

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 28

Title: Righteousness and True Holiness

Scripture: Isaiah 12v01-06

Date: 5-10-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Our text in Isaiah 12: 1 begins with these words, **AND IN THAT DAY**. I want to speak to you this morning about that day.

The former chapter ended with the declaration that in Christ, God would utterly destroy the accusing tongue of our adversaries, and Christ Jesus, the Ensign, the Son of God himself would stretch forth his hand so that all his delivered children shall see him. **Isaiah 11: 16: And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt. 12: 1: And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee**

Exodus 14: 31: And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses. 15: 1: Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2: The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Proposal. The day spoken of this morning is the day of divine visitation. It is the day when God sanctifies your soul by his divine presence within you. The Spirit of God says **put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness** (Eph 4: 24.) It is the same as "walking after the Spirit" of "minding the things of the Spirit" (Ro 8: 1, 4, 5.) The Lord shows us here that beginning in the day when the Lord Jesus Christ commands the Holy Spirit to pour grace into thy lips, revealing in you that God has blessed you forever in Christ Jesus, you shall walk in the Spirit, following after true holiness. But what is it to put on the new man, to follow after the Spirit, to follow after holiness. The Lord tells us exactly what it is in this chapter.

Divisions: **IN THAT DAY THE LORD GOD PROMISES THAT YOU SHALL DO THESE THREE THINGS: Verse 1: Thou shalt say, O, Lord, I will praise thee; Verse 3: Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation; Verse 4: And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD.**

I. FIRST, YOU SHALL SING PRAISE UNTO THE LORD.

Verse 1: Thou shalt say, O, Lord, I will praise thee.

A. You shall praise none but the Lord.

Every day up till this day you praised yourself. Like Hosea's wife, Gomer, who followed after her lovers, though Christ was the one who laid at your door corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied your silver and gold, you did not know. You used those things to serve the god of your imagination, walking after your lusts and perhaps calling it holiness, and all the while, praising yourself for your wisdom, singing, **These *are* my rewards that my lovers have given me** (Hos 2: 10-14.) That is, until God reveals Christ in you, **AND IN THAT DAY THOU SHALT SAY, O LORD, I WILL PRAISE THEE.**

B. You shall be made to see that YOU are the sinner.

Isaiah 12: 1: though thou wast angry with me,

It makes us feel so good about ourselves to find fault in others. We have learned the doctrine of total depravity. **BUT HAVE WE LEARNED THAT "WE" ARE THE SINNER THE LORD SPEAKS OF?**

Oh, I know you wouldn't dare talk bad about others. But we complain about the actions of that other political party because it is not the one we are in; we complain about how that other family lets their children do this or that because we don't let our children do this or that. I moved to the north from the south so people, both in the north and friends in the south have spoken to me a lot in the past few years about the differences between folks in the north and folks in the south. It does not matter where you live the one who always comes out in a more favorable light are the folks where we were born, or where we live. The point I am making is this: with every critical word of others comes a commendation of us.

One of the first things that Isaiah was made to behold was that "I, I, I am a man of unclean lips." **Isaiah 6: 5: Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.** The apostle Paul said that when God quickened us we discovered that we were the sinner, as bad, or worse than all around us. **Ephesians 2: 1: And you *hath* he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2: Wherein in time past YE walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3: Among whom also WE ALL had our conversation in times past in the lusts of OUR flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and [WE] were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

God makes us to discover: it is "I" that was conceived in sin; it is "I" who was shapen in iniquity; it is "I" who came forth from my mother's womb speaking lies; "I" went astray as soon as I was born; it is "my" throat that is the open sepulcher; with "my" tongue all I have used is deceit; the poison of asps is under "my" lips. **Isaiah 12: 1: And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with ME, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.**

C. This song is a certainty because you shall behold that God has turned away his anger from you.

Though the sinner is made to behold that God has every reason to be angry with you, he puts this song on our lips by making us to behold that he loved us from everlasting in Christ Jesus the Lord. **Jeremiah 31: 3: The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.**

When we read in Ephesians 1 that God blessed his children with all spiritual blessings according as he chose us in Christ before the world began, we behold when he turned away his anger. **Psalm 103:10: He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; Psalm 147:20: He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD; Psalm 85:1: <<To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.>> LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob. 2: Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah. 3: Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned *thyself* from the fierceness of thine anger.**

How hast he forgiven the iniquity of his people and covered all their sin? How has he taken away all his wrath? How has he turned himself from the fierceness of his holy anger? God turned away his anger by reconciling all his children unto himself in Christ. **2 Corinthians 5: 17: Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18: And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19: To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20: Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 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.**

God turned away his anger because the Son of God, Christ Jesus, willingly suffered his own eternal justice for his people. **Isaiah 53:4: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5: But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**

His people could never turn away God's wrath, nor could a sinner do it and God remain just AND the justifier. Therefore God the Father sent his Son to do what only God could do. **Romans 8:3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.** The Son of God is triumphant because Christ Jesus the Lord has brought his people to God by his suffering. **I Peter 3: 18: For Christ also hath once**

suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Our offerings were an abomination but Christ himself is the offering and sacrifice which is well-pleasing to holy God. **Ephesians 5:2: And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour; Isaiah 53:11: He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. 12: Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

D. This song is certain through the Holy Spirit working in the sinner because God reveals that God our Savior is All.

Isaiah 11: 2: Behold, God...MY salvation. My salvation is not merely from a thing, from hell, from my sin, from the devil but we are made to behold GOD! MY salvation. God is MY salvation.

- I need Light--the triune God my Savior, Jesus Christ, is MY Light.
- I need eternal Life--He is my Life Eternal
- I need Righteousness--He is my Righteousness
- I need Holiness--Christ is my Holiness
- I need Wisdom--Christ is my Wisdom
- I need Strength--Christ is my Strength
- I need Sanctuary--Christ is my Sanctuary
- I need a Defender--Christ is my Shield and Defender
- I need an Advocate--Christ is my Advocate with the Father
- I need an Intercessor--Christ is my Intercessor
- I need a High Priest--Christ is my High Priest
- I need to be filled because in myself I am empty--He is my All and He filleth all in all.

I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation (v2.) All comfort comes to the believer only when Christ enters the sinner. Psalm 119: 50: *This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me;* 2 Corinthians 1: 3: Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4: Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5: For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. THIS IS WHY THE LORD SAYS, Isaiah 12: 1: And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise THEE: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and THOU comfortedst me. The Lord says in the day of his power we shall praise only him.

II. SECONDLY, THE LORD SAYS IN THE DAY HE VISITS YOU IN MERCY AND GRACE THEN YOU SHALL FOREVER BE SATISFIED.

Isaiah 12: 3: Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

A. The LORD God who cannot lie says in that day HE shall replace your sorrow with joy.

Verse 3: Therefore, because God is All my salvation, because God has comforted me, because God has put his song on my lips, **therefore with joy shall ye...**

B. God promises that the joy he gives shall never end.

We like sure, certain, lasting remedies. Have you found one in this life? Every buzz stops buzzing after a while and makes matters worse than before. The temporary joy of going up is not worth the pain of coming down. "BFF--best friends forever"--I barely remember most of mine. The "good ole' days" are good and gone. Yet, God promises that the joy he gives shall never end. **Isaiah 12: 3: Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.**

Have you noticed in scripture that the Lord's mercy and grace is described as being "plural"--ye shall draw water out of the "wells" of salvation: **Isaiah 49:10: They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the "springs" of water shall he guide them; Isaiah 55:1: Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the "waters," and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price....3: Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure "mercies" of David; Jeremiah 2:13: For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living "waters," *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.**

The reason his mercies are in the plural is because in God our Savior is ALL FULLNESS. **Colossians 1: 16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. 19: For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell; 2:9: For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**

John 1:16: And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. There is only one Savior but in him is plenteous redemption: Never ending life, never ending mercies, never ending righteousness, springs, fountains, rivers, waters. We shall draw water out of the wells of his abundance without ever diminishing his riches, whatsoever, **Philippian 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

It means that we have everlasting life from this spring which continually spring us from the Spirit of Christ within. Remember the woman at the well and what our Lord said at the last day of the feast? **John 4:10: Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. 11: The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? 12: Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? 13: Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life; John 7:37: In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow "rivers" of living water.**

The Lord says, not only shall ye sing praise unto him, but: **Isaiah 12: 3: Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.**

III. THIRDLY, THE LORD SAYS THAT IN THAT DAY YOU WILL CALL ON OTHERS TO REJOICE ONLY IN THE LORD.

Isaiah 12: 4: And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. 5: Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this *is* known in all the earth.

A. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord--

You hear me this day say to you to "cease praising yourself and praise the LORD." I am saying what our text says his people will proclaim because I can tell you of no better song to sing. There are only two kinds of songs mentioned in scripture--the song of the righteous and the song of the drunkards. The song of the drunkards praises men--it may be in the name of holiness but by putting the emphasis on exterior man's actions it exalts man, while the song of the righteous mentions only Christ Jesus the triune God of glory.

B. And in that day shall ye say, Call upon HIS name, declare HIS doings among the people, make mention that HIS NAME is exalted.

Every time you come then you hear me declare the name of the Lord, his works. I have no choice; I want no other choice. When the Lord says, ye shall, then ye shall.

Have you run out of things to speak of concerning the Lord's name and his works? God says his saints never shall! The self-seeking sinner will put up with speaking only of Christ for a while but eventually the self-seeking sinner wants to hear about his own works.

Let me show you that: Moses saw the glory of the Lord. **Exodus 33:19: And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy; 34: 5: And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6: And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7: Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.**

Moses therefore walked in the Spirit speaking to the people about no other name just as the Lord says those born of the Spirit shall do! The self-righteous in Israel put up with feeding on the Lord Jesus for a while--typified in God reigning down Manna from heaven. But soon they cried against God and against Moses saying, "**our soul loatheth this light bread**" (Nu 21: 5.)

But you know what God told Moses to do? He sent serpents to bite them just like he makes you to see your sin. And the LORD God told Moses to beat out a brass serpent and raise him up on a pole--a type of Christ Jesus who was made sin for his people. The LORD told Moses to preach the gospel of Christ, to speak only of the wonderful works of God by saying to the people the only way they could live was by looking to Christ. The just shall live by faith.

Folks send emails about the messages. They are usually complimentary at first. But eventually the same folks began to ask questions. Something like this: You say salvation is all of grace, what about holiness? Some are sincere who ask such a question but some are merely "loathing the Bread from heaven." If you take "grace" and "holiness" out of that question and replace them with the words "Lord" and "man" you get the heart of every question the Pharisees asked our Lord, "You say grace is all of the LORD, what about man's holiness!" If that is the spirit of your heart then you are not following after holiness.

All who go to heaven will be there only by the grace of God because all who are there will be those who followed after holiness--God says, without which **NO MAN, NO MAN** shall see the Lord (Heb 12: 14.) That includes the repentant thief on the cross. By God's grace every saved child of God will be made to follow after holiness the same way the thief followed after holiness when he hung there with his feet and his hands nailed to a cross.

You see, the holiness which all children of God shall follow after is the holiness the LORD declares here in our text in Isaiah 12. We see the Lord and walk only after holiness when he has created us anew in righteousness and true holiness in the new birth. That is exactly what the Lord Jesus Christ said to Nicodemus--**Joh 3:3:...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** And he says it to us here in our text in Isaiah 12: "IN THAT DAY YE SHALL" follow after holiness. Oh, you do not see it? Holiness is the very

thing he is declaring in this chapter which he will work in his people through the sanctifying of the Holy Spirit. Holiness are these very things he says his people shall do in that day. Following after holiness are these things:

- Verse 1: Praising only God's name; taking comfort only in Christ Jesus the Son of God who comforts us.
- Verse 2: Beholding GOD, MY salvation; trusting HIM and not being afraid, casting my care on the LORD JEHOVAH my strength; it is to have God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit dwelling in complete fullness in my Savior Jesus Christ as MY SONG.
- Verse 3: Following after holiness is to draw living water out of the wells of salvation
- Verse 4: Following after holiness is to tell others of HIS DOINGS, it is calling on sinners to EXALT HIS NAME, it is continually proclaiming THE EXCELLENT THINGS HE HAS DONE.

Isn't that how God said he is pleased to save them that believe? Isn't the gospel of Christ and him crucified the power of God unto salvation? Isn't it through the gospel which declared Christ Jesus, the God of glory that the Holy Spirit entered you and made you behold you are perfected forever? Are ye now made perfect by turning away from him to some work performed in your fleshly members?

The so-called holiness natural man regards is in his hands--he follows after the flesh, walks after the flesh, is a debtor to the flesh because he is a slave to the flesh, he knows other men after the flesh, he judges after the flesh, he rules others by the letter of God's law thinking holiness is in his fleshly touch not, taste not and handle not--THAT IS NOT WALKING AFTER HOLINESS THAT IS WALKING AFTER THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH.

God says here that the chief evidence is in whose work, whose name we desire to stand and will only speak of, only those created after God in righteousness and true holiness shall do this, but mark God's word, they shall!. **Isaiah 12: 4: And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. 5: Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.**

I Samuel 2: 1: And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. 2: There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. 3: Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. 4: The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. 5: They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble. 6: The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. 7: The LORD maketh poor, and maketh

rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. 8: He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them. 9: He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. 10: The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

CONCLUSION

AND IN THAT DAY THE LORD GOD PROMISES THAT YOU SHALL DO THESE THREE THINGS. Verse 1: Thou shalt say, O, Lord, I will praise thee; Verse 3: Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation; Verse 4: And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD.

Here is the application the Lord calls on us to practice: Follow after holiness.

1. Praise ONLY the LORD.
2. Go to Christ the Fountain of Life and draw water out of his never ending, never diminishing supply of salvation.
3. Speak only of his Excellent works.

Some might argue that this can't be all that is meant by following after holiness--if Christ is All it shall be. The Lord said if you can, it is because he said IN THAT DAY YE SHALL.

Isaiah 12: 6: Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

AMEN!