

Speaker: Stephen Whitmore

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Subject: The Just shall live by Faith

Reading: Romans 1v16-17

Who is just ? How can anyone be just in the sight of God? (Job 9:2)

“There is none righteous no not one” (Rom 3:10)

In our own efforts, none is just in the sight of God.

What does it mean to be just? - It is to measure up to the standards of God; to be absolutely true and upright. It is not a case of getting somewhere by whatever means but must be true from beginning to end. It is not like a tree that might grow but, because it twists and turns to find the light, it is not straight.

“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23)

“Therefore by the deeds of the law, there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Rom 3:20)

God has revealed Himself and His standards to show we cannot be accepted in our own strengths. The law can't save, it just shows that we are a sinner. God's answer is the gospel of Christ, His power unto salvation (Rom 1:16).

Romans 3:21, 22 explains how we can be just. It is not what we can do but what Christ has done that makes us acceptable. Only one man was ever just in the sight of God in Himself, that is the Lord Jesus Christ. He died a death by which God is able to put away the sins of any person. The death of Christ is sufficient to meet the needs of all in the sight of God. His righteousness is available to every person in this world without exception .

Why can the offer of righteousness be made to all? The Lord Jesus Christ “gave Himself a ransom for all” (1 Tim 2:6). He paid the price God demanded so our sins could be put away. God has done something better than just forgive sins. He offers us a righteousness that belongs to God alone. For those who put there faith in the Lord Jesus Christ their sins have been put to His account.

1 Peter 2:24 explains why our sins are not just forgiven but totally removed. It is available to every person but only imputed to those who believe. To come into good of it need to realise that what God says about us is true. We are guilty in His sight and have nothing to bring or to do to save myself. There is a Saviour who has done everything needed to save and set free from sin.

Do we just need to believe the facts to be saved?

Reading: Hebrews 10v35-39

What does it mean in my life to believe?

When we read of “believing” in the Bible, we read of a faith that will change our lives.

We will learn a lot of things in our life that will make no difference to our lives. When we hear of our need of salvation and that there is only one way to heaven that must make a difference in our life.

When someone is caught in water and the rescuer goes out to save them, they do not then leave the person to make their own way back to shore. When we trust in God it is not just the end of it but rather to carry on and take us into eternity.

What does it mean? It means that I am ready to listen for Him and obey what He says.

Faith is seen in the characters in Hebrews 11; in a man like Abraham who would leave his own home because God called him despite the fact that the only land he owned was the land to bury his wife. He believed and God counted it unto him for righteousness (Gen 15:6). It was a faith that faltered but underlying his life was a faith in God. In contrast, some will say that they have faith but when they are tested they go against it. They might believe the facts, but they are not prepared to put life in the hands of the Saviour. This is not true faith. The test is simple:

Do I live by faith? Am I motivated by the obedience of faith?

If I put my life in His hands, He will keep His promises. If my faith is in God, righteousness is imputed but also power to live the life for Him.

Reading: Galatians 3v2-4,v11-12

If I am saved by faith do I need to do anything to keep my salvation? If I have trusted with a true faith that changes my life, can I be lost in the future?

In the context the question was whether there was a need to keep the law after coming in faith. The Galatians had to come in faith because could never meet the claims of the law. Faith begins the Christian life when a person comes and confesses to God. The lesson here is that the same faith will keep and complete the life. It does not depend on us, but on the One in Whom we trust.

To suggest that we can be saved and then lost is a denial of the work of God. There is acceptance in the sight of God for them that believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but believing in Him involves not just believing the facts but trusting in the person behind the facts.