

UNCOVER

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Uncover John Seeker Bible Studies (Church Edition) Chinese / English Translation Notes

The Chinese Uncover John studies are almost exactly the same as the English Uncover John studies – however we have worked with COCM (Chinese Overseas Christian Mission) to ensure that the context and meaning of words would make the most sense for a Chinese speaker, therefore there are some changes shown below. For more help using Uncover John studies in Chinese, download the Top Tips document available from www.uccf.org.uk/uncover.

This document list changes compared with the English Church edition. You can download a document showing changes from the CU edition from www.uccf.org.uk/uncover. If you're not sure which English edition you have, check the back cover: the CU edition is © 2014 and the Church edition is © 2015.



Page 5: Introductory text

Fang Zhouzi is a Chinese popular scientific writer who is well known for his campaign against pseudoscience and fraud in China. He once wrote in his publication, 'I am a hard-core atheist. I am confident to declare this after a long time... I don't have any evidence to prove that God does not exist, but I strongly speculate that he does not exist so that I don't want to waste my time.'

Page 7: What does this mean for us?

Some people hope there is no God. The atheist Fang Zhouzi also said, 'The existence of human being is merely a coincidence and such an existence does not have any particular meaning. We can't gain comfort by simply believing God. Is it because we want to have such comfort that we must believe in this false existence?' Fang perceived religion to be life-diminishing.....(the rest is the same as the English).

Page 9: Introductory text

There was a scene in the film *Chariots of Fire* – when someone asked an Olympic athlete (Harold Abrahams) why he wanted to run, he answered, 'I'm 24 and I've never known contentment. I'm forever in pursuit and I don't even know what I am chasing ... I will raise my eyes and look down that corridor; 4 feet wide, with 10 lonely seconds to justify my whole existence. But will I?'

Page 10: Question 6

Question 6 is: Why did this woman go to the well alone at noon? How do her past relationships explain this? (This is because Chinese usually uses separate sentences to explain complicated meanings.)

Page 11: What does this mean for us?

Bob Geldof's example is changed to Sammi Cheng, a Hong Kong pop star.

Jesus locates our emptiness or 'thirst' in our alienation from God. He promises to bring us into an intimate relationship with God as Father, which will completely satisfy our thirst.

Everyone had experienced the emptiness. Sammi Cheng, one of the most prominent female singers in Hong Kong, once said, 'I worked hard to achieve something but I was never myself. I was used to live according to a set of values which told me that the more accomplishment I achieve, the more value I have. When I eventually had everything that others are longing for, I suddenly found out that my heart is empty. I tried to fill it up with more accomplishment but it made me feel even more depressed.'

How do you respond to what Sammi Cheng says? Where do we tend to look to find satisfaction? Are you optimistic or cynical about the possibility of finding lasting fulfilment?

Page 15: What does this mean for us? Last paragraph

People think that all religions aim to persuade us to perform good deeds, therefore they are more comfortable thinking about Jesus as a great teacher. But how would you respond to Jesus' claim here?

Page 17: Introductory text

Topic of death is always a taboo, especially in the East. In recent years, some universities in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong started to run courses on "Death". But Professor Wang Yifang from Peking University commented, 'Death course is like a bitter chocolate bean. If you ask people to simply taste the bitterness, they won't do it. Therefore, we have to mix it up with sugar and milk to make it taste like chocolate. As long as people take this chocolate bean, they will start to taste the bitterness inside it.'

Page 21: Introductory text

Alexander Solzhenitsyn's quote is still kept but a Chinese philosopher's quote is added on top of it.

Human nature came into existence as a mixture of both good and evil. When one does good, he is a good person; When one does evil, he is an evil person.

- Yang Xiong Fa Yan Xiu Sheng (Literal meaning: Exemplary Sayings), Philosopher and writer, Western Han Dynasty (202 BC – 8 AD)

The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian writer and Nobel laureates in Literature

Do you agree with this description of humanity? Why?