. Christians are to be taught to live in a certain way, **so that** there will be certain results.

i. so that...

ii. so that...

iii. so that...

Forget about being “politically correct.” The big issue is, how are we Christians going to live in a way that’s different, and compellingly attractive to the world around us. How are we Christians going to live in a way that demonstrates our self control and our humble service? How are we Christians going to live in a way that reflects that nature of Jesus, **who gave himself for us** to redeem us. How are we Christians going to live in a way that shows that our hearts have been transformed, and we are now followers of Jesus, **who are eager to do good**?

As we work on “building our church,” let’s keep these goals in mind:

- to be people who give nobody any reason to “malign the word of God”
- to be people who make opponents of Christianity ashamed, because they have nothing bad to say about us
- to be people who in every way, make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive.

Are there ways you have failed to do these things?

Can you think of new ways to do this in

a. Your family situation

b. Your work situation

Your Growth Group Project

Have you decided on a group project for the year? Spend some more time discussing some practical ways your group might serve. Write down your group goal here:

What's next? You need to start working on some practical plans and target dates. Leaders: Please email a summary of your plans to staff@mpc.org.au or phone Phil or Garnet with details by the end of this week.

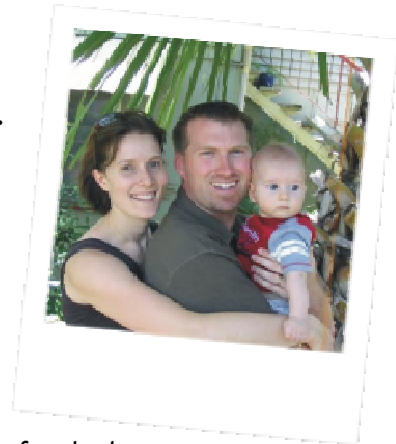
Meet our Full-Time Teaching Team:

In our passage, Paul has emphasized the importance of **right teaching** to properly build a church. Our mpc full-time ministry team is devoted first and foremost to teaching from God's word as they lead our church.

Phil Campbell has been leading the ministry team at mpc since 1999, in partnership with Louise. Phil studied for ministry at Moore Theological College in Sydney after working as a Traffic Engineer in the NSW Department of Main Roads. He has also worked as a computer journalist with Fairfax newspapers and PC World Magazine. Lou worked as an inland-mission nurse with Bush Church Aid before completing one year at Moore College. Phil and Lou have four kids; Nathan, Jo, Maddie and Susie, who are all part of the mpc church family. With our elders, Phil oversees the direction of our church, cares for the ministry team, and directs our teaching program. He also serves the Presbyterian Church of Queensland as Convenor of the Committee for Ministry Training.



Matt Rowson became our Youth and Children's Ministry Co-ordinator in 2003. With a growing bunch of kids and teenagers, it's a demanding job. Matt trained at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. With Jill, Matt oversees the "kidzbiz" teams at both our morning services; Matt also leads Youthchurch every Sunday evening, a high energy event which makes great use of his skills as a video guru and musician. Jill is a trained teacher, who is currently spending her time caring for baby Harry (born 2004) and partnering Matt in ministry.



Garnet Swann is the newest member of our ministry team, joining us at the beginning of 2005. Prior to studying for ministry at Moore College, Garnet studied Science, and worked for a number of government departments in Canberra. Garnet graduated from Moore College in 2003, and completed his additional ordination studies in 2005. Married to Kirsty, also a science graduate, they are parents to Noah, born late 2003, and Amelia, born in Dec 2005. Garnet's ministry is focused on our 9am service and Latechurch, which is geared towards the 20-30 age group.



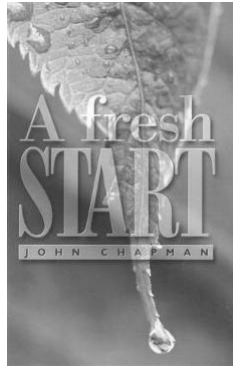
mpc notes and news:

- * **Pool Parties after church this Sunday** - sign up and get wet!
- * **For Your Diary – “Consider Christ”with Chappo** – It's a few weeks to go yet, but put the **Consider Christ Sunday** on April 2nd in your diaries now. Well known author and speaker John Chapman will give a clear message on what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Start thinking and praying about who you might invite along.

Introducing John Chapman...



Well-known evangelist, Bible teacher, and author John Chapman was the Director of the Anglican Department of Evangelism in Sydney for 25 years. Now, in his 'retirement', he continues to teach at Bible colleges, to speak at conventions around the world, and to find time for the occasional game of tennis and golf. His best selling books include, *A Fresh Start*, *Know and Tell the Gospel*, and most recently, *A Sinner's Guide to Holiness*.



In **A Fresh Start**, Chappo introduces us with clarity and simplicity to the Jesus he has loved and served for over 50 years. He explains what a Christian is, how to become a Christian and how to begin a new life through Jesus. As a general purpose evangelistic book for giving away, this book still has few peers.

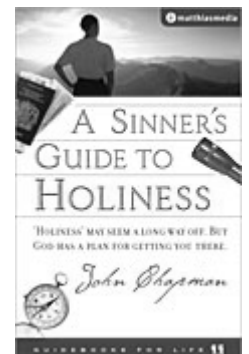
KNOW AND TELL THE GOSPEL

John Chapman



How do you explain the message of Jesus to someone? John Chapman has been doing it for years, and **Know and Tell the Gospel** is a great book for learning to do the same. The book deals with questions like: Just what is the gospel anyway? Is it my job to explain it to people? What is God's role and what is mine? Where does church fit in? And how can we train ourselves and others to be involved?

In his latest book, **A Sinner's Guide to Holiness**, John explores what the Bible has to say about holiness—where it begins, how it makes progress in our lives, and its ultimate fulfilment as we are changed into Christ's likeness on the Last Day. Sprinkled with Chappo's warmth and humour, this book is a short, sharp message of encouragement to all sinners who are hungry for holiness.



John Chapman will be speaking at 9am, 1030am and Latechurch services on Sunday April 2nd. Bring a friend!