

Date: 23rd August 2009
Speaker: Stephen Whitmore
Reading: Acts ch 3 v 19

Repentance is a change of heart. We can take an active part and must repent. Until there is a recognition of sin and turning away from sin there can be no forgiveness from God.

God is a God of love but He just cannot save the world without there being a response from man. Repentance in our heart means an acknowledgment of sin. God cannot overlook sin: "God commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30)

"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity" (Hab 1:13)

In Revelation 20:1, God is seen to be so holy that we cannot stand in His presence – even creation flees from the throne of God because it is tainted by sin.

In Romans 7, Paul show how the best intentions of man fail. This is the result of sin in the human heart.

We must "Convert" or turn round. We cannot change ourselves but God can change us where there is genuine repentance. "The Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation" (Romans 1:16)

"He breaks the power of sin and sets the prisoner free"

God can uphold you the moment you acknowledge your sin and look to Him.

As a result of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ God can blot out our sins.

"God shall wipe away their tears" (Revelation 21:4)

Where there is repentance there will be sorrow in hearts. Tears are turned to joy. A sinner realising the consequences of their sin may have tears but then an abundance of joy from trusting in the Saviour. Sins blotted out; tears blotted out

For those who reject there awaits an eternity of judgment where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, cast into outer darkness (Matthew 22:13).