

Speaker: Stephen Whitmore

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> August 2006

Readings: Job 33:23-24, Job 36:18

Men try to say how one can be right with God. Job's friends had no answer to the question how shall a man be just with God.

The speaker learned two things on 6<sup>th</sup> August 45 years ago. He learned that the Lord was coming for those who had trusted God and that trying to gain acceptance with God in own efforts will come to nothing. The speaker knew that if the Lord came he was not ready. This would result in judgment and the lake of fire for eternity.

There is an answer, but first we need to consider the extent of the judgment. the opening chapters of Romans outline the universal condemnation of man in the sight of God.

In chapter one, we have those who are steeped in sin and have chosen to ignore God. For such, creation will still testify to God and condemn them.

In the opening verses of chapter two, we have those who live according to their conscience, while at the end of the chapter, the commandments of God are brought to bear. Whatever the position of a man, the end for all is destruction without excuse (Rom 1:20; 2:1;3:9).

In Romans 3:21, the subject changes and now we read of the righteousness of God which is not based on works. Romans 3:22 teaches us that it available to all (“unto all”), but it is only enjoyed by those who believe (“upon all them that believe”).

People must accept what God has done so as to come into good of what He has done. The righteousness of God is only given them who believe (Rom. 1:16), but it is to all them that believe.

Most people think there is something after death yet are happy to go through life just hoping it will be all right in the end. If someone set out on a journey without planning then people would think you were mad yet, people leave eternal destiny up to chance.

On what basis can we be certain? - a ransom has been found (Job 33:24).

God's justice demands every sin must be punished and the sentence is clear: Romans 6:23 tells us that “the wages of sin is death”.

God sets two choices and two destinations before man. He has provided the ransom, only one way for sin to be put away righteously.

In 1 Tim 2v5, 6, we read that the ransom price paid on the cross by the Lord Jesus. He met demand for every sin that has been committed. Nothing more needs to be done. He paid in full.

In John 16:8,9 we learn that the one sin that condemns irrevocably is the sin of not believing. If one does not come as a sinner to the Lord Jesus Christ there is no alternative. God has done everything He can.

The work of Christ is enough to deal with the sin of every person in this world but each must individually confess they are the sinner for whom Christ died.

While the speaker knew the truth of Romans 3:23, he but had to learn that answer to sins was the cross of Lord Jesus Christ.

God provides the ransom yet also warns of limit to salvation. For 2000 years God has held back His wrath. The judgment of God is coming upon this world at his appointed time.

You may promise to come and hear again but death can step in. It is no respecter of persons. There are many in eternity who thought that they would put matters right tomorrow but for them, tomorrow never came.

Some people want to wait and see; others talk of some of purgatory with mercy possible eventually, but Job 36:18 teaches us that when you leave this life, your eternal destiny is sealed. there is no opportunity after death.

The Scriptures say, "It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment" (Heb.9:27).

There are two choices for you in Hebrews 9:27, 28. To die without Christ and face the judgment or to bow the knee in time and be among them that look for Him to come and to receive you into His presence as one saved by grace.

What is your choice? The options are:-

1. There is no way to escape without Christ, it is to be without hope (Eph. 2:12)
2. There is no condemnation to them that are In Christ Jesus (Rom 8v1; John 1v12).