

Date: 24th January 2010

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Reading: John ch 1 v 6-7, 23, 29-34
Romans ch 6 v 23
John ch 14 v 1-3
1 Thess ch 4 v 13-18
Revelation ch 20 v 11-15

What was John's mission when he was here?

John the Baptist was nothing special to look at. He dressed differently and ate differently to the other people. He stayed outside the city and was not the conformist type. He was very special. His whole mission was to announce the arrival of the Messiah. No person was more important than the Messiah, the one who would be “the Light of the world”. He fulfilled the job God had given him to do. The people who repented were baptised. The Jews had been waiting for the son of God.

John's message was get ready. He was telling them their life must be ready for the arrival of the Messiah. They knew the Messiah was the Son of God: special and holy.

People today want to turn over a new leaf but issues in our past have not been dealt with. John announced, “Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world” (John 1:29)

God's laws were there to be obeyed. In these days when the people sinned they had to offer a sacrifice to God. A sacrifice for sin. Sin is a serious thing in God's eyes. “of purer eyes than to behold iniquity” (Hab 1:13).

“The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). The sacrificial lamb would take the place of the person who sinned. The sacrifice only covered people's sin, John was looking to the Lord because He takes away the sin and does not just cover it.

The Son of God came for a purpose: to take away the sin of the world. Animal sacrifices could only cover the sins over the centuries. The Lord bore in His own body our sin when He was on the cross. For three hours there was complete darkness where God, Who is completely holy, poured out His judgment of the world on His Son.

He was completely pure, holy and without sin. He was a substitute and took the place of you and me. He came from heaven with the purpose to go to the cross as a sacrifice for sin.

God now has a way of forgiving us for our sin. He can look on us with love and compassion because the Lord died.

God's message today is to be ready. We need to be ready for His coming again. Are we ready?

We have a choice. In John's day many rejected his message and others received it. We need to get ready for his coming. We have the opportunity and ability to be saved by believing and trusting in the son of God.

“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). We just need to believe and trust in him.

We can be sure of a place in heaven by trusting in Him. He has promised to come back for His disciples. When the Lord comes again only those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ will go to heaven. There can be no sin in heaven. We can do nothing about our own sin we have to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing that defiles can enter heaven (Rev 21:27).

It's very important to be aware of what happens if we choose not to trust in the Lord. God will hold us to account for sin that has not been dealt with. God is holy, fair and will judge sin. If we choose not to accept or neglect the Lord we will have to face the judgment.

God will no force us into heaven He has given us a choice. There are no tears or sadness in heaven.

Mankind has been separated from a holy God. God has provided a way back to Him by sacrificing His son. We have a choice to make on our final destinations. He could come back at any time. He will come. He will keep His promises.

Are you ready?