

Speaker: Mr Bill Gardiner

Reading: Romans 1v1-23
Romans 3v25-26

“Paul...called”

When and where was he called? On the road to Damascus as recorded in Acts 9.

Paul had sought to eliminate those who testified to the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead yet he was chosen by God to be His messenger in the gospel.

The Lord said, “It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks”

Paul said, “Lord what wilt thou have me to do?”

Paul had witnessed Stephen being martyred. Stephen had said at that time that he saw Jesus at the right hand of God (Acts 7:56).

Paul realised when the Lord spoke that he had to repent and turn to God. He was saved and then set out as a changed man.

“separated unto the gospel” - the old things had gone from his life. Instead of bring imprisonment and death, he became “one that bringeth good tidings”(Isa 41:27)

v16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation”. This is in contrast to the power of Rome.

Paul willing to bring the message of a crucified Christ. Paul was not shy of the gospel.

v17 God's righteousness is revealed in the death of Christ.

v18 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven”

People take no account of God, neither His work nor His person. They enjoy indulging in wickedness.

“Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9)

God's love made it possible for man to be forgiven because Christ has died.

“Herein is love, not that we love God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4v10)

“propitiation” - to avert God's wrath - the Lord Jesus Christ bore the wrath of God upon sin.

Human love is a love that responds. God's love is different – He loves us even though we don't love Him.

Isaiah 53v1-5

“He was wounded for our transgressions”

God could not forgive us unless sin was propitiated. He could not just overlook sin.

God's love made forgiveness possible but it was through the death of Christ.

Israel saw God's punishment for sin in the Old Testament. In the future all unbelievers must stand before the great white throne and be judged for sin.

God can be just because Christ has borne the punishment for sin.

Ps 22v1-3 – The words were used by Jesus on the cross.

He has shed His blood that we need not shed ours.

1 Peter 2v24 - “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree”

What did it cost Him?

Gal 3v13 - “Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree”