

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

December 23, 2018

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is Emmanuel

Psalm 46:8-11: "Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has wrought desolations in the earth. He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire. Cease *striving* and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.' The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.[Selah]."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 68:4-5

+We Adore Him

Hymn #198, "Lift Up Your Heads!"

Based on Psalm 24

We Confess Our Sin

Almighty God, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus; we acknowledge that we are unworthy of Your redeeming grace. We have not believed Your promises, nor trusted in our living Lord. Through worldliness of spirit, our eyes have been darkened so that we have not discerned His presence with us. Through disappointment of mind and dejection of spirit, our hearts have not burned within us as we heard His Word. So often we have not trusted in His redeeming power; therefore, we have been overcome by evil. We have forgotten the good news of His victory over sin and death, and have not understood how we may experience Your peace.

But now in repentance, we come to You asking for full forgiveness. By Your mercy grant us remission of all our sins, and restore to us the joy of true salvation. We pray all this through Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #196, "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Zech. 7:9-10

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #199, "See, Amid The Winter Snow"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

1 Jn. 1:1-3

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #654, "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

The Christ of Christmas
Isaiah 59:20
Study Notes for December 23, 2018

I. Introduction: Ruth's Kinsmen Redeemer

II. The Christ of Christmas, Select.

A. Redeemer, Is. 59:20.

1. The Setting of our Text, Select.

- a. In 740/39 B.C, Isaiah began prophesying in the southern kingdom of Judah at the end of the reign of King Uzziah. Recall, Uzziah's regency was known as the "Golden Age" of Judah...
- b. And yet, this "Golden Age" served as fertile ground for the weed of Apostasy!...
- c. Now the book of Isaiah can be divided into three sections...
 1. Chapters 1-39
 2. Chapters 40-55
 3. Chapters 56-66

2. Its Immediate Context, Is. 59:1-19.

Is. 59:1-2

It is not that God had forsaken His people; it is that they had completely forsaken Him. As such, God shut the temple doors; He no longer was listening to His people! This sets the tone for the rest of the chapter...

Is. 59:15b-16a

In all Judah there was no one who stepped into the breach that sin had made between God and His people; no one intervened on behalf of the Lord and Judah. No one defended God's cause or proclaimed His truth. In essence, Judah- like Ruth- was without an Advocate!

Is. 59:16b-17

These verses contain a description of the dress of a Divine warrior: "righteousness", "salvation", "vengeance", and "zeal". And thus we see the grace and mercy of God...

This raises a very important question: As a people of God if WE fail to obey or uphold God's standards- if we fail to live for God's glory- what will God do?

1. He'll discipline us unto the health of our salvation! How will He do it?
 - a. Prov. 5:21-22: He will discipline us by letting us go!
 - b. Is. 59:18-19: He will curse the nation in which we live!
2. And yet, there is another way God will address our failings: He will raise up an Advocate/Redeemer!...

3. The Significance of the Name, Is. 59:20.

a. Redemption Defined

The Westminster Dictionary of Theology defined the work of a Redeemer as involving, "...a liberation from forms of bondage such as sin, death, law, or evil..." (p. 234)

...as such, "redemption" in the Bible/ancient world denoted three things...

1. It presupposed the condition of slavery or servitude- here it is speaking of a servitude to sin.
2. It spoke of the execution of a transaction in which freedom was purchased at a price.
3. It referenced the bringing back of an individual into a prior state, and so spoke of a new start, a fresh beginning!

b. The People to whom the Redeemer would Come (cf. Is. 59:9-12)

...the people to whom the Redeemer of this passage came were the broken and contrite of heart- people who were sorry for their sin and so were longing for a new start! That is the idea behind "the converts of transgression."

4. The Identity of the Redeemer of Is. 59:20... Jesus Christ, Rom. 11:25-26.

*Where We Live

1. Prior to our study this morning, most here would have rightly understood the redeeming work of Christ in terms of the forgiveness of sin. However, from Is. 59 we now have a fuller understanding of Christ's work as our Redeemer. What is that work? Consider...

Eph. 1:13-14

Rom. 7:24-25a

Col. 1:22-23a

...these passages tell us many things. Yet they all testify to the same thing. What is that?

2. What hope is there for the Christian who has blown his "second chance"? Consider 1 Jn. 1:9...

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