

Date: 14th March 2010

Speaker: Stephen Whitmore

Reading: John ch 5 v 1-16

Subject: Wilt thou be made whole?

A man who had spent 38 years by the pool was asked the question, "Do you want to be made whole from the afflictions you've had all these years?"

This is a question that had spanned the ages and comes to us today, Do you want to be made whole from your sin and its effects?

There is only One can meet your need.

There were are great multitude of people without strength. The Lord saw and knew the man at the pool of Bethesda amongst the crowd. The same Lord looks down from the throne of heaven and knows us all individually. He knows the circumstances of our lives and has the power to save because He "ever lives to make intercession for us" (Heb 7:25)

It was the Sabbath day: a day of fulfilment. In creation the seventh day was when God rested as all was completed. Now, the Lord is to bring to fulfilment the purpose of God. He will never fail. He asked the question as the only One Who could satisfy.

The sheep gate reminds us that sacrifice was central to everything. Jesus is introduced to the people in John's Gospel with the words, "Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)

Peter tells us that was can be "Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18,19).

There will be a new heaven and a new earth where there will be no sin and no effects of sin because of the lamb of God (Rev 21). He is the light of the city in these days to come - there will be no night and no darkness.

The Lord Jesus came down from the glory of heaven to be a sacrifice for sin. Everything hinges on the cross of Christ. The need of every generation was met.

"For as by one man sin entered the world and death by sin" (Romans 5:12). Romans 6 teaches us that sin reigns in the body – the evil in the world is all the result of sin.

Sin has to be taken away - How? = "Behold the lamb of God"

You must come to the place that the sheep gate pictures, to Calvary where the lamb was offered.

"once in the end of the world has he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb 9:24)

There was a multitude in need at the pool, but the Lord saw the individual. It does not matter how many people there are in the world today He knows us all individually.

The man at the pool thought he had no chance and he realised he could do nothing for himself - "Sir I have no man" - nobody to help him get to the water in time. We have to realise there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. It was "When we were without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6)

If we say we can do nothing, God says Christ has done it. We must come to the place of Calvary in faith and realise He died for us.

Have you come to that point?

Have you recognised that:

you are sinner powerless to help yourself.

Christ died and took the judgment you deserved.

The judgment He bore was enough for all the sins in your life to be put away.

Christ did everything that was needed - Just take Him at His word.

There is a way that seems right to man but will lead to death - take Him at His word.

“He that hears my word and believes in Him that sent me shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).

He has done everything that is needed to deal with sin.

If I believe and put my trust in Him, the One Who cannot fail, the promise of God is that we will pass from death into life.

It was the Sabbath day, a day of rest. The man had suffered for 38 years; he had tried and struggled by the pool of all these years but he was alone. He was a helpless and hopeless case.

What no man can do, Christ can do?

Who then can be saved?

“the things that are impossible with men are possible with God” (Luke 18:27)

It is impossible for a man to save himself but it is possible with God.

Where will you put your trust, in your friends and family or in God and Christ?

God says, “Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost...”(Heb 7:25)