

22nd March 2009

Nigel Colgan

Reading: Genesis ch 22 v 1-14

Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of sinners.

The Bible is the inspired word of God. It is not out of date, the lessons of the Bible stories are relevant today.

In the passage God gave a command - "take thou thy son" (Gen 22:2)

1 - Unmistakable Command

Isaac was Abraham's special son and God commanded him to offer him as a sacrifice. God has given us many commands. All sacrifices in the Old Testament were for sin. The sacrifice of any animal in the Old Testament didn't take away sin it was just a picture of the ultimate sacrifice to come.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

We were all born in sin. This is not an easy thing to accept.

2 - Inevitable Consequence

Isaac was on a certain path, the sentence had been past and he was on the way to death.

Today we have a sentence - because of our sin we are condemned already.

Abraham had the son he had wanted for many years then God says he shall die. Death is the inevitable consequence of sin. There was no sin in Eden. Sin entered the world. The devil deceived Eve and sin entered the world and "death by sin" (Romans 5:12). We are all sentenced to death. All born have died. This is one fact that cannot be denied is that all will die. We know not the time of our death. We know not what the day might bring.

The rich farmer in Luke - pulled down his barns to build bigger ones - he made no provision for God in his life. God demanded his soul.

"The soul that sinneth shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20)

The Gospel is good news.

3 - Unblemished Substitute

"Where is the lamb" - Isaac did not realise at this point that he was the intended sacrifice. Abraham was about to kill Isaac but the angel stopped him. There was an unblemished ram caught in thicket - Isaac would be able to look upon his substitute who would take his place on the alter.

One became our substitute - The Lord Jesus Christ.

The only begotten Son of God. He came in the likeness of human flesh. God sent forth His Son. We do not tell you of a myth, legend or story. We can tell you He was born, grew up here and acted in complete accordance with Gods will. A wonderful and perfect man. Many saw his good deeds and miracles but these alone could not atone for one sin, it took Him to go to the cross. Suspended between heaven and earth He voluntarily gave His life and on the cross during three hours of darkness God punished Him for our sins.

"God did meet upon Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6)

The Lord Jesus Christ cried with a loud voice "It is finished" (John 19:30)

The work of Salvation was complete. He was a substitute for every sinner in the world and everyone who has ever been born. He rose from the grave on the third day victor over the dark domain. He is a living Saviour.

God gave His absolute best for guilty hell deserving sinners. Man looks on the outward appearance but God looks at the heart of man. We are short by the glory of God. It does not matter if you are a little bit short or a big bit short. The one who can save you and make you fit for the presence of God for eternity is the Lord Jesus Christ. We will be with Him and like Him forever and ever.

4 - Unquestionable Sufficiency

Christ was the only one who could have died. By the word of His mouth in Gethsemane's garden He could have put soldiers on their knees. The Lord will never fail us. What a wonder that He died for us. We have all failed and let God down yet He still sent His Son that "the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17).

The Gospel is a message of life, hope and provision. You have to put your trust and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Behold now is the accepted time behold now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2)

One night the Gospel will be preached for a final time. You still have the opportunity if you have not put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)

This is a message for the whosoever.