

The New Testament Church
Who has Believed our Report?
August 2, 2020 – Isaiah 53
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I The context of Isaiah 53 – *the most Messianic chapter of the Old Testament*

- A. Isaiah – lived 700 years before Christ – his focus was on Christ – a miniature Bible...
- B. Chapter 53 – the most Messianic chapter of the OT revealed Christ’s mission on earth...
- C. We live in amazing times when God desires to deal with our pride and self-righteousness
- D. Two illustrations the Lord has given me to amplify for the next two weeks...
 - 1. First, today’s visual illustration is that of the stars in the backdrop of darkness
 - Ps. 19:2 – “*day unto day utters speech, night unto night reveals knowledge*” (truth/stars)
 - 2nd Cor. 4:6 – “*For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*”
 - Phil. 2:15 – “*that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.*”
 - a. Blameless – not blaming others (excuses) or justly blamed for attitudes of arrogance / sin
 - b. Harmless – we are to be “wise as serpents” but “harmless as doves” – with trouble coming
“*In darkness God’s truth shines most clear.*” – Corrie Ten Boom
 - 2. Next week, we will utilize the illustration of a ship in the midst of a storm
 - Pr. 30:19 - God calls the church a ship – she is entering a storm – time to prepare...
“*You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have.*” – Corrie Ten Boom

II Isaiah 53 – *A Prophetic Word for our Time*

(1) BELIEVE MY REPORT!

- A. v. 1-2 *Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.*
- B. We have numerous reports (all valid to some degree) coming at us all the time today
 - 1. The political report – *we are hopelessly divided as a nation on the brink of civil war*
 - 2. The health report – *the pandemic appears to have no end / it will kill many more people*
 - 3. The education report – *it will not be possible to navigate all the parameters and still educate*
 - 4. The racial report – *there is no hope of solving our racial issues without a totally new country*
 - 5. The moral report – *no moral absolutes exist, thus we must navigate this storm on our own*
 - 6. The anxiety report – *the news, the tension, the fear... distract me from any focus on Christ*
 - 7. But God has a report! Do we believe it? What is God saying? His arm is still strong!

God says to us - ***I prepare far in advance, I do not react to present chaos. I planned for my Son to grow in the midst of danger like a root in dry ground and I am growing you up in soil that appears to be totally dry today. My report is that I am actively working to deal with the sin of pride in my people’s hearts and self-righteousness in the Church that my Kingdom might be manifested in the midst of darkness. Are we prepared to believe His report and repent for the pride in our hearts?***

“*Don’t bother to give God instructions, just report for duty.*” – Corrie Ten Boom

(2) HOLD ONLY ON TO CHRIST – HE TOOK OUR PLACE

- C. v. 3-6 - *He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

God says to us – ***I took your sin, sorrow, grief, iniquity, and chastisement upon Me. My report is that I am shaking everything so that you learn to hold on to me alone! It is time to lay your sorrows, grief, sin and the judgment at my altar. Let it go and repent for focusing on any other solution or ultimate priority than a broken and contrite heart ready to surrender all to your Lord!***

“Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open.” CTB

(3) HOLD YOUR TONGUE SO YOU SPEAK IN HUMILITY

D. v. 7-10a *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not his mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked – but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.*

God says to us – ***I was oppressed and afflicted, yet I held my tongue in faith, enduring accusations and grief. I opened not my mouth unless specifically asked to do so by my Father. My primary purpose was to portray judgment and mercy with a heart of humility to those who did not deserve it. I did this in trust, knowing that the result of the resurrection would speak for itself. It is time to repent for complaining, majoring in the minors and speaking too quickly before a spirit of brokenness, humility and mercy has been worked in us. Let’s trust Him to complete this work.***

“If you look at the world, you’ll be distressed. If you look within, you’ll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you’ll be at rest.” – Corrie Ten Boom

(4) HIS SEED SHALL COME FORTH – LET US BELIEVE AND EXPECT IT!

E. v. 10b-12 *When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

God says to us – ***Through my sacrifice, surrender to the Father and trust in His purposes, I saw the seed and the inheritance of the nations though the enemy thought He had won! Just as I have inherited all that my Father has promised, so you will inherit all that I have promised you. It is time to repent for focusing on the turmoil, persecution and trouble in the immediate future and thus embracing a spirit of hopelessness. The Lord is not done, for He is the God of the ambush!***

“Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.” – Corrie Ten Boom