

God Teaches Us to Profit

Isaiah 48

Overview of chapter 48

In ch.48 God urges Israel to turn back to God from Babylonian idols.

There's two sections:

In 48:1-5 God says that in the past he spoke and fulfilled many prophecies so Israel would know that their idols do nothing and God does everything.

In 48:6-22 God says that now he is speaking a new prophecy: that he will not pour out all His anger on them, and that he will bring them back from Babylon.

In 48:17 he tells them something about himself to motivate them to turn back to him — that he teaches them to profit.

There's three implications from the truth that God teaches us to profit:

God teaches that it's not wrong to pursue profit.

The Hebrew word "profit" refers to gain, benefit, or advantage.

Other passages where God calls us to pursue our profit:

Isaiah 55:1-2

Matthew 16:24-26

God teaches where to find the greatest profit.

48:17-18 shows that the profit involves peace and righteousness.

Peace refers to emotional well-being centered on God himself.

Righteousness here probably refers to God's saving work in our hearts—comforting, strengthening, satisfying us with himself.

So the greatest profit is knowing God in the person of Jesus Christ.

Other passages that teach this:

Psalms 16:11

Psalms 43:3-4

God teaches us to pursue this greatest profit.

Why should motivate us to obey Christ? John 14:23

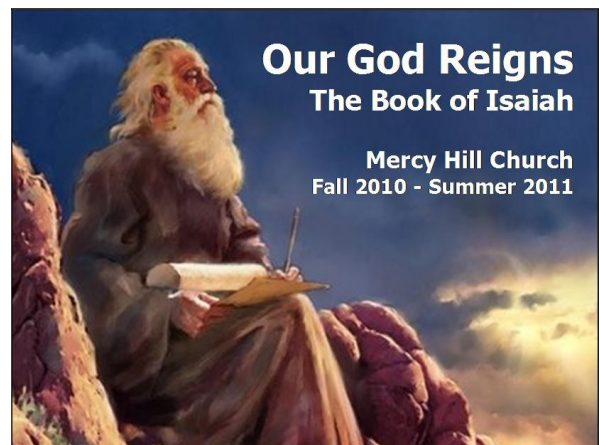
To give to the poor? Luke 12:33

To share the Gospel? I Cor 9:22-23

Two Take-Aways

Salvation

Motivation



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Is most of your obedience motivated by duty, or by a desire for more heart-satisfaction in Christ?

Have you ever thought it was wrong to seek your joy? Does it make sense that God calls us to seek our joy — in Him? What questions does that raise in your mind?

Why is it so easy to do things just because we are supposed to? Does it feel strange to do things to have more joy in God? If so, why?

If obedience means seeking the ultimate joy of knowing Christ, what happens when we sin? What would be the best way to fight against temptation?

Are there any ways in which seeking our joy in God could be overstated or misunderstood? What are some ways? How can they be avoided or corrected?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

