

Let's Worship God

26th Feb. - 2nd March 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

Isaiah

Monday - Isaiah 28:1-8 - Dominated by Sin or an Aberration?

God has given Israel some wonderful blessings. In verses 1 and 4 he mentions the glorious beauty of the rich valleys. But they took the good gifts of God and used them for sin. They've taken the wine, the good gift of God, and abused it. They're characterized as drunkards in the very first verse. These false people of God took all these good gifts, and they have acted as though somehow it was their own power, and their own wisdom, that has made everything to work well. They are full of pride. We see that in verse 3. They've not taken these good gifts and been thankful for them. They've not taken these good gifts and used them for the glory of God. Drunkenness is pretty much the biggest thing that characterizes them. Obviously, this sin has conquered them. Any life-dominating sin will ruin someone who professes to be part of the people of God. Sadly, there are many people who might claim to be Christ's in Isaiah's time and in ours, but their lives are dominated by sin. It's not that they sometimes fall to particular sins. It's not that they are fighting against them. No, they delight in remaining in these sins while still claiming to be the people of Jehovah.

We go on to read in verses 5-8 about the remnant. Those who, amid this larger group of false believers, are true believers, these are the ones of whom we are talking now. In the last two verses we see they also have erred through wine and through intoxicating drink. What, truly Christian people behaving that way? It's sad, but true. Thankfully, over the course of their Christian lives, it does not characterize them. This is a horrible aberration in their lives. But sadly, we see this in a lot of eminent believers in the Bible. Maybe not drunkenness, but other things just as bad or maybe even worse. Look at Noah after his wonderful deliverance. Look at Abraham with all the covenant promises, betraying his wife twice to save his own skin. Look at David with his adultery and murder. Look at Solomon with his many wives and idolatry. And there are many others we can catalogue. It is sad. Must we ever think that this is some excuse for us? Do not pursue after sin, for you have no idea, when you are going downhill, if this be an aberration in your life, or if now you're maybe showing your true colours. And even if you are believer, the consequences are going to be really, really unpleasant.

Questions

1. How were these people dominated by sin?
2. Can God's people fall into terrible sin?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would help you put sin to death more and more in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people, Isaiah 28:5

Praise: Psalm 128 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 28:1-8 - God's People Are Rebuked

In the first couple of verses, we see that God kindly, graciously promises Israel grace and protection when Assyria comes running in. When the time is needed, He will give them wisdom for judgment, as we see there in verse 6. We also see that God gives them courage for the battle. This implies that there will be times when they're at a loss at what to do. So, God will have to give them wisdom, and there will be warlike, scary times, but God will give them courage for it. A time of judgment was coming upon them.

Despite all the blessing that God gives to them, the remnant, too, are in great sin, as we see in verses 7-8. Is this the only sin they had? Probably not, but it was the leading one that doubtless led to many others. It infected even the leaders of the people, the religious leaders. It's horrific when it's the religious leaders who had the greater responsibility before God of leading the people in holiness. But they led them in sin. Their sin was repulsive to God and very extensive. God hates this in the wicked, but He lets them go on the way they wish. He often brings upon them temporal punishment, which is a little foretaste of that which they shall have forever and without relief in all its strength in hell. With the sin of believers, God hates it, but He will not stand for it to be in His people, for He loves them too much, loves them to the point of having given His only begotten Son. He will do all that He must, though no more, not a bit more than that, but everything He needs to do to get their attention and to get them out of their sin. So it is that here we find rebuke for them. They are acting just like the hypocrites, though their hearts are different. Well, they shall receive much of the same at God's hand in this life as the hypocrites, though to a different end. For the wicked it is leading them off to hell. For the godly it is leading them off unto heaven. Ultimately, He enabled the godly here to flee from sin. Let us give thanks that He has promised that if we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Questions

1. What does God promise His people?
2. How does God deal with sin in His people?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God loves you too much to let you continue in sin.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people, Isaiah 28:5

Praise: Psalm 129 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 28:9-10 - Spiritual Babies

God deals here with two classes of people within Israel. He is dealing with all of them together, but in different ways. All of them together profess the name Israel. All of them together claim to be the people of God. But God knows the heart even better than they themselves do. He is dealing with hypocrites and with the remnant. The remnant weren't entirely holy yet. They were not completely sanctified yet. That is the case with you and me as well. And here the true people of God need to be disciplined because they have been foolish. The false people of God will be getting difficulty too.

Isaiah looked to lead and teach the people. God had called him to do so in the office of prophet. In this office, he and all prophets gave out the Word of God. This was not merely their religious insight. This was not merely their private opinions. No, this was something far greater. The true prophets of God gave out the Word of the living God. The Word of God tells us what we are to believe concerning God, and what God requires of us (Westminster Shorter Catechism #3). And in this office, Isaiah and all the prophets of the Scripture, point to the Lord Jesus Christ, who gives the Word of God and Who is Himself the Word become flesh. So, Isaiah looked to lead and teach the people, as God called him to do. But there was a problem. It's a problem that continued into the New Testament and continues into this day. And that is the spiritual immaturity of the people. (Hebrews 5:12-14)

Spiritually speaking, these people to whom Isaiah was speaking, were little babies. So Isaiah had to go over the same stuff, very basic stuff, over and over again. And once maybe somebody got a little bit, then he'd go on to the next step. And once that was taken on, okay, now the next little step. This is a reproach to these people. For they should have been much, much farther along in their knowledge and in their godliness, in their knowledge of who God is, and in their obedience to what He has said for them to do. We all need to be maturing, to be pressing on. It is a shame to us if we are not.

Questions

1. What was the problem with the people?
2. Why is it bad if we don't mature in our Christian faith?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would grow and mature in your Christian faith.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people, Isaiah 28:5

Praise: Psalm 130- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 28:11-13 - God's People Are Foolish

Isaiah speaks of talking to these people by stammering lip and another tongue. What's that about? There are a couple of things it could be. It could be that God here is speaking of coming judgment through other nations with foreign tongues, that He would teach them through all the problems that they would have to go through with foreign countries. But even more, it would seem as though what God is saying here is that the people were so spiritually ignorant that even basic teaching seemed to be beyond them. And so the teaching that they were getting seemed to them almost like it was in a foreign language. Isaiah spoke to them of extremely basic and necessary things. And what was the content? Isaiah was to point these people to life and to rest and to salvation in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 11:28) These were basic words, but they cannot be understood unless and until the Spirit of God comes upon a dead heart and makes it to live. It is only then that the sinner can hear. It is only then that the blind sinner can see. Unless that happens they do not want to listen to what God tells them. They do not want to hear it. It is something hateful to them, just as the holy, living and true God is hateful to them. But I assure you, God's Word will have its way -- just as later, Jesus' parables were designed by Him both to edify His elect through His teaching, and to confound and judge the reprobate. So it is with the rest of God's Word. They rejected God's Word of revelation, so His Word of providence through Assyria and Babylon brought about their destruction.

Much of what we see here characterizes the people of God. We are so very easily, even as a remnant, seduced to other things, so very lazy. And we easily stop where we are and we stop growing. Friends, let us heed the Word of God, and the faithful teaching and preaching of the Word of God. Pray and continue to pray for your preachers. May it be that God in His grace will give us wisdom and a deeper spirituality until, by God's grace in Jesus Christ, we are built up together into a beautiful temple in which He is pleased to dwell.

Questions

1. Can an unbeliever understand spiritual things?
2. How can we grow spiritually?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would continue to grow more and more like Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people, Isaiah 28:5

Praise: Psalm 131 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 28:14-19 - Zion's Cornerstone

This chapter is looking forward to the Assyrians, then further to the Babylonians, then to the coming of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Those who profess to be the people of God have, in verses 14 and 15, an astonishing bravado. It was as if they were saying: "Isaiah, when you claim God is talking about all these judgments, we're not going to worry about it, because we've already taken care of this. We've made a deal. We've made a bargain. We've made a covenant. We've done this with death, and we've done this with hell. So everything's fine. We don't need to worry about judgment from Jehovah." It's not that they're ignorant. They know what the truth is. They just don't want to believe it. It is very closely related to what Jesus talks about in the gospels as the sin against the Holy Spirit. They know the truth, and they hatefully rage against it, and they defy it. They've made a covenant with death and with hell, not the God of life and blessing. They somehow think that these things are stronger than God's Word, stronger than God Himself.

Their own boasted cleverness is deadly, deadly folly. God has set upon His holy hill His Messiah, His Anointed One, His Christ. (Psalm 2) He is the chief cornerstone (Psalm 118). He is the one whom God has set there and upon whom all will rest. He reigns over all things. (Psalm 110) He rules over all things with one goal in mind, and that is the glory of His Father in the saving of His people on the one hand, and the destruction of the wicked. Those who believe won't act hastily. Rather, instead of going into panic, they will be trusting upon the one who is the cornerstone. Christ is the one who reigns over all things. He rules over His people for their good. He rules over the nations, some to bring into conformity to Himself, into covenant with Himself, and some to destruction.

Questions

1. What attitude do the people have in these verses?
2. Will their agreements save them?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would bring our nation to Himself.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people, Isaiah 28:5

Praise: Psalm 132 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 28:20-29 - Harvest

In verse 21, we read that the Lord will rise up, as on Mount Perazim. That's looking toward people who were Canaanites. He'll be angry, as in the valley of Gibeon. That's looking toward people who were around Philistia. These who claimed to be His people had become just like the Canaanites of old, or the Philistines in their wickedness. They try to cover themselves just like somebody getting on a bed (verse 20). Here the bed is too short, and the blanket's too narrow to get wrapped up in. They're exposed to the cold wrath of God.

Why is God's work described as strange or alien in verse 21? Because God does not delight in doing this. God delights to bless, to be gracious, to be kindly, to be loving. God delights to save sinners. God is not divided by any means. And He determined long ago, because of His holiness, His justice, His righteousness, that He will indeed destroy the wicked because they are setting themselves apart from and in opposition to His holy will. But He reveals to men that He is happy to save them if they will come. God delights in mercy.

Verses 23-29 are a sort of a parable. Here we have a picture of a farmer going out to his field. He plants, and the crop grows, and then it comes to be harvest time. It's similar in some ways to Jesus' parable of the wheat and the tares. God is the farmer here. He plants and nurtures, but that's not the only thing that He does. For eventually harvest must come, and then the grain is brought in. Then it is that judgment comes to the weeds as well. There are different sorts of crops or grain here. And each one must be treated differently. Some, so that it may be useful for Him, some, so that it can bring out all His glory, must be run over or must be beaten. But each one receives a different treatment. The point is that, for the people of God, they are brought through different difficulties, not at random, but specially designed for them, and not in wrath, but because God is purifying them from the chaff and is bringing them out, so they will be fit for His use. All is done here to God's glory. And it is done well. So it is with all affliction upon nations and upon the church of Jesus Christ. All is done well to get this people free from the sin which clings to them, to get them safe from the weeds, and to bring the wicked and the hypocrite to an end.

Question

1. What does God delight to do?
2. What is the purpose of our afflictions?

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

In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people, Isaiah 28:5

Praise: Psalm 133 - 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!**

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