ROOTED

Basic Christianity

Five weeks exploring the foundations of the faith

ROOTED

Rooted: Sunday, 7-8pm, 14 April – 12 May 2024

Teaching, then Q&A.
All welcome. All questions welcome!

Five big questions:

1. *How can we know about God?*
   - *Revelation: God speaks to humanity in Jesus, and in his Word.*
2. *When did it all start?*
   - *Roots: God made us to know him.*
3. *Why did it go wrong?*
   - *Rebellion: we did it our way, otherwise known as sin.*
4. *Who will save us?*
   - *Rescue: God sends Jesus to be our Saviour.*
5. *What does the future hold?*
   - *Renewal or ruin? Heaven and hell are coming.*

Basic Christianity

Revelation (week 1)

Rebellion (week 3)

Ruin

Roots (week 2)

Rescue (week 4)

Renewal (week 5)

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What does the future hold?

- As there was a beginning, so there will be an ending.
- The end will come when Jesus returns as Judge of all human beings, living and dead.
- Jesus' judgement leaves us with an important choice.

What does the future hold?

What does the future hold?

- As there was a beginning, so there will be an ending.
- The end will come when Jesus returns as Judge of all human beings, living and dead.
- Jesus' judgement leaves us with an important choice.
  - *If we turn from our sins and trust Jesus now, we shall be forgiven and have a place forever with God in the new heavens and earth. We will be renewed.*
  - *If we reject Jesus, we shall be condemned by God, spending eternity in hell. We will be ruined.*

A new creation

- Revelation 21-22: God unveils the world to come
- An ending – and a new beginning:
  - *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away…” (21.1)*

A new creation

- The new creation re-unites God and his people:
  - *“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.” (21.2-3)*
    - *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. … Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” (19.7, 9)*
    - *The institution and fulfilment of marriage “bookends” the Bible.*

A new creation

- The new creation is free from sin & its consequences:
  - *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’” (21.4-5)*
  - *Hear these themes from Genesis 1-3: In the new Jerusalem, “On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.” (22-2-3a)*

A new creation

- The new creation comes with a promise:
  - *“Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’” (21.5b)*
- The new creation is not our automatic destiny:
  - *Unrepentant sinners will find “their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.” (v8)*

A new creation

- The new creation is freely offered to all:
  - *“To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.” (v6)*
  - *It cannot be earned – it is offered “without cost”*
  - *It must be received*
    - *We acknowledge our “thirst” – our spiritual need.*
    - *We receive God’s gift – the “water of (eternal) life”.*

Jesus is returning as Judge …

- When does this age give way to the next?
  - *When Jesus Christ returns as Judge of all mankind.*
- The Judge is appointed:
  - *According to Paul, "[God] has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17.31)*
  - *According to Peter, "He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that [Jesus of Nazareth] is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead." (Acts 10.42)*

… leaving us an important choice:

- The Judge is also the Saviour:
  - *Peter continues, "[Jesus of Nazareth] is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10.42-43)*
- Paul says …
  - *"[God] commands all people everywhere to repent." (Acts 17.30)*
- Jesus brings together what we must do …
  - *"Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1.15)*

… leaving us an important choice:

- In other words, the “good news” calls us to:
  - *repent – turn from my way to acknowledge Jesus as Lord*
  - *and believe – trust in Jesus as Saviour and Rescuer.*
- If we do, we will …
  - *receive “forgiveness of sins through his name” because “Jesus … rescues us from the coming wrath” (1 Thessalonians 1.10).*
  - *have God’s promise of a place in the new heavens and new earth.*

… leaving us an important choice:

- But what if we don't?
  - *The Bible is clear that God respects our choice:*
    - *The Lord Jesus, "will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power." (2 Thes. 1.8-9).*
  - *Jesus taught that hell is real, and unspeakably awful:*
    - *He described it on one occasion as a place of conscious "torment" and "agony", utter loneliness and despair and as somewhere from which there was no escape – see Luke 16.19-31.*

… leaving us an important choice:

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life …

Renewal

Ruin

… but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” (John 3.36)

What does your future hold?

- Just as there was a beginning, so there will be an ending when Jesus returns as the Judge – and then a new creation.
- If we turn from our sins and trust Jesus now, we shall be renewed: forgiven now and inheriting a place forever with God in the new heavens and earth.
- If we reject Jesus, we shall be ruined: condemned by God, spending eternity in hell.

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