

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“RELYING ON GOD’S METHODS”

For individual study or group discussion

God will not be silent when it comes to his bride, the church. His love for her is “immeasurably great and eternally unwavering.”¹ That’s what we learn in this week’s lesson from Isaiah 62. Because of his great love for her, we see the gradual extension of the glory of his church.

Remember from our earlier studies in Isaiah where the prophet spoke of how the “nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising” (Isa. 60:3)? How it brought to mind the magi coming from the east guided by the light of the natal star? This week, we continue to see how God will not relent until his church bursts through the night as a light to the nations, “until her righteousness goes forth as brightness and her salvation as a burning torch” (v. 1).

- Read Jeremiah 31:1-14. List the parallels and promises you see with Isaiah 62.
- Look again at Isaiah 62:1-7. What method should the church use to fulfill this promise of Kingdom advancement?

In Isaiah 62:6-7, we see that prayer is a vital part of the church victorious. It is one of God’s methods for advancing his Kingdom here on earth.

- Consider *The Parable of the Persistent Woman* (Luke 18:1-8) and compare to vv. 6-7. Examine your prayer life. Is God well rested with you or are you keeping him up with your prayers?
- Paul lists prayer in Romans 12:9-13 as a mark of a true Christian. Does your current prayer life feel more like a duty than a joy?

In a sermon entitled, *If You Don’t Pray, You Won’t Live*, John Piper emphasizes that our prayer life should be much more than a duty:

Is intentional, regular, disciplined, earnest, Christ-dependent, God-glorifying, joyful prayer a duty — a discipline? Well, you could call it that. It’s a duty the way it’s a duty for a scuba diver to put on his air tank before he goes underwater. It’s a duty the way pilots should listen to air traffic controllers. It’s a duty the way soldiers in combat should clean their rifles and load their guns. It’s a duty the way hungry people eat food. It’s a duty the way thirsty people drink water...So you can call it a duty if you want. It is like that...If we don’t eat, we starve. If we don’t drink, we die of thirst. If we don’t exercise a muscle, it atrophies. If we don’t breathe, we suffocate. And just as there are physical means of life, there are spiritual means of grace.²

As we finish reading Isaiah 62, we rejoice in the promise of the completion of God’s Kingdom (vv. 8-12) through the promised Messiah: “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him and his recompense before him” (v. 11).

- Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and Daniel 7. As you look forward to the coming Advent season, consider how you can renew your faith in God’s covenant promise for the church victorious through a more persistent and relentless daily prayer life.

¹⁻² Piper, John. “If You Don’t Pray, You Won’t Live.” *Desiring God*. October 31, 2018. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/put-in-the-fire-for-the-sake-of-prayer/excerpts/if-you-dont-pray-you-wont-live>

DATE: October 31

SPEAKER: Brian/Wil

SERIES: Isaiah

PASSAGE: Isaiah 62:1-12

Family Dinner Table

During times of testing and trial, are your prayers marked by thanksgiving? Martin Rinkart, a clergyman in the town of Eilenburg, Saxony, during the Thirty Year War, endured a plague that wiped out twenty percent of Germany’s population. Rinkart personally buried more than 4,000 persons, including his wife, during this time. The pestilence was followed by a famine that was so severe that thirty or forty townspeople could be seen fighting in the streets over a dead crow or cat. Rinkart gave away all that he owned, save the barest rations for his own family. And to make matters worse, the Swedish army from the north demanded a huge ransom the town could not afford. As one of the only civic leaders left, Rinkart entreated the general for mercy to no avail. When refused, Rinkart went back to the people of Eilenburg and said, “Come my children, we can find no hearing, no mercy with men. Let us take refuge with God.” Affected by his prayerful devotion, the Swedish general relented. It was during this time of suffering that Rinkart penned the words to the Thanksgiving hymn we know and love, *Now Thank We All Our God*:

Now thank we all our God with heart and hand and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices; who from our mothers’ arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

National Memorial for the Unborn

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Emma Kate Mooney, supported missionary partner