

Title: The Charge to the Church

Text: Isaiah 40: 9-11

Date: Dec 17, 2023

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

**Isaiah 40: 9: O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! 10: Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. 11: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.**

This is Christ's charge to his church—*O Zion, that bringest good tidings...O Jerusalem that bringest good tidings.* Zion and Jerusalem are synonyms—they are both names for the chosen, redeemed, regenerated church of God—made up of his people.

Hebrews 12: 18: For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire,...22: But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...23: To the...church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24: And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel.* 25: See that ye refuse not him that speaketh...from heaven

In our text, Christ is speaking from heaven to the church that he purchased with his own blood. He speaks to his preacher and his saints that he has assembled in this place. See that we refuse not him that speaketh from heaven. What is his charge to us?

**Isaiah 40: 9: O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!**

## THE MEANS AND THE METHOD

**Isaiah 40: 9: O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid;**

We are sent forth by Christ to “bring good tidings.” In the Hebrew Lexicon it means to bear news, to publish, to preach, to gladden with good news—the good news is salvation by Christ Jesus. The only means we are to use is the preaching of the gospel. Christ our Head commands our means and our method—*get thee up into the high mountain; ...lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid;*

*The high mountain* is Christ's publicly assembled church who Christ has assembled together. The Head of the church charges us to “*get thee up into the high mountain.*” Christ commands us to assemble together. The first and foremost reason we assemble together is to preach Christ together. We assemble to bear these good tidings together. We gather under the preaching of the gospel to send forth this gospel to one another and into all the world together.

We preach Christ to one another even by our assembling together. That was the Holy Spirit's application from the passage before this. He said through Peter that seeing our flesh is sinful, perishing grass and seeing God has purified our souls unto unfeigned love of the brethren being born-again by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever—*the word whereby the gospel is preached unto you*—see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently. How so? By assembling together, desiring the pure word of the gospel! (1 Pet 1: 22-25; 2: 1-3).

Think of the offenses you have put up with at your job. Yet you continue to assemble with your co-workers. Why? That job is your “livelihood.” Well Christ is our life through the preaching of the gospel! We show fervent love to one another by assembling together under the preaching of Christ and him crucified. We encourage one another many ways but we do so even by simply assembling together under the gospel.

Hebrews 10: 23: Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) 24: And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,...

Christ charges us together to *lift up thy voice with strength.* In things in which we have all confidence and delight, we speak plainly, boldly, clearly, constantly, uncompromisingly, unapologetically. In other words, *we lift up our voice with strength!* So it is with the gospel.

Christ commands we *lift it up, be not afraid.* Do you want to bear witness that Christ is your Sovereign Savior? That you believe Christ accomplished the redemption of his elect? That you believe our Lord was able to put away our sin by the sacrifice of himself? That you believe Christ is able to subdue our sinful flesh when we err? That you believe our sovereign Savior is able to teach and grow his people by his word? Do you want to bear witness that you are not fearful even though this world counts us a sheep for the slaughter because you know we are more than conquerors through him that loved us? Then be not afraid, get up to the high mountain, lift up thy voice together in the preaching of Christ crucified.

Isaiah 51: 7: Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart *is* my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings....8:...my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation...12: I, *even I, am* he that comforteth you: who *art thou*, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man *that* shall die, and of the son of man *which* shall be made *as* grass; 13: And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy?...15: But I *am* the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts *is* his name. 16: And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou *art* my people.

Isaiah 40: 9...LIFT UP THE VOICE, BE NOT AFRAID.

## THE MESSAGE

**Isaiah 40: 9...say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! 10: Behold, the LORD God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him. 11: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with you.**

He charged his witnesses to comfort his people declaring her warfare is accomplished. The Lord commands us to declare all flesh is grass and the goodliness thereof—not just the sin thereof—but the very best glory thereof is sinful and perishing. He charged us to declare the word of the Lord stands forever! This is the word whereby the gospel is preached unto you. It is the word whereby we are born again. This is the gospel whereby we are grown.

Now, he charges us to preach—*Behold your God!*

He is speaking of Christ—*Behold, the LORD God will come.* This is a prophecy of the incarnation of the Son of God and the work he accomplished and is accomplishing. Jehovah God will come. When the angel of the LORD told Joseph that the child in the womb of the virgin was of the Holy Ghost, he declared it the fulfillment of Isaiah 6.

Matthew 12: 22: Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23: Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The Man Jesus is God with us. As a Man he was holy in the womb—it was a must because he is the last Adam who lived and died as his elect in our nature.

Hebrews 2: 16: Verily, [the LORD God] took not on him the nature of angels but he took on him the seed of Abraham [the human nature of God's elect; his brethren who he came to save].

He is the only other man besides the first Adam that came into the world not guilty before the law and without sin in his nature. We came forth guilty before the law due to Adam's transgression and corrupt in our sin-nature due to Adam/ Every imagination of the thoughts of our hearts was only evil continually because our nature is sin by our first birth. Sin is the only thing our sin-nature can do.

But Christ is God come as a Man, as the Head and Substitute of God's elect. It was a must he become a Man and that his nature be holy in the womb. So that in him, God's elect might have a sanctified nature;. As Romans 8 declares, so that law and justice might be satisfied in our nature, that he might "condemn sin in the flesh", that is, that he might condemn sin as a Man with the nature of his elect. And that "the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us", that is, that he might fulfill the law for his elect as a Man with our nature. That satan might be ruined by the same nature which satan himself had ruined us.

In order that Christ might be capable of executing all his offices. God took our nature that by his priestly office he satisfied justice and intercedes for us—he did and does! By his prophetic office he teaches us and since he was tempted in all points as we are, he is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. By his kingly office he be able to rule over us and over all to work his will to save us and bring glory to his name. He became a Man that he might be our father, husband, brother, and friend. So he came forth a holy and righteous Man who always did that which pleased the Father AND IN HIM ALL HIS ELECT HAVE ALWAYS DONE THAT WHICH PLEASED THE FATHER!

Oh brethren! Equally wonderful! That Man is the LORD God—his name is Immanuel, which interpreted is, God with us.

Isaiah 9:6: For unto us a child is born [a holy, sinless Man], unto us a son is given: [the holy Jehovah God, God the Son] and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Revelation 1: 8: I am Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Hebrews 1: 8: [God the Father said unto him], Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.

1 Timothy 3:16: Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh,

Therefore, as eternal God everything he accomplished for us is eternal God with us. The LORD our Righteousness [Jehovah-Tsidkenu, Jehovah Our Righteousness]. (Jeremiah 23:6). “[Christ is]...the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20).

Abraham said to Isaac—Genesis 22: 8:...My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering—Christ is God providing himself a lamb for a burnt offering. He took our place like the ram took Isaac’s place. Jesus Christ is Immanuel, God with us.

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (Jn 1: 18).

This is why when God’s elect are given faith, we behold the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus. It is because Christ Jesus is the fulness of the Godhead bodily—AND YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM!

*Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand—the GodMan came with great power--And his arm shall rule for him.*

Isaiah 59:16: And he saw that *there was* no man, and wondered that *there was* no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

Isaiah 63: 5: And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

Christ is the Arm of the Lord. He had strength to fulfill all righteousness for his people. Strength to fulfill the prophets. Strength to defeat the devil and all our enemies. Strength to redeem his people from the curse of the law. Strength to overcome the power of sin in his people.

*Behold, his reward is with him and his work is before him!* His “reward” is his own glory and the elect who he justified. *His work is before him.* God is looking only on God’s own work accomplished, God accepts his people only in his own finished work of redemption.

He is the Shepherd who shall not lose one of his sheep—*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with you.*

Ezekiel 34:13: And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country 14: I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

John 10:16: And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

John 10: 27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father’s hand. 30 I and *my* Father are one.

*Behold your God.* He is your God whether you own him to be so or not. But beholding him in faith, you shall be saved.

Isaiah 45: 21 Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? *who* hath told it from that time? *have* not I the LORD? and *there is* no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside me. 22: Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else. 23: I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. 24: Surely, shall *one* say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: *even* to him shall *men* come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. 25: In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

Believer, our sinful flesh is mortified and our hearts settled in trouble by beholding him. Obey him: he said call upon him in every time of need. Run the race looking only to him. Assemble together and lift up the voice together bearing witness of him as he commands. Brethren, by assembling together, we are lifting up our voice together, without fear, publicly identifying with the Christ preached from this pulpit. We are bearing witness together that we are not afraid because we believe the Lord Jesus is able to save to the uttermost all who come to God by him! We love and exhort one another to love by assembling together as the gospel goes forth. And in the process, Christ is feeding us, growing us, leading us, and keeping us and shall do so unto the end without losing one!

**Amen!**