

14th September 2008

Simon Sherwin

Readings: Acts ch 14 v 8-17
Deut ch 5 v 22-26
1 Thes ch 1 v 5, 9-10
1 Tim ch 4 v 9-10

“The living God”

This is an attribute of God. He has life in Himself, He is the Self-existent one. He stands in contrast to other gods who are worshipped, because only He is the living God.

He is a God with whom we all have an appointment.

We should aim to know something about people before we meet them. What kind of God are we going to face?

He is the Creator of all things. Creation displays the power and greatness of God. To the thinking person creation is ample testimony of Gods existence. The Psalmist said, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14)

God takes care over His creation. There are many who do not acknowledge the existence of God yet He is a kind God. The Bible says that the goodness of God leads to repentance (Rom 2:4); “Taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8)

God has a standard to keep. God has spoken. The voice of God was heard in the Old Testament. When He spoke He made known His perfect standards. We are sinners, not perfect in His presence. Nothing but God has to take centre stage in our lives.

The Bible is God's Word. He has made known His standards on how we should live and conduct ourselves. God speaks - He has communicated His will to mankind. “delivered us from wrath to come” (1 Thes 1:10).

He is a God who must judge sin.

The coming wrath has not happened yet but the time of judgment will come. “It is appointed once for man to die after that the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). We stand condemned, guilty of breaking God's law. His call is to “flee from the wrath to come” (Luke 3:7). It is something that is coming. The sensible person would flee.

The Living God is a Saviour.

Not everybody will be in heaven. God is the preserver of all mankind. Only God can say when a life will come to an end. Salvation is about having a relationship with the living God of heaven. “My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God” (Psalm 42:2). The Lord Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35). He gives satisfaction in a relationship with the living God.

He was the perfect sacrifice, able to “Purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Hebrews 9:14).

Jesus means Saviour. He came into the world to die to save (1 Timothy 1:15). He was raised by God from the dead (1 Peter 1:21). He is risen, ascended, living and sitting on the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 10:12). He could say, “Fear not I am first and last. The living one” (Rev 1:18,19). God's salvation works. You can trust in the living God., turn from idols to serve the living and true God.

Christianity is about serving God. Living a life pleasing to God. This is not a dreary service

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb 10:31)