

Dan, Mekael, and to the brothers of Year 13 and some others; since indeed there is a lot of confusion and a lot of people are either going to get upset or hurt; or already have been. I will explain what I think I am comfortable and is appropriate to share with both brothers and sisters.

Generally, this time is a difficult time for a lot of us, some more than others, and is especially the case for me. At this crucial moment, rather than looking to one another for support, we ultimately need to rest in the arms of Jesus and his sacrifice for us in the cross. If you take away anything that is it.

My parents think that I was certainly a sheltered, naïve kid. While I certainly have grown up, and am still growing in holiness, as others have noticed, there is still much areas to grow. For me the big issue is simply confronting reality.

The factors that have all added up...

1. Being at Rest

For me, the past 3 years have been that time. 2013 was a significant year. Having gone to KYCK for the first time, started serving in church, and around Easter had significantly recommitted my life to Christ, to disperse any doubts about faith or my own testimony and after a really good start to Year 11, it was a great time. But then I significantly burned out, but more importantly, in ministry and generally in faith, starting raising doubts. It continued on and off, as I had bursts of energy at times, but at other times was very much tired but not sleepy. Towards the end of 2014, leading up into Year 13, motivation was lost and people were getting frustrated, upset and angry because of that.

Coming into Year 13, after about the first week, was difficult, because everyone else had all this energy, but I didn't. Everyone else looked like they weren't going through anything at all, but I knew myself and my own sin and brokenness. I knew that I had in some respects failed to find a job, failed to love my family because I didn't put enough effort in.

Now it seems the same. All my dad can see is my lack of effort to find a place to stay. For some of my brothers and sisters (yes there are specific cases also), maybe it is my lack of consideration for their personal needs and emotions, and a stubbornness in some respects to properly respect such things. For others, maybe it is frustration to see certain things, especially with some of the people that I have been talking about the nitty-gritty. While some things have indeed been forgiven, certainly at this time, it is wise and appropriate not to create opportunities for the devil to accuse or slander for one another failings at this time, but rather cling to the cross of Christ.

Even in my own life, since moving, it has been difficult to care for oneself, let alone anyone else. It has been difficult to not see some of the other sufferings and that resolved, so that I could love people, both Year 13 and here in Wollongong.

2. Assured

During those times, 2013-2014, the nights were spent away on the web, watching many videos on the end times, or watching other videos trying to work out what actually does the Sydney Anglican church believe and is it biblical? Some of it was an unproductive process, leaving one feeling overwhelmed with the brokenness of the world, especially with the extent of false teaching that there is. To his credit, the assistant minister back then, ran a series on Revelation and also 2 Thessalonians during youth group.

This meant that solo time at Year 13, for the first half of the year, but even before that, was crushing, and a lot of time last year certainly felt wasted as well. And now, having moved, spending a lot of time, by myself it is still crushing.

Making contact with fellow Christians, especially Year 13 people (and there was one particular case) are equally crushing too. Because the grace of God is overwhelming, so evident in other people's lives (I have already said thanks to some, but I wish to say more generally thanks, this is not easy to say)

There is a need to recognise that the grace of God is so much more, than a good conversation or a word of encouragement, two things I will delight in doing with many of you in the future, even those who at the moment, refuse to be spoken to; and my prayer is for the opportunities for that in the future, but not now.

The battle with assurance was one that began also Year 13, and re-emerged about a week before Easter this year, and it seems to stem very much out the first one. It very much came after the newcomer's event at church, which was also timed with two other events as well.

3. *Valued*

In those times (2013-2014) it was unwise in the disclosure of such things online. And rather than looking to Jesus, it was always looking for the approval of others, brothers or sisters. I have been very unwise in relating to people, especially online.

Add to that, it is difficult to be convinced that people genuinely love and care, when they are not speaking up when it is needed on the things that matter, such as the Gospel, or even a word of encouragement as opposed to only giving relationship advice.

The conclusion to this one has finally been found, and that is in the Gospel, there is a God that loves and cares for all of us. This is especially true now, when I won't have much support around me, in terms of Christians, particularly Year 13 people (especially since some of the people who were the clearest on speaking the Gospel don't want to talk at all). Even if every other person, absolutely "hates my guts", I have a God that cares and loves me.

At the end of the day we need to fear God, acknowledge Jesus and not worry about what others' opinions. This is difficult and challenging.

My prayer at the moment, is to keep working this value found in the Lord, in particular situations, in overwhelming suffering of people around myself, relationship tensions with people from last year, great changes, and certainly the impending issues if I don't finish some assignments in time.

Many people may indeed wish for personal space, even into that, I have tried to speak a word of encouragement, maybe a bit naively. I wish to continue with respecting that, but also continue as simple friends with these people, when the Lord wills. As a result, there needs to be much sensitivity when raising others.

I leave with this encouragement, if you read the whole chapter it will speak much to you:

"See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." – Hebrews 12:15

At this point, it is very easy for some to become bitter, even myself. At this time let us cling to the grace of God. While for the moment, there is need for a lot of us, especially those who have told me, to let go and certainly take a bit of a break and step back; and let go in some sense. I know that God will provide an opportunity at some point, and I trust that it will likely be this side of eternity.

Until then, peace be with you all. Greetings to all brothers and sisters.