

Date: 30th September 2007

Speaker: Alex Legge

Reading: Psalm 130 v 1-8

Subject: Forgiveness.

When a famous novelist who died in 1988 was on a TV talk show about religion, she said “I do envy you Christians for your forgiveness. I have no one to forgive me”. She was an atheist, which means she did not believe in God. Just after that broadcast, she died unexpectedly. The programme touched many people.

When God's Light shone in the Psalmist became aware of his incompleteness.

There are many people who don't know what is wrong with them. We live in a society where there are people crying out. If God's light could only shine in so they might realise they needed cleansing from sin. That they were unclean.

The psalmist speaks about the days when he would not make confession of his sin. His soul was sapped of its strength. In Psalm 51:2, David asks, “Blot out my transgressions”.

The Saviour is willing to totally forgive every transgression and to wipe the slate clean, no matter how bad you are or what you have done.

David speaks of his experience when he was unforgiven in Psalm 32:3-5. He says that he kept silence, and his bones wasted away. His cry was, “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” (Psa 51:7)

The death of Lord Jesus basis for forgiveness of sins. God has a large heart. Those who call upon Him for mercy will receive it. In Christ, He voluntarily entered into human form. For three and a half years, He preached the Gospel of the kingdom of God. Then He was crucified. He died on behalf of others in order to clear their debt. The account is settled and the debt is paid but people do not believe it.

The servants of God were to go out to preach the gospel - repentance and forgiveness of sin. For forgiveness to be enjoyed it must be known. Paul preached, “Be it known unto you men and brethren, that by this man is preached the forgiveness of sin.” (Acts 13:38)

Forgiveness of sin is a personal thing to do with two people, the One against whom

we have sinned and ourselves individually.

The Lord Jesus died on the cross to pay the debt.

In Colossians 1:14, we read, “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins”. There is no freedom without forgiveness. Freedom at the payment of a price is what redemption means.

We have incurred a mountain of debt but He is prepaid to forgive it. There is no death, no dirtiness, no doubt, we are cleansed and set free. All we need to do is to repent and confess our sins. There is such a thing as not being fit for God's presence. We then should thank Him for coming from glory on high to the slave market of sin to free us.