

Speaker: Simon Sherwin

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Reading: Isaiah 1v18-20, Isaiah 59v1-4,v7-8

Both the readings refer to the phrase "your sins". Each individual needs to think about it as my sins.

They are your sins, there is personal responsibility. Easy to see shortcomings in others but must look personally. We are bad to admit our own guilt. People are reluctant to admit they have failed and sinned.

It is for your sins that you will have to answer to God. In the end day men and women will be judged for the deeds found in the books. "Appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment" (Heb 9:27). How will you fair when you stand before God in judgment?

What have you done with your life? What have you done with His Son?

In God's eyes things are either wrong or not, there is no middle ground.

What is sin? Says God, sin is rebellion against Him. Sin is lawlessness and disobedience against God, going my way, not God's way.

Sin goes through the whole society, no one is missed out. "All have sinned" (Rom 3:23). From the queen on the throne to the homeless on the street. "All have sinned". No segment of our life is free from sin. "Whole head sick,..." (Isa 1:5-6). If sins are not dealt with in the sight of God the whole thing is ugly. Sin touches what we do, what we say, what we think. Every single part of our body is sick with sin. "Lust when it has conceived bringeth forth sin" (James 1:15).

Sin has consequences. It has separated between you and God.

People may say prayer doesn't work, it is because of sin.

Separation came into place in the garden of Eden when sin came in. man tried to hide from God and found it was not possible. The gap between God and man needs to be bridged. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all" (1 Tim 2:5,6)

Sin is impossible to get rid of by ourselves, it is like scarlet but can become as white as snow. Sin leads to the judgment of God. God is righteous and holy and must punish sin.

God took the incentive, He lays an offer on the table.

The message of the gospel makes sense, it is reasonable "Let us reason together" (Isa 1:18). It is the only thing that satisfies God's righteousness and means my sin can be forgiven. He can make sin white as wool.

"Look unto me and be ye saved" (Isa 45:22). Salvation has to come from God.

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isa 55:1). - God offers complete satisfaction to the spiritually bankrupt.

This is the greatest offer available.

How can God offer this? “He was wounded for our transgressions...” (Isa 53:5-6).

Who is He? He took our place, He bore our judgment and sins, He was wounded because of what we have done.

“Do you understand?...” “How can I?...” “Philip preached Jesus” (Acts 8:30-35)

Jesus is the One we tell you about, our Substitute, the One who died in our place.

“God sent only Son into world that we might live through Him” (1 John 4:9)

“Herein is love, not that we loved Him but that He loved us” (1 John 4:10)

“Did not spare own Son but delivered Him up for us all” (Romans 8:32)

Have you got it?

Do you know what it is to have sins forgiven?

There is no other way. We preach Him because He didn't stay dead, He is alive “Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be* a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31); “That every knee should bow” (Phil 2:11) Is He your Lord now? If you don't bow now, you will bow to Him as judge.

God's offer demands willingness and obedience. “God commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30), “Set before you life... chose life” (Deut 30:19). The difference between the two outcomes couldn't be greater.

It is a limited time offer. “Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near”(Isa 55:6-7).

He can be found tonight and is near tonight.

“Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation”(2 Cor 6:2)