

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 23

Title: WITHOUT ME!

Scripture: Isaiah 10: 1-4

Date: 3-1-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Isaiah 10: 1: Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness *which* they have prescribed; 2: To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and *that* they may rob the fatherless! 3: And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation *which* shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory? 4: Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.

I. THE UNRIGHTEOUS AND THEIR DECREES

Isaiah 10: 1: Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness *which* they have prescribed;

A. WHO ARE THE "THEM" WHO DECREE UNRIGHTEOUS DECREES?

1. Let me show that this is speaking of the kings, the priests and the prophets. And that they are doing this for gain.

Micah 3: 9: Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity. 10: They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity. 11: The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, *Is* not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us. 12: Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed *as* a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

2. Notice that they did this to “build up Zion and Jerusalem.” Zion and Jerusalem speaks of the church of the Lord. This is unrighteousness in the name of righteousness. This is covetousness in the name of glorying the Lord. Now the Lord Jesus Christ applied this to the Pharisee’s and the scribes in the day he walked this earth:

Matthew 23:14: Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

3. Unrighteous decrees was the fleshly rule of the Pharisee’s and the scribes, the Judaizer’s in Galatia, and the oppressive religionists in our day who “glory in your flesh”—in what they have constrained you to do by their decrees. Because through these decrees men have been forced to comply to an outward form of righteousness which the rulers think, Christ will reward them. Those things they constrain multitudes to do are the “many wonderful works”

and the “casting out of devils” by which they think they have delivered themselves from the power of evil. All covetousness comes down to a desire to be our own savior’s. Scriptures teach that:

Habbakuk 2: 9: Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil! 10: Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned *against* thy soul.

Because they actually are saying they have built Christ’s church themselves and they want a reward for doing it. The LORD of hosts calls them unrighteous decrees.

Illustration: The religion of the flesh is only seeking rewards. Rewards are earned, worked for. Look up the word “rewards” in scripture. You will not find the word referring to believers. Believers are never referred to as seekers of rewards. God IS a Rewarder and believer’s ARE given a reward. But believers are not seeking rewards but Him—the Reward of the believer is the the Rewarder himself, God our Savior.

Hebrews 11:6: But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

B. WHAT ARE UNRIGHTEOUS DECREES? LET ME SHOW YOU A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHTEOUS AND UNRIGHTEOUS DECREES:

Unrighteous decree: **Act 15: 1: And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.**

Righteous decree: **John 6:53: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.**

Unrighteous decree: **John 9:22: These *words* spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.**

Righteous decree: **Matthew 18:3: And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

II. THE MOTIVE OF UNRIGHTEOUS DECREES.

A. THE LORD DECLARES THE TRUE MOTIVE ALL UNRIGHTEOUS DECREES:

Isaiah 10: 2: To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and *that* they may rob the fatherless!

1. This is a description of God's elect not yet called and those who have been called by grace:

- The poor and needy are the Lord's people.
- Widows are those who need Christ the Husband.
- Orphans are those who need Christ the everlasting Father.
- MY PEOPLE!

2. If you are poor and needy, a widow and an orphan, then you know you need your case handled by a just Judge and not those who judge by the eye and the ear.

Unrighteous judges make unrighteous decrees because they do not know the half of what God requires: **Matthew 5:20: For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

Isaiah 11: 3: And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth:

3. I need righteousness to be established for me so that my right to God can never be taken away. Unrighteous decrees command me to go to God's law and therein I show forth my righteousness. But Truth says, righteousness is not manifest in me or you but in Christ Jesus the Lord and therefore my righteousness can never be taken away.

Romans 3: 20: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. 21: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22: Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26: To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 27: Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

2 Corinthians 5:21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

B. THE WORD DECREE IS TRANSLATED FROM A WORD WHOSE ORIGINAL MEANING IS: LAWGIVER, GOVERNOR, INSCRIBER OR ENGRAVER. THE ONE WHO DECREES THE RIGHTEOUS DECREE IS THE LORD. THE RIGHTEOUS DECREE OF THE LORD IS NOT DECREED THROUGH TABLETS OF STONE, NOT IN LETTER, BUT HIS LAWS ARE WRITTEN IN THE HEARTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY.

Hebrew 8:10: For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

- The law of perfect liberty; The law of faith; The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus--the law of Christ Jesus.

1. THE LAWS OF GOD WRITTEN ON THE HEART GOVERN THE BELIEVER SO THAT WE LIVE BY THE DECLARATION OF CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. HERE IS HIS DECLARATION--ALL RIGHTEOUS DECREES HAVE THEIR GLORY IN THIS ONE DOCTRINE:

John 17:4: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

John 19: 30: When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

- The reason I am not trying to keep God's law is because I have kept it. It is finished!
- The reason I am not trying to justify myself is because I am justified. It is finished!
- The reason I am not trying to make myself separate and holy is because I am sanctified. It is finished!
- The reason I am not trying to pay by my servitude is because I have been redeemed, I am bought with a price. It is finished!
- The reason I am no longer trying to make myself appear wise before men is because I have the mind--the revelation of Christ the Wisdom in me. His word to me is, "It is finished!"
- The reason I am not trying to make you see my observe a Sabbath day is because I have been perpetually resting in Christ since the day he made me to rest in the glorious truth that IT IS FINISHED!

Unrighteous decrees laden men with heavy burdens. **Luke 11:46: And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.** Unrighteous decrees expose my sin and yours; they point you to your sins and me to my sins; that is, they lay heavy burdens upon us which we can not bear--burdens which we can not put away, YET, unrighteous decrees of men demand that we do something before the eye and ear of some panel of judges so that we give the appearance that we have put our sin away--that is what makes them unrighteous.

Liberty is knowing that there is nothing left for me or my brethren to do to be eternally free--it is finished! The law of Christ makes me put up with the sin--the burden--that is in my old dead flesh and with yours--it is called "bearing one another burdens."

Righteous decrees teach us to bear the brethrens heavy burdens: **Galatians 6: 1: Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2: Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**

His yoke is light and easy to bear because we know that: **1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

C. YET UNRIGHTEOUS DECREES TEACH US IT IS NOT FINISHED!

Isaiah 10: 2: To turn aside (carry about) the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and *that* they may rob the fatherless!

Galatians 5:7: Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

III. THE LORD'S QUESTIONS.

Isaiah 10: 3: And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation *which* shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?

Jeremiah 5:31: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love *to have it so*: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Revelation 6:15: And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; **16** And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

A. HERE IS THE LORD'S EXCEPT YE!

Isaiah 10: 4: Without me...

- Not without your Sabbath-day observance--WITHOUT ME!
- It does not say, without your disciplining of the Lord's people--WITHOUT ME!
- It does not say, without you turning men back to the sins of their flesh--WITHOUT ME!
- It does not say, without your law-keeping--WITHOUT ME!
- It does not say, without your self-denial, your sacrifice, your many wonderful works, your religious devotions, your prayer meetings, your witnessing campaigns--WITHOUT ME!
- This is the three in one's: EXCEPT YE!

2 Corinthians 13:5: Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

B. AND WHAT IF I COME INTO GOD'S PRESENCE WITHOUT CHRIST?

Isaiah 10: 4: Without me...they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.

APPLICATION:

1. Examine those things you say and do and teach...are they righteous decrees or are they unrighteous? Examine them according to God's word, his word is our only guide in truth and faith. The good works of the believer is to deal justly and right with men. The only way to do that is to point them to Christ in whom justice and mercy have kissed:

1 Peter 2:12: Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

2. Do the things you say and do take advantage of the Lord's people or do they comfort the Lord's people? What about your message to those who do not know the Lord?

1 Chronicles 16: 21 He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes, 22: *Saying*, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. 23: Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation. 24: Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvelous works among all nations. 25: For great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also *is* to be feared above all gods. 26: For all the gods of the people *are* idols: but the LORD made the heavens. 27: Glory and honour *are* in his presence; strength and gladness *are* in his place. 28: Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. 29: Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. 30: Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved. 31: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let *men* say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.

3. Let us ask ourselves this question...what will ye do in the day of visitation? To whom will ye flee for help? And where will ye leave your glory?

The answer to all three of these applications is found in verse 4: **Without me...Except ye have the LORD of hosts, God Almighty, the Lord Jesus Christ there is no righteousness, there is no comfort, and there is no salvation. Without him, all your decrees are unrighteous decrees. With him you have the rest of knowing--IT IS FINISHED!**