

Isaiah: All Things New

September 22, 2024

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ online ministry. This week's message is titled Isaiah, All Things New. Thank you to Earl, Mike, Janet and Don for being part of the video. The scripture reading is Isaiah 42 verses one to nine. Happy birthday to Ernie, Lynn and Christina. At 10 o'clock on September 29th, we will be meeting at Great Lakes Christian High School for alumni and friends weekend. Everyone is welcome. There will be no service that week at the John Street building.

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

Good morning. Glad that you're here with us this morning, and we especially want to welcome some of our Great Lakes students back. Happy to have you here for another school year. A few announcements this morning as we start. In terms of involvement opportunities, please speak with Adam if you're interested in singing, praying, communion talk, reading scripture, gardening, tech services at the back, Sunday school teaching, helping, whatever Adam would be happy for volunteers.

Midweek Bible study Wednesday, the psalm of Jesus, and this week the psalm 118, Parable of the Tenants, and it's in the library. Baby showers. Everyone's welcome to a Jack and Jill shower for Neema and Peter and contributions for a group gift to Janet by September 15th. It is on Sunday, September 22nd at 3 p.m. In the fellowship hall. We will be meeting at Great Lakes. We've been invited to join the alumni and friends weekend worship service, which will be Sunday, September 29th at 10 a.m. And so there will be no service here in this building on that date.

Prayer requests. As you know, perhaps my father-in-law Len passed away on September 4th and there will be a celebration of life here in the building on October 26th at 1 o'clock. So you are all invited. Before we go begin our service, we'll go to God in prayer.

Our father, we thank you for this opportunity of being together as your people. We thank you for the love of Christ with which binds us together, and we pray that this commonality that we have will serve to inspire us this morning as we worship you, as we encourage one another. We pray that you will be with those who are grieving at this time. We pray that you will be those who are sick physically. We pray that you will help heal all wounds as we have need in each of our lives. We pray, Father, that you would be with us as we meet together now. Please be with Don as he speaks to us and brings the lesson and help us to find application in our life so we can live for you this week is our prayer in Christ's name. Amen.

Communion

That song explains what this is all about. We gather together to remember the Lord Jesus and what he did, and what did he do? He died for us.

Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe. Sin had left us such an ugly, dark crimson. Another word for red stain, but he made it what it's known. And that's the mystery. And once we grasp and let into what it's done for our lives and transform us into the people that we can be or are now or continue to be

because of him, him, he died for us. And once we get that and grasp that, it'll transform the lives like we read in the first early chapters of Acts and the Acts of the Disciples. Let's go to God in prayer.

Dear heavenly Father, so thankful for the cross and what it represents to us, even 2,000 years from removed, it's still a powerful thing to transform the lives of us today. Help us to clear our minds and to realize that when all is said and done, it's gonna be because Jesus came and died for us that and resurrected and gives a chance that we may also to be resurrected to a new life with him forever in Christ's name, amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9 (NIV)

Morning. Our scripture this morning is from Isaiah, chapter 42, verses one to nine.

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight. I will put my spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout out or cry out or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice. He will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope. This is what God the Lord says, the creator of the heavens who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people and life to those who walk on it. I the Lord have called you in righteousness. I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and the light for the Gentiles to open their eyes that are blind to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord. That is my name. I will not yield my glory to another or pray my praise to idols. See the former things have taken place and new things I declare before they spring into being I announce them to you.

Sermon

Isaiah: All Things New

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for being with us. Dr. Charles Swindoll wrote this a number of years ago. Centuries ago, a little boy found himself in the midst of a vast crowd of people larger than any group had ever seen. He had come out of curiosity having heard that a man named Jesus was nearby, not knowing how far he would have to travel or how long he would be gone. The boy had packed a small lunch for himself, a couple of small fish and some bread. Suddenly, a man tapped the lad on the shoulder and asked what he had in his hand. The next thing the boy knew, his lunch was feeding over 5,000 people. Once Jesus got hold of the boy's simple meal, there was no limit of what he could make of it. Are you feeling overwhelmed, starting to get the idea that you're surrounded by folks getting giant things done while it's all you can do to make it through the day or even the week? Maybe you've fallen into a well of comparison and you're drowning in discouragement because compared to whoever, you're not making nearly the difference he or she is. To all who feel overwhelmed or who are tempted to take a much too critical look at their lives and feel insignificant, take heart. Do what you can do, and God will bless it. Enjoy new things that will be coming your way. Both Old and New Testament talk about all things becoming new.

It was N. T. Wright, this wonderful theologian, when he says this, heaven is wonderful, but it's not the end of the world. What about life after life after death? I said that the way I wanted to. What about life after life after death? He says, heaven is wonderful, but it isn't the end of the world. What about life death? What about life after death? We are only a shadow of our future selves.

So both Old and New Testament talk about all things becoming new. And I just want to read some of these scriptures today. Even though there is an Old Testament, it would be a mistake to suggest that the New Testament overshadows the Old Testament. Many of the wonderful promises we have in scripture come from the Old Testament. There are many scriptures reminding us repeatedly through scripture, God making all things new. Yes, even today. So my purpose is to talk about this newness of God, that one day all things will be made new. So here we go.

In Psalm chapter 40 and verse 3, scripture says, God put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. So scripture talks about the new heaven and the new earth. And all throughout the scriptures, we are hearing quietly newness, new things coming. But then when you get into the New Testament, it begins to spring louder and louder and louder that new things will be happening always. Psalm 98, sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. And then in the Old Testament, the amazing Isaiah says this, see the former things have already taken place. And new things, I declare, before they spring into being, I will announce them to you, all things becoming new. Isaiah 62, the nations will see your vindication and all kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name.

Isaiah 65, one of the great scriptures in all of the Bible. See, and this is Old Testament, see, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight, and its people a wonderful joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in all my people. And then these words, the sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more. No more tears except tears of laughter. No more sorrow, no more pain, no more criticism, no more. I am making all things new. And if we could just remember this, promise of God in our lives, I think it just gives us some comfort that all things will be new. We will see each other again. So what happens when we pass away? Well, we go to be with the Lord. But Jesus, Paul, John, Isaiah, the Psalms, Ezekiel, Mark, Luke, and other books remind us there is something more. And it's this question. What about life after life after death?

Zephaniah from the Old Testament, a book that we don't read, very often says, I will give you honor and praise among the people of the earth. And I will restore your future before your very eyes. We will have this wonderful future set in front of us. I will give you honor and praise among the people of the earth and restore your future. I will restore you. And I will restore and bring compassion to you. Then Hosea says the same thing. I will restore you and bring comfort to you. Zephaniah too, the Lord, their God, will restore you. And then John writes, finally, somebody in the New Testament writes, because the Old Testament is giving us a look not only to the New Testament and not only to now, but what we will enjoy, all things becoming new, restored, remade in the presence of God. I was trying to think of words that would somehow communicate the words that we've just been reading. And I couldn't. All I could say was, thank you, Jesus. Death is not the end. There is the restoration of all things. Hosea says, I will restore you and bring comfort to you. So yes, many of

our loved ones have passed. And we miss them every day. But we will see them again. All things will become new.

When was the last time you read the book of Zephaniah? Long time for me, I'll say that. But here's what he says, the Lord, their God, will restore them. And after a while, and maybe it's already passed, you're saying, yeah, OK, we get it. But I didn't get it for a long time. And I forgot about it. And it's this continual reminder that even John says these words, because it was written by Jesus, I am making all things new. We maybe don't see it just yet. But it is a reality that will be coming to us. And then Jesus, when Jesus speaks, we listen. He said this, truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of God, Jesus, sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on thrones. And because of the resurrection of Jesus, death is no longer an enemy. Jesus talks about the renewal. John talks about the restoration.

And then in Romans, and if the spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, we have to stop. Is the Holy Spirit of God living in you or me? That's the reality. The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead is living in us. And if you raise from the dead, we will also give life to our mortal bodies because the Holy Spirit of God lives in you. It's this constant reminder that God never leaves us. He never forsakes us. I'm always with you. And here's your future. Please know that your future is already written. God is giving it to us that all things, all things, will become new. I hope that brings some peace and some comfort and some assurance. It certainly does for me.

So when Paul writes to the Church of Corinth, a struggling church, he says this. "So it will be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable. It will be raised imperishable, meaning you will never die again." That one day when we pass, we go to be with God and we will never die again. And we will be with our loved ones. And newness will surrender. A new heaven and a new earth will begin. So it will be with the resurrection. Death itself will be swallowed up in victory. Then the question is asked, where, oh, death is your victory? Where, oh, death is your sting? And God answers, thanks be to God, he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have no fear in death. We have no fear. We have the confidence of what Jesus said. I will never leave you. I'll never forsake you. I'm always with you. Newness will be coming.

Don't you know that all of us who are baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him in baptism and raised from the dead by the glory of the Father. Go to be with heaven. That's not the end. The wonderful theologian, NT Wright, reminds us that because of the resurrection of Jesus, death is no longer the enemy. And ultimately, because of the resurrection, there will be the renewal of all things. There will be no more death. But there will be newness, the redemption and liberation of all things. Just think of it. The renewal of all things, the restoration of all things, the redemption of all things, the reconciliation of all things, all things becoming new. In the Old Testament, when the word mountain appears, it's used often not just as a physical mountain, but something spectacular. And Isaiah saw this. The mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains.

Listen to this. And all nations will stream to it. Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, the house of God. He will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths. And we have the scriptures helping us with this. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord, from Jerusalem. And he will judge between the nations, and he'll settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations will not take up sword

against nation. And then listen to this. Nor will they train for war any more. Why? Because there is no more war. There is the newness of all things that God gives us through Jesus Christ.

He talks about love, and the Old Testament Isaiah does. He talks about unity. He talks about peace. And he uses beautiful, colorful symbolism. Listen to this. The wolf will live with the lamb. He said, Don, you probably didn't read that, right? The wolf will eat the lamb. No. No. That's not true at all. The wolf will become best friends with the lamb. The lamb will become best friends with the wolf. The leopard will lie down with the goat. The calf and the lion, the yearling together with no worries. And then listen to this. Babies will play near the whole of a cobra. Young children will put their hands into that viper's nest, but they will neither harm nor destroy on this holy mountain. They will be there. They will be their pet. Imagine what's being said. They will neither harm nor destroy on my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the squatters covers the sea. They won't have to ask the question, do you know the Lord? Because they will all know the Lord. This is our future. That Christ will put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth because of Christ Jesus.

So in Colossians it says, "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him and through him to reconcile himself through his blood shed on the cross." And then again, there is this reminder of enemies turning out to be friends. Isaiah 19, enemies will become the friends. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. They will worship together. The Lord Almighty will bless them saying, blessed by Egypt, my people, and Assyria, my handiwork, and Israel, my inheritance. Countries that were going to war will never go to war again. They come together as one and the head of Christ Jesus.

Isaiah again says this, "On this mountain, the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all people, a banquet of aged wine. The sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces. He will create a new heaven and a new earth as his promise. I am making all things new." Jesus calls it the renewal of all things, Matthew 19. Peter calls it the restoration of all things, Acts 3. Paul calls it the redemption and liberation and reconciliation of all things, a new heaven and a new earth. And then God speaks to us and says, you are my servant, and I have chosen you, not rejected you. So do not fear. And this is repeated all through scripture. And that we often forget, I am with you.

Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand, the former things that have taken place and new things I will announce to you. Isn't that amazing? The renewal, revival, restoration of all things will take place. And you and I will be part of it. That's just not me speaking. That's the word of God, old in New Testament and alike. And when God promises, he keeps his promise. We know our future. Way back in the Old Testament, arise, shine, for your light has come. And the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, the darkness of the earth is gone. The Lord raises upon you. And this glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light and the kings to the brightness of your dawn. Hear the word of the Lord. Won't it be wonderful when that promise comes. Wonderful promise of God that all things, all things, all things will become new. Amen.

Closing

Thank Don for his message this morning. Indeed, the Lord will make everything new. And the reality is that we have that assurance. And as we've met around the table, we celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. And He gave His life for us so that we might have an opportunity to be made anew, as Don has reminded us. So we're thankful for that message. We're thankful for that hope. And we can live with that hope this week.

In conclusion, I'd like to just read Paul's final greetings to the church in Thessalonica from 2 Thessalonians chapter 3, verses 16. "Now may the Lord of Peace himself give you peace at all times, and in every way, the Lord be with all of you." So if we have this hope beyond this life, we can live with peace in our hearts, peace as we go and interact with other people. And that hope gives us that kind of, I guess, transformational sort of reason for being in this world as we live as agents of peace this week. So that's my encouragement to you. And I hope you have a great week. God bless.

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