

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 46 (November 9-15, 2014)

This week, we will study from the book of Isaiah as we continue the series on living a life worthy of the high calling of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, November 9 (read Isaiah 55:1-5)

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. (Isaiah 55:1)

Aren't you glad that salvation is free? Wouldn't it be sad if we had to save up money all our lives to try to purchase eternal life? God issues His invitation to anyone who is **thirsty** for a relationship with Him. Because salvation is His free gift, it is available to all who believe in His Son. He promises that the souls who come to Him "will delight in the richest of fare" (v. 2). Your soul will live forever because the Lord has made an **everlasting covenant** (v. 3). David, Israel's beloved king, is only a **picture** of the real King, Jesus Christ, who will lead a worldwide revival in the last days (v. 4-5). Come to the Lord during this **Day of Grace!**

Monday, November 10 (read Isaiah 55:6-9)

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. (Isaiah 55:6)

Today's printed verse (v. 6) reminds you of why I ended yesterday's devotion with a plea to come to God while we are still living in the **Day of Grace**. After Jesus calls His Church home in the rapture, the Great Tribulation will begin on earth and Satan will release all his demons to torment those who refused to be saved when salvation was a free gift without the fear of beheadings (see Revelation 20:4). "Now is the day of salvation" (see 2 Corinthians 6:2)! God's Spirit will not always strive with sinful man (see Genesis 6:3). The Lord is willing and able to "freely pardon," but we must be willing to repent of our known sins, even those that are still only in our thoughts (v. 7). Are you willing to come to Him on His terms? Those who **are** will experience more joy than they ever imagined was possible!

Tuesday, November 11 (reread Isaiah 55:6-9)

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. (Isaiah 55:8)

Have you been reminded recently of just how big God's universe really is? Does it astound you to know that the stars scientists can now see are billions of light years away? Does that thought help you to realize what an awesome God we serve? Do you think finite man could ever answer life's most difficult questions? God uses v. 8-9 to humble all those who question His leadership in this fallen world. Go out and examine the stars He has placed in the sky for our enjoyment and then repeat those doubt questions you have asked regarding His sovereignty over the universe. I think you will understand why I say, "I'm in sales and He is in management!"

Wednesday, November 12 (read Isaiah 55:10-11)

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

These two verses amplify the reason I want you to learn to pray God's promises back to Him. When we say to God, "In Your Word, You said," and then quote His promise, He will always answer that prayer in His own time and in His own way. God cannot alter His written Word, so you can be sure

that every promise will be fulfilled (see Joshua 23:14). The Lord knew about the recycling of the rain (evaporation) long before scientists figured it out (v. 10). He wants you to know that His Word operates in the same manner. Scripture has accomplished God's purpose when we trust it enough to pray the promise back to Him (v. 11). Are you ready and willing to take the Lord at His word?

Thursday, November 13 (read Isaiah 55:12-13)

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)

God uses a beautiful word picture to close out His thoughts in this great chapter. All of nature will join you in giving praise to the Maker of the universe and everything on earth (v. 12). Have you ever felt so close to God that the beauty of the mountains and hills and trees make you break into song? The Lord wants His children to experience permanent joy and peace, qualities that the world cannot give nor take away (see John 14:27). This will be universal during the millennial reign of Jesus, but it is also available to all who will trust Him completely **right now**. When Christians live in joy and peace, it brings glory to God. His final reminder in this passage is that this joy and peace will be forever (v. 13)! Praise His Name for all of the wonderful promises to His children!

Friday, November 14 (read Isaiah 54:13-17)

And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc; no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. (Isaiah 54:16-17a)

In today's text, God reminds us that He will take care of the children of those who live their lives for Him (v. 13). Of course, He will also take care of **us** as He establishes His righteousness in us (v. 14; see also 2 Corinthians 5:21). He assures permanent victory for those who trust in Him and His Word (v. 15). Next comes one of His greatest Old Testament promises! Since He created Satan as well as any other enemies you may face, He is perfectly capable of protecting you against their attacks, both physical and verbal (v. 16-17a). We are privileged to inherit this blessing from the Lord, while our enemies can expect only His vindication (v. 17b). Are you beginning to understand what God has in store for those who love Him enough to obey His commands (see 1 Corinthians 2:9-10)?

Saturday, November 15 (read Isaiah 57:1-2)

Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death. (Isaiah 57:2)

You have only two verses in today's study, but could anything be more powerful? Christians wonder why "good people" often die in their youth while "evil people" may live a long life. God's Word provides the answer to that question in no uncertain terms (v. 1). This old world has been deeded to Satan and his angels until the time when Jesus comes to set up His earthly kingdom. Heaven is our **permanent** home, so all the time we spend on earth, we are physically away from the Lord (see 2 Corinthians 5:6). He has not left us as orphans, however, because His Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of believers, so "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me . . ." (Psalm 23:4a). Learn to "walk uprightly," and you will "enter into peace" and "find rest" even as your earthly body deteriorates and finally dies (v. 2; see also 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 & Hebrews 4:1-11).