

Let's Worship God

4th-9th November 2024

Isaiah



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Monday - Isaiah 58:1-2 - Dead Religion

We're going to look at, in the first couple of verses here, dead religion in the professed people of God. Now, were these religious people that God is addressing? Yes. There are many religious people out in the world who, spiritually speaking, are dead. It's what sometimes people call formalism. It's when you are acting like the godly, but you don't have the heart of the godly.

God calls upon Isaiah here to reprove formalism strongly among those who claim to be the people of God. Cry aloud. He doesn't say talk to them quietly. These people need a wake up call. They think that they are pleasing God. But formalists and hypocrites always think so. They always think that if they do the outward things, then everything's fine. They must have things put plainly and maybe loudly to them. This is their only hope, really. If they see their sin, then there is also hope for them looking to the Saviour instead of themselves.

If their religion isn't real, why would they be seeking after God every day? Why would they delight to know God's ways? Why would they ask about what the Word of God is teaching? Even real orthodox Christianity can have its outwardly active and inwardly dead followers. People that looked just like they were believers - remember Judas Iscariot. These people think that if they believe the right things with the mind, if they say the right things with their tongues, and do the proper religious ceremonies, then everything is fine, and everything will be fine.

There is much in religion that can appeal to the carnal dead heart. There are people who really enjoy having intellectual discussions, and they think because they can carry this on, they must be godly, or God will accept them as such. There are things which can stir the emotions, stir our admiration in religion. But that does not make hearts right with God. In fact, if you are not spiritually alive, your religious activity, all of it, is disgusting to Him.

If all this be true, then what must a person do to be saved? Well, in a sense, nothing. You must see that you are dead and you are still in your sin. You must do what God has said in His Word, and that is trust in the righteousness of Someone else. Cry out to Jesus to save you from your sin and you will have life. Life does not come from outward religious action. Religious action comes from life given by God through Jesus.

Question

1. What is dead religion?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would wake up those who think that everything is fine when it isn't.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; Isaiah 59:1

Praise: Psalm 23- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 58:3-7 - Worship From A New Heart

These people are diligent to go through all the forms of religion correctly. They assume, of course, that this is what pleases God and that they can commend themselves to God in this way. And then nothing happens like they expect. What they're trying to do is sway God's favour with outward religious forms. God sees the motivation, He knows their hearts, and He is not willing to go along with this. They are then angry, complaining that their service to Jehovah is useless, and it's a waste of time. This demonstrates their hearts are still in bondage to sin. It shows that they have no concept of their sinful nature. It shows that they have no concept of their need of righteousness that must come from Someone else, because there is none in them. They have dead hearts. Therefore, they cannot love God. They cannot love their neighbour. And it works out into hypocrisy. A hypocrite is someone who says one thing but does another. The hypocrite all along knows that what he is saying and what he is doing are different, and he doesn't care.

Religion is just a little part of their life. What are these people doing on the day of their fasting? They are saying to their workers, work harder. It's a time for strife, arguments, and fighting. They're yelling and screaming. A true fast from the heart comes from a repentant, contrite, and humble heart, that's looking to the cross. That's exactly the opposite of what we see here. The behavior here in verse 4 comes from self-righteous, haughty, and proud hearts that will not abide being crossed. Worship, including fasting, must be what pleases God. God says to them, 'Is this really what you think pleases me?' A person who was fasting would be bowed down; they would sit on sackcloth and ashes. They would use these things to express that they were worth nothing, and were looking to God, looking humbly on His grace in Jesus Christ. But these people thought if they just went through the outward things, surely that's got to be enough for God.

The godly has these actions come naturally from a changed heart, a heart of faith in Christ's Person and Work. So the fast day becomes the kind of fast day that God does want, as we see in verses 6-7. The redeemed sinner to whom mercy has been given lovingly can show this mercy of God to others, and he delights to find that he can serve and love his Saviour by loving these others.

Question

1. What did these people think about fasting?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would love God and others from a heart changed by Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; Isaiah 59:1

Praise: Psalm 24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 58:8-12 - Precious Promises

In verse 8, God says to believers that their light shall break forth like the dawn. Some of you can remember that once you were in darkness, but God in His grace brought light to shine. It may have been a gradual thing. It may have been sudden. But Jesus, the Light of the world, is the opposite of all that is darkness. God promises light and life to everyone who comes to Him through Jesus. The second promise we find here is a promise of healing. Many of you have had grave illness or injury in one sort or another, and God has delivered you or given you strength to get through. And it's absolutely guaranteed, if not in this life, then in the life to come, that you shall be healed of all your diseases. But there's a greater sickness and a worse death that all are subject to who have not been found in Jesus Christ. There's the sickness and death of sin, and that's where you and I were at one time. But if indeed Jesus has saved us from our sin, we have been raised from spiritual death. We have the guarantee of being raised from our physical death, and we are taken out of that loathsome disease of sin. We also see a promise of God's special presence. The Lord will guide you continually. Christ, our righteousness, by His mediatorial life, by His atoning death, His victorious resurrection, has blazed the trail, and He leads us in the right way. He is guarding us. He is with us in the midst of all our trials and difficulties.

Verses 9-10 show evidence of a new heart. A new heart will turn from sin. It will give out of love for God and love for others. The believer sees what God in Christ has delivered him from, and his heart goes out to the others for Christ's sake. In verses 10-12 we see a society that's characteristically like this, with love to God and others, should be built up to God's glory in King Jesus. We see thriving life in verse 11. The picture here is of God satisfying us in the drought, the dryness, the dustiness, the death of sin all around us. He satisfies our soul. He strengthens our bones. God says that He will be like a spring whose waters do not fail. He will continue to bless us and make us live and prosper. Here's the promise, too, of building up the waste areas. This is looking not only to the rebuilding of Jerusalem. This is looking more importantly to the going forth of the gospel to the nations.

Question

1. What promises do we have here?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all these promises.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; Isaiah 59:1

Praise: Psalm 25 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 58:13-14 - Don't Trample the Sabbath

If we outwardly keep the Sabbath Day with a heart that is far from it, then the day becomes long, tedious, boring, and it becomes the worst of days. But for the believer, it cannot be so as he grows in Christ. It is the weekly remembrance of our Lord's Resurrection, when our Lord Jesus comes forth from the grave, because sin is totally paid for. Because He lives, we have life. As we grasp that more and more it becomes a delight. The Sabbath Day is also the day for the people of God to be gathering together in worship, to be spending a day with God and His people. And the believer, as he matures in faith, delights in that more and more. And it becomes not, 'When will this day be over?' but 'When will the Day get here?'

We must not trample the Sabbath by our actions. We must not do as we please, but we must set our pleasure upon the Lord, particularly that Day. We must not trample it in our words. It's so easy to be talking about our own cares or our own delights, instead of things directly pertaining to godliness. And we must not trample it in our hearts. We must call it delightful. And as we love the Lord of the Day, more and more, we will love the Day itself.

The Day is to be kept then for rest and for holiness. There are different kinds of rests we might think of. It's a physical rest. It is a time when especially we are to cease from sin. We are to be resting as well spiritually in the righteousness of Jesus alone. It should be set off from the rest of days. We must set aside that which is permissible, even commanded, on the other six days.

When we come to the Sabbath Day with the right attitude, the Day becomes that which is a joy in the Lord, and it leads to joy in the Lord in the rest of our lives as well. As we invest in the Day, we get some truly wonderful dividends from our investments. As we know God better and better, and spend more and more time with Him, the more delightful all of our life is, not just on the Day, but on all seven days of the week. Another dividend is a promise of dominion. We go forth empowered to do our work for God's glory the rest of the week. The third dividend is the promise of the inheritance of Jacob, promises of a holy land that now extends to all the earth, promises that many nations will come from him. These promises are the word of the Lord. This is how we know that these things are certain.

Question

1. How can we make the Sabbath a delight?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the Sabbath day.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; Isaiah 59:1

Praise: Psalm 26 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 59:1-2 - Separated From God

The problem here in the relationship between God and his people is not because God can't save them. God's arm is never too short. He is able to save to the uttermost. The problem here is not because God can't hear. God always hears. He is willing to save anyone who comes to Him contrite for sin and wishing to be right. Well, if there is not a problem with God, what's the problem? Why are we separated from Him? The problem is a quite simple one. It's sin. That is what separates.

Are you feeling separated from God? Are you in Jesus Christ? Are you in a covenant relationship with Him, united to Him by faith? Or have you thought, I don't want to mess with that. I don't want to get too close now. After all, I'm pretty good. God should be happy to have someone like me. Besides, I can't believe or I don't want to believe all that stuff. It might change my life. If you are not in Christ, then you are still in sin, and that is what's separating you from God. You may be very religious. But if there is no heart truly and sincerely given to God in Christ, you are going through motions, and that stinks to God. The second thing for you to consider, if you are not in Jesus Christ, is that you are not good in any way. There is no one who is without sin. What you do is nothing but sinful. Even if you do outwardly good things, if your heart is not yielded to Jesus, if you're not in union with Him by faith, then it's no good. Your sin demands the just penalty of death. Romans 6:23 says the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. That's the only way out -- trusting in the Lord Jesus.

The problem is sin in the family, sin in the church, sin in the individual, sin in the culture, and all these things lead to God's wrath and judgment. We need a solution. It's simple. Repent. Look to Jesus and repent. Make sure you are in Christ, and if you are, seek to obey His Word. Of course, the true believer will want to do just that. God is yet able, and God is willing to forgive sin and sinners. If there is separation from God, then return to Him in and through Jesus Christ. That is the only solution to the problem. But it's the sure one!

Question

1. What separates us from God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put sin to death daily.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; Isaiah 59:1

Praise: Psalm 27- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 59:3-8 - Accusation of Sin

In these verses we have God's accusation of the people and their sin. God knows, and He judges with truth. He judges with fairness. He deals with the wicked in entire justice. This accusation is of God's professed people. That's what makes this especially horrible. It is not of the sinners out there in the world. No. It is those who profess to be His people who are accused here. Now, that does not mean that they truly are His people.

Here in verse three, God characterizes sin as blood. Their sin is in the hand and in the very fingers. They are handling and manipulating, working sin. It is in the mouth, and tongue, and in the head. It's not only sin in deed, but sin in word and thought. And we see that in verses in 7-8, it's in the feet, as they walk in wicked ways.

In verses 4-6, we see him speaking of a fabric of lies. There is no justice. There is a trust in lies and in evil. The trust is in empty words. Then we have a picture here of snakes and spiders. And particularly here we see venomous snakes and spiders. We see a conception of evil and a bringing forth of iniquity. They go to sin, these wicked ones, these who claim to be the followers of Christ. They go to the ideas of the world. And those ideas of the world come from those who hate wisdom, who hate Jesus, who love death. And so, of course, what they have conceived breaks forth into iniquity. The people of God bite down into this and receive a bite instead. Imagine trying to clothe yourself with spider webs. But you see, the wicked, the professed people of God, try to cover themselves with these lies, and with this blood, and their so called works, and their great ideas. It all turns out to be like spiderweb clothes before God, it cannot protect them against His wrath, it cannot cover their sin and their shame.

Sadly, the way of these people is the way of death. And we see this in verses 7-8. They claim they are on the way to real fulfillment and happiness. The roadway upon which these people travel always ends in death. Peace is only found in the Saviour Whom God has sent. Here we will find Him Who will forgive and give life. Here we will find the true shining path, the way to the celestial city. Here and here alone we shall find justice and truth. Here alone we shall find the love which we seek. Here alone is the resolution of sin.

Questions

1. How are these sinners described?
2. What is the end of their path?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; Isaiah 59:1

Praise: Psalm 28 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com