

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006

Speaker: William Innes (Livingstone)

Gospel is the good news of God.

Reading: 1 Thes. 4 – 13-18

There was an infirm man by the pool of Bethesda who lay there for 38 years - He had an individual experience with the Lord - The Lord met him in his deep need and saved him and gave him strength to go on.

Speaker was also saved as an individual and given the strength to continue in fellowship with God.

As a boy, he thought that it was common sense that there must be a God. The world would not just appear: the order seen when you look at the trees, sky, sea, the mighty rolling ocean all indicate a design. The stars light the sky. God created this world. In school at 11 years old he heard about God and prayed the Lord's prayer every morning. Teachers told stories from the Bible.

At his school there was a Christian janitor. He was always reading his Bible and had put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. If you needed advice he was the one to go to and he would give out free tracts to anyone who would promise to read them. The speaker knew the God he talked about. He heard the Gospel for the first time properly at the Gospel Hall and heard he was a sinner.

He found a difference with the Gospel Hall Sunday School; it was evident that the teachers knew the God they were talking about. The Bible was not just dry stories.

For the first time heard he was a sinner. Not because he did bad things but because it was in his nature.

Rom 3v23

He started Bible Class at 12. He had heard that the mighty God sent His Son to earth and he learned more of this in the class. The reason was that our sins separate us from God. There is a mighty gulf and there is no way to bridge it.

When the Lord Jesus came to earth:-

- He lived a sinless and holy life
- He died at Calvary's tree as a victor over sin and death, not as a victim
- He rose again from the dead, leaving an empty cross and an empty tomb
- He is now sitting at God's right hand

John 14v3 – He made a promise made to those who believed in him. All Christians go together and will meet him in the air.

In 1 Corinthians 15:53, we learn that “this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality”.

He was asked to go to Gospel meeting because young man getting baptised. Baptism was an act showing what already happened at salvation raised to walk in newness of life.

The question was asked, "Next week, where will you be?"

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming and we don't know when: "yet a little while - He that shall come will come and will not tarry" (Heb 10:37). The Lord said, "Surely I come quickly" (Rev 22:20)

Three times in the last chapter of the bible He said He was coming quickly (Rev 22:7,12,20).

On 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1980, the speaker Left the hall same way as came in: unsaved. He went for supper with others and heard Christians talking about how wonderful heaven would be - no sickness, pain, crying or dying. It is beyond the limitations of language to express how wonderful heaven is going to be.

The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, died on Calvary for sin so that w could go to heaven.

What about the people who are left?

2 Thessalonians 2:11,12 teaches that "for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness"

God will blind the mind so that they believe a lie because they did not believe the truth. When the Lord Jesus comes back, the unsaved are left for judgment and eternal separation from God. Sadly, many are afraid of what others think. Proverbs 29:25 warns, "the fear of man bringeth a snare".

While washing dishes a friend asked the speaker if he was saved. He hated being asked because he knew he was not saved but did not lie. He was asked if he wanted to be saved. He did, so a friend took him to see an older man who could lead him to the Lord.

Upstairs away from crowd and distraction, the man quoted verses :

John 3v16

Romans 10v9

He asked, "Do you believe it?"

He pointed out that this was the Word of God (2 Tim 3v16). Different men wrote at different times in different places and in different languages but God gave the words. Titus 1v2 tells us that God cannot lie; Ephesians 2v8-9 teaches that we cannot work to get to heaven. 1Peter 1:18 teaches that we are not redeemed with corruptible things: that is, we cannot buy our way into heaven. Palms 49 warned about those who trusted in wealth. The Lord Jesus asked, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt 16:26)

Are you ready for heaven?

Once you trust in the Lord, you are “Kept by the power of God” (1 Peter 1:5). He coming back - It could be tonight. He proved love by coming from heaven and on Calvary’s tree (Romans 5v8)

He died so we can live, the choice is now yours.

When a troubled man asked, “What must I do to be saved?”, Paul replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 16v30,31).