

**CALVARY PANDAN
BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 61

ISAIAH

CHAPTER 61

Theme: "One Day All Will Be Well!"

THEME VERSES

Isaiah 61:10 (KJV) "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels."

INTRODUCTION

Hope is one of the best things in life. Hope motivates and spurs a person on as he wakes up every morning to fulfil his routine. The weight of responsibilities that every adult carries with him till the day he dies is made so much lighter when hope prevails. Hope heals a broken and deflated heart so that the person could pick himself up from the pond of despondency and marches on. Hope makes the darkest hour, as in the deepest moment of pain and hurt, a little brighter. The list of what hope can do in a person's life is endless!

Yet when hope is dashed, the person soon dies. Everything in life becomes tasteless. What used to bring the greatest joy and delight has become vanity of vanities. Morning after morning is dreaded by the one who has lost hope. Death seems to be a much better option even though the person does not know what lies beyond. It does not matter at all for the feeling of hopelessness has robbed his life of every ounce of joy and purpose of living. The unknown seems better than this present hopeless life. Such lines of reasoning are common in our pressure cooker society. This feeling of hopelessness is not reserved for the adults but also the very young! Teenagers take their lives because their lives have lost its meaning. They had felt hopeless.

It is therefore of great concern to all of us that the object of our hope be anchored on something that never dies and can never be taken from us and must never fail. It must be a hope that is attainable at the end of this life. It must be a hope that lasts even after this life. This hope is not and must not be reduced to wishful thinking. This must be a hope that is a future reality that remains to be fulfilled with the passage of time. This hope must be an irrevocable guarantee that never fades even when this earth passes away!

Where can such a wonderful eternal hope be found on this earth! Thanks be to God, this hope is not a thing or a system but a person. He is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ who is the blessed hope revealed to us in this chapter of Isaiah. The Name of

Christ is not mentioned but His ministry is. He is the one who says that the Spirit of the Lord God is upon Him! What He says He will do, He will do because of who He is, He is the hope for everyone. This hope never dies and can never be taken away once the believer has this hope for it is anchored upon the very character of God almighty who never changes and can never die! The world needs this hope today just as Israel needed this hope in Isaiah's time.

OUTLINE

1. The Ministry of Christ Revealed (vv.1-6);
2. The Blessing of Christ upon the Faithful (vv. 7-11).

COMMENTARY

The Ministry of Christ Revealed — 61:1-6

The ministry of Christ is one of great hope. It does not end with the present life. The present life and relationship with God through Christ is only the beginning! There is no One who is a better giver of hope than Christ Jesus. He says that the Spirit of the LORD is upon Him. This is not a reference to Isaiah but to Christ. The content of verses 1 to 3 seems to indicate that it could refer to Isaiah and his prophetic ministry. But when we consider **Luke 4:17-19** (KJV) which reads, **17:** "And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was

written, **18:** The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, **19:** To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." The Lord Jesus Christ Himself says that Isaiah 61:1-3 refers to Him. That settles the matter.

His ministry as the anointed (Hebrew word is "Messiah") of the LORD is to preach good tidings unto the meek, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to open the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, to proclaim the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all that mourn, to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness so that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD that He might be glorified! These three verses very aptly sums up the ministry of Christ, which He fulfilled to the very jot and tittle when He walked on the earth as the Son of God and Son of Man!

The ministry of Christ is multi dimensional; He is able to help all who are in need. It is so true that the first group mentioned here belongs to the "meek". When Christ ministered on the earth, it is sad that so many still ended up in Hell because they died in their sins even though they witnessed the

perfect life and ministry of Christ including all His many miracles. They refused to humble themselves before Him to receive His truth and His message of reconciliation. They would rather hold on to their pitiful pharisaic and legalistic approach to life and death! Christ alone is able to give life and hope to all who belong to these groups of broken hearted prisoners. As long as the sinner sees himself in this condition when he turns to Christ, Christ will come in and save him from his many sins including the penalty of sin, which is death and hell.

It is true that Isaiah 61:1-3 refers to Christ but it can also, by way of application, refer to all true prophets of God who ministers God's truth faithfully in the name of Christ. They become Christ's spokesmen on the earth and therefore they can be said to have all these manifold ministries that Christ is revealed to possess. This is not inconsistent with what the content of Isaiah 61:1-3 teaches. Isaiah and all prophets when they minister and preach Christ to the meek and the broken hearted and point them to Christ, then the impact and effect is that Christ is the One who ministers through them.

The result is that lives would be transformed among those who believe in Christ. The people of God would become builders of old waste. They shall raise up the former desolations and repair waste cities, which were the desolations of many generations. Strangers shall feed their flocks and the sons of foreigners shall be their plowmen and vinedressers. This is not

meant to be understood literally as ploughing and vinedressing refer to working in the field. What it means is that the Gentile believers and the Jewish believers would live together in harmony! They shall be called the priests of the LORD and ministers (emphasis is on service not status like a slave) of God. The Gentiles' wealth will belong to all who believe. The Jews would be able to boast in the glory of the Gentiles as their salvation came through the Jews!

The Blessing of Christ upon the Faithful — 61:7-11

The blessings of the faithful are revealed in the rest of the verses of Isaiah 61. Because of the shame and trouble that the people of God had to endure for the sake of Christ, they will be doubly rewarded by the LORD. This is of course a figure of speech. The greatness of God will surely not allow the people of God to suffer for Christ and not be rewarded in their suffering. This is the way of God's grace and mercy. The children of God do not obey or serve for reward sake but because they are constrained to serve by the love of Christ. Yet the LORD will surely reward all who serve sacrificially and faithfully. Everlasting joy will be their eternal experience in Christ Jesus. What a blessed hope awaits all of God's children!

The LORD loves all who deal justly with his neighbour. The LORD hates those who hide behind spiritual service and sin. In the name of Christ, many pastors and leaders have robbed rewards and sinned against God. The LORD says that He hates

them! The ones who serve the LORD justly and faithfully will be directed by the LORD in doing the truth according to Holy Scriptures. The LORD will make an everlasting covenant with them. This means that they will dwell securely in heaven with Him for eternity.

All the ones who obey the LORD and serve Him faithfully will be known by all including all the Gentile believers. Their sons and daughters who are also believers would be known and acknowledged as the seed that the LORD has blessed.

The last two verses are the words of the prophet who glorifies the LORD on behalf of all who are born again. This describes very wonderfully the heart's cry of all who are truly born again in Christ and are living an obedient life on this earth and with the blessed hope of eternity assuredly secured in his/her heart, mind and soul. He says in **Isaiah 61:10-11** (KJV) "**10:** I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels. **11:** For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."

Speaking on behalf of all born again believers, Isaiah says that his soul rejoices in his God for He has

clothed him with garments of salvation. This must be the believer's conscious acknowledgement in order for the believer to keep close to God by being grateful to Him all the days of his life. This will also keep the believer in the path of righteousness and holiness as he goes through life daily.

The garments of salvation include the covering of righteousness which is like a bridegroom decked with ornaments and as a bride adorned with jewels. This is his beauty and not the ornaments of the world. This beauty is not skin deep but found and seen only in the inner man. This righteousness is manifested by his life and relationships with all that he has in his life. His relationship with God's Word is one of love and diligent study and obedience. His relationship with his Heavenly Father is one of prayer and a cheerful giving of his tithes and offerings. His relationship with all his possessions (those that he already possesses and those that he seeks after) will be for the glory of God. He will use what he has for the blessing of others and for his spiritual well being. He will not seek after material things but will seek after the kingdom of God and His righteousness trusting in God to provide for all his material needs. His relationship with people will also change as he will now relate and see them from the perspective of God and His Holy Word.

The life of every believer would be a blessing for all. The blessings would be eternal and spiritual. Amen.

**DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Isaiah 61:1-11

TUESDAY: Isaiah 61:1-11

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 61:1-11

THURSDAY: Isaiah 61:1-11

FRIDAY: Isaiah 61:1-11

Discussion Questions

1. Do you see yourself as a true prophet of God today? Do you have the depth of ministry as described here in Isaiah 61:1-3?

2. Do you see your ministry as a life changing ministry for yourself and others? Who changes your life and the life of others as you minister? Any evidence? How is the change done?

3. Are you priests of the LORD and ministers of God today? What are your duties? Have you performed them faithfully before the LORD?

4. Do you rejoice that you have garments of salvation on you every day? What are some things that can cause us to forget that we have the garments of salvation and the garments are permanently put on us and will not be taken off at all?

5. What is your garment of righteousness like? Are you covered with righteousness in all areas of your life? If not what steps do you take to ensure that they are?

6. Is your life a blessing to others, from the perspective of eternity? Please share.

7. What lessons have you learnt from this chapter about God's Word and about yourself?
