

The Work Of Righteousness

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Isaiah #31

Isaiah 61 – March 22, 2017 – Wednesday

- I. THE PREACHING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 61:1-2
 - A. The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Jesus, 1
 - 1. Isaiah 11:2 *And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*
 - B. Jesus has been anointed to preach good things to the meek, 1
 - 1. Luke 4:18-19 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*
 - C. He will bind up the brokenhearted with his preaching, 1
 - D. He will proclaim liberty to the captives, 1
 - E. He will open the prison of them that are bound, 1
 - F. He will proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, 2
 - 1. Luke 4:19 *To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*
 - G. He will proclaim the day of vengeance of God, 2
 - 1. Luke 21:22 *For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*
 - H. He will comfort all that mourn, 2
 - 1. Matthew 5:4 *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*
- II. THE PRODUCT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 61:3-5
 - A. They that mourn will have *beauty for ashes*, 3
 - 1. The which is worthless is changed into that which has worth
 - B. They will have *oil of joy* for mourning, 3
 - 1. Mourning will change into joy
 - 2. Psalms 23:5 *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*
 - C. They will have the *garment of praise* for the spirit of heaviness, 3
 - 1. Matthew 5:4 *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*
 - D. They will be called *trees of righteousness*, 3
 - 1. Mark 8:24 *And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.*
 - 2. We are trees of righteousness, because we are fed by the fruit of Christ's righteousness and bear that righteousness with us as we serve him.
 - E. They will be *the planting of the LORD*, 3
 - 1. The wise man shall . . . *be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.* Psalm 1:3

- F. All this that God may be glorified, 3
 - 1. 2 Thessalonians 1:12 *That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- G. They will build the old wastes, 4
 - 1. Israel will come out of captivity and rebuild the wall and the temple.
 - 2. These trees of righteousness will also build up their lives in righteousness, knowing their old nature is put down by God's grace.
- H. They will raise up *the old desolations*, 4
 - 1. It was a very difficult job to rebuild what was left desolate, or empty, of Jerusalem.
 - 2. These trees of righteousness will raise up old desolations; that is, they will build a good house now that the old house (the old man) has been declared dead.
- I. They will repair *the waste cities*, 4
 - 1. Desolate cities will be repaired, cities that were plundered during the plunder of Jerusalem.
- J. They will repair *the desolations* of many generations, 4
 - 1. Daniel 9:26 *And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*
 - 2. Not just one desolation, but plural desolations, will be poured out upon Israel after the destruction of their temple. Israel will then be scattered into all the nations of the world; but later Israel will turn back in grace and love toward God and be saved. This will repair the desolations.
- K. Strangers (Gentiles) will feed their flocks, 5
 - 1. Gentiles will come into the churches of the Lord where first the Jews were in the majority; then they will feed the churches of God as elders and pastors.
- L. Sons of aliens (Gentiles) will be their plowmen and vine-dressers, 5
 - 1. Gentiles will do the work of dressing the vineyard of God through evangelism and through teaching the word of God.

III. THE POSITION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 61:6-9

- A. They will be priests of the LORD, 6
 - 1. Revelation 1:6 *And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*
 - 2. Revelation 5:10 *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*
- B. They will be ministers of God, 6
 - 1. Ministers are servants. As trees of righteousness we will be servants to God in his kingdom and his churches.
- C. They will eat the riches of the Gentiles, 6
 - 1. The riches of the Gentiles will come into the churches, as we have noticed before, and build up the things needed to build up God's kingdom and churches.
- D. They will boast themselves in the glory of the Gentiles, 6
 - 1. The glory of the Jews was the Messiah. Now the glory is also of the Gentiles. The Jews

- will boast in Christ and in the Gospel of Christ and in God's word and in Christ's commission to preach the word to the entire world.
2. Rather than boast in themselves as children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they will boast in the Lord
 3. Psalms 34:2 *My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.*
 4. Psalms 44:8 *In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.*
- E. For their shame they shall have double, or be considered double in the mind of Christ, 7
1. The Jews, for so long being hated and despised, after salvation they will have double honor as people who desire the Lord and his righteousness.
- F. Instead of confusion they will rejoice in their portion, 7, heaven itself and all other great things God gives his children.
- G. In the land they will possess double, or exactly that which God has prepared and promised for them, 7
1. The land may be *the world*. The Jews, along with Gentiles, will one day inherit the earth as they everlasting home.
- H. They will have *everlasting joy*, 7
1. Then they will have everlasting joy in this new land with Christ, their Redeemer.
- I. God loves **judgment** and hates **robbery** for burnt offering, 8
1. God loves righteous judgment, but he hates robbery, robbing God of tithes and offerings, robbing God through sacramental gifts rather than trusting the one and Great Gift, Jesus Christ, as the only offering for sin.
 2. Proverbs 21:3 *To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.*
 3. 1 Samuel 15:22 *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*
- J. God will *direct their work in truth*, 8
1. John 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*
- K. God will give them an *everlasting covenant*, 8
1. There are two covenants: the covenant of Law and the covenant of Grace
 2. This last covenant is an everlasting covenant.
 3. Romans 11:29 *For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*
- L. Their *seed* and their *offspring* will be known among the Gentiles, working along peaceably with the Gentiles to accomplish God's work in the earth, 9
1. The world will know that they are the children of God and acknowledge them, seeing and knowing that God blesses his children in a very special way, 9
- IV. THE PRAISE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 61:10-11
- A. Isaiah will rejoice in the LORD, 10
1. Joel 2:23 *Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*

- B. Because God clothed him in the garments of salvation, 10
 - 1. Ephesians 6:17 *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*
 - 2. Paul tells the Ephesians to put on the whole armor of God.
- C. God covered him with a robe of righteousness, 10, as a bridegroom and a bride.
- D. God will cause righteousness and praise to *spring forth before all the nations*.
 - 1. Psalms 113:4 *The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.*
 - 2. Mark 11:17 *And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.* Isaiah 56:7.