

# God's Optician

Getting our vision corrected in Zechariah 1-6



5:1-11 – We should be afraid to sin

- Visions 1-5 – encouragement. Visions 6-7 – warning
- God is a promise-keeping God – both in blessing and in punishment

## 1. Sin will be punished

Vision of flying scroll teaches us:

- a) God is relentless in hunting down sin**
- b) God's people cannot have a sloppy attitude to sin**
  - 2 of the 'less serious' commandments still bring down God's wrath
- c) God's people are to take their standards from God's word**
  - Flying scroll is the standard of judgment, not what others do
- d) Failure to give yourself wholeheartedly to God's kingdom is a sin**
  - They claimed to be God's people, but lived for themselves – A lie
  - They used their resources not to build the temple, but to furnish their homes – Theft

## 2. Sin will be Judged

- God is actively hostile towards those who ignore his word
- God tears down what his people try to build without him
- Nothing is left after judgment

## 3. Sinners will be removed forever

Vision of woman in the basket teaches us:

- a) A time is coming when God will purge his people**
  - Need to be careful of presuming we are safe
- b) Sin has a face**
  - Not just sin being removed, but sinners
  - God hates sinners, yet also loves them and offers a way of escape
- c) Removal will be final**
  - 'Babylon' – as far away as possible. A place of horror.
  - 'A house built for it' – permanent, no return.
  - 'lid pushed down' – is it already too late?

## 4. Our only Hope

- Sin is deadly serious for Christian and non-Christian
- Jesus came to free us from the penalty, power and the presence of sin
- If we are not concerned about our sin then we aren't freed by Christ
- Sin must be removed from God's presence – either ch3 or 5. You choose.
- Christ offers to stand in our shoes in these two visions in ch5
- Hope – those who turn from their sin, whose lives are marked by a turning from sin, and ask Christ to stand in their shoes, find the welcome arms of a pardoning God.



Sabbath 24th 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 Day Centre - Zech 4 8pm
- Wed 27th Irish Mission Update meeting - Convoy 8pm
- Sat 1st Young people's Spring Conference - Newry RP Church  
6.30pm - Pizza tea (£2) - Meeting 7-9pm  
Topic - Giving to Caesar, Giving to God. Rev David McCullough
- Sabbath 2nd Lord's Supper at morning service - If you haven't joined with us to take part in the Lord's Supper and would like to take part please speak to Mark before next week. There will be a lunch after the service.

### Denomination News

#### **Robert Robb - Marathon Man!**

Rev Robert Robb, minister in Limavady RP Church is planning to run 6 marathons on 6 consecutive 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 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 6

Opening Psalm: 72:1-8

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