

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study

**"GOD'S GIFT TO ALL PEOPLE:**

**A CERTAIN AND GLORIOUS VISION OF THE FUTURE!"**

For individual study or group discussion



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

DATE: October 9, 2022

SPEAKER: Wil/Frank

SERIES: Isaiah

PASSAGE: Isaiah 62:8-12

### Family Dinner Table

When a covenant child is baptized at LMPC, it is our tradition for the pastor to take the child into his arms and walk them up and down the aisles as the congregation sings, "Jesus Loves Me." The simple truth of the lullaby reminds the child's family, as well as the congregation, of God's declaration of love for his people who are his treasured possession (Deuteronomy 7:6-9). In an article called, *Walk the Endless Shore of His Smile*, Greg Morse recounts a story of a prominent pastor:

*When one aging pastor and renowned theologian was asked what was the highest theological peak he had reached in his years of study and preaching, he answered simply: Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.*

*Initially, I smiled at the preacher's cleverness. Later, however, I wondered over the preacher's answer. Something about it stuck with me.*

*After a life of exploring mountain ranges men like me have never seen, savoring Christ in ways I have not, speaking of nuances in theology I do not yet understand — after all his decades of travel in the Christian life — this preacher imparted no higher souvenir than can be found on the lips of children. With all his twists and turns, ups and downs, peaks and valleys, he had not escaped the nursery of God's gospel love. This love stood as crib walls for the childlike heart.<sup>2</sup>*

- Read Deut. 10:12-22 and reflect on how God has set his love and affection on you and your family.

#### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Every Valley Leadership Academy, supported partner ministry

#### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Beth and Dal Stanton, supported missionary partners to Kyiv, Ukraine

God will not be silent when it comes to his bride, the church. He delights in his love for her and rejoices over her (Zephaniah 3:17; Luke 10:21-22). Because of his faithfulness to her, we see the gradual extension of the glory of his church as *a gift to all people*. Israel's redemption will be a light to the Gentiles (Isaiah 42:6; Luke 2:32), and she will no longer be called a city forsaken (Isaiah 62:12). In Isaiah 62, we have *a certain and glorious vision of the future* of the Kingdom of God.

Revisiting our studies in Isaiah, in today's passage we read how the prophet points God's people toward the path of ongoing renewal, proclaiming *God's reassuring oath to his people that a day is coming when the curse will be no more!* (vv. 8-9).

- 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 (vv. 1, 7)?
- Prayer is vital to renewal. As we witness how the culture lies in ruins around us, how can we experience renewal in the ruins (Luke 18:1-8)? *\*Be sure to pick-up a copy of LMPC's 31 Days of Prayer booklet (digital version on the website), and let's pray together for the day when the curse will be no more.*

As Isaiah speaks hope to those who are in exile, to those awaiting the fullness of the Kingdom of God in the "already and not yet," he proclaims *a welcoming call to all people, "Prepare the way for the Savior's arrival!"* The people of God are to remove the stones from the path (v. 10), encouraging those who are weary and burdened by sin to experience renewal at the cross of Christ — telling those who tarry "Behold, now is the favorable time" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Even as God's people await the consummation of the Kingdom of God, the church rejoices as we encounter promises amid the pain, restoration amid the ruins, and renewal amid the rubble. "Behold, your salvation comes!" (v. 11).

- The words "lift up a signal over the peoples" in verse 10 can also be translated, "raise a banner for the nations." To "raise a banner" is to make an announcement. Read Isaiah 40:1-5 and Luke 1:11-17. What announcement is being made?
- During our sermon series in the *Gospel of Luke*, we learned that the promised Messiah came, and through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, fulfilled the messianic promises we read about in Isaiah. Read Zechariah 9:9 and Luke 19:35-40. Discuss the parallels you find in these passages with Isaiah 62:8-12.

As we finish studying Isaiah 62, we rejoice in God's promise of renewal as we note *his amazing declaration of his people's identity: "Sought Out," "Redeemed," and "Holy People"* (also translated, "Set Apart unto the Lord") (v. 12).

- Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. Discuss the similarities between the two passages. What are the implications of these names and how should these descriptions inform your daily life?
- C.S. Lewis wrote, "How God thinks of us is not only more important, but infinitely more important."<sup>1</sup> Read the whole of Isaiah 62 and meditate this week on how God regards you. How can God's view of you impact the way you feel about yourself and relate to others?

<sup>1</sup>Lewis, C. S. *The Weight of Glory*. Retrieved October 5, 2022, from <https://www.wheelersburg.net/Downloads/Lewis%20Glory.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Morse, Greg. *Walk the Endless Shore of His Smile: Why God Delights to Love You*. June 30, 2022. *Desiring God*. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/walk-the-endless-shore-of-his-smile>. October 5, 2022.