

God's Optician

Getting our vision corrected in Zechariah 1-6



3:1-10 – Dealing with Guilt

- A series of 8 visions. First 3 full of promise and hope
- Problem: How can promises and hope be given to a sinful people?

1. A True Accusation – v1

- Scene – A Heavenly courtroom – nowhere to hide
- Satan tempts us to sin then points the finger
- The horror is that the accusations are all true - Joshua is silent.

2. A Wonderful Defender - v2

- Angel of the Lord = Old Testament name for Jesus
- Rebukes Satan, not Joshua! - There is one who will speak in our defence
- A Christian is one who has been chosen by God – “The Lord has chosen”
- A Christian is one who is relying on God to rescue them – “snatched”
- A Christian is not someone who is perfect – “a charred stick”
- The rescue took place at the cost of personal pain for the rescuer

3. A Great Cleansing – v3-5

- Christianity allows you to be honest about your guilt
- God doesn't batter Christians with their guilt – he removes it.
- Not just made clean, but clothed (in Christ's righteousness – 2 Cor 5:21)
- Our standing before God is based on God's cleansing of us, not our cleansing of ourselves.
- Not just cleansed, but called to serve God – the High Priest's turban

4. A New Lifestyle – v6-7

- Religion says: Live right and you might be forgiven
- Christianity says: Be forgiven and then live right
- Joshua has done nothing to earn this forgiveness, it's a gift from God
- However, godly living has two outcomes:
 - we can be used by God – “You will govern my house”
 - we can enjoy closeness to God – “You will have access...”

5. A Glorious Promise – v8-10

- Not just for Zechariah's day – symbolic of future v8
- Servant & Branch is coming – 2 OT descriptions of Jesus (Is 52, Jer 23)
- He will remove the guilt of his people in a single day – not in daily sacrifices (Heb 10). God guarantees this by inscribing it in stone, an all seeing stone that knows the guilt of the people.
- Those who have turned from sin and trusted Christ are accepted, not because they are perfect, but because of Christ. They remain accepted despite falling. Christ's perfect life in the basis for your acceptance.



Sabbath 17th February 08
n e w l i f e f e l l o w s h i p

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Notices

Sab	Evening service at Mark & Judith's Discussion Time - Bring your questions on Zechariah, Christian living or anything else in the bible	8pm
Tues	Bible Study - Study 18 in 1 Corinthians - Stewart & Jean's home	8pm
Sat 23rd	Meal out (somewhere and sometime in the evening!)	
Wed 27th	Irish Mission Update - Convoy	8pm
Sabbath 2nd	Lord's Supper at morning service	

Denomination News

Robert Robb - Marathon Man!

Rev Robert Robb, minister in Limavady RP Church is planning to run 6 marathons in 6 days in the 6 counties of Northern Ireland in May. He is doing it to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society and Macmillan Cancer Support. Sponsorship forms are available.

GO Teams 2008

Application forms are available for Go teams 2008.

Trips to Jordan, Israel and Mt Sinai - 2008/9

Details on posters on table

Castlewellan holiday conference 2008 - Still some places

From 16th – 23rd August still spaces in the campsite and the castle. Do consider going to this conference, not only to learn more from the Word of God but to make new friends and have fellowship with others in the church. If you have any questions contact Edith McCollum 048 7034 3523.

Next Week: Zechariah 4

Opening Psalm: 71:7-12

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
Oversight elders: Graham Fallows 048 7130 1641 William Lynch 048 7139 8002