

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time  
The Good News of Salvation  
Isaiah 61:1-11

When we think of our salvation, we often think in terms of a moment in our past when the Holy Spirit revealed to us the sin that separates us from God, and convicted us to the point that by faith repented of that sin and embraced the forgiveness that is freely offered through the work of Christ and His cross. It is, indeed, good news that God rescues us from eternal death.

1. The Messiah comes to free us in His justification.
  
2. The Messiah comes to transform us in His sanctification.
  
3. The Messiah comes to clothe us in His glorification.

Isaiah 61 begins with a statement of mission to preach salvation, to preach the gospel, the good news, to those who need to hear it and embrace it. It ends with the realization and the result of that mission, worship. Our missionary endeavors, whether they are sharing Jesus with our neighbors or with unreached people groups around the world, exist because there are still places where worship doesn't. The ultimate goal of evangelism and mission is to see saved people worshipping their Savior.

Reflection

According to the opening statements of Isaiah 61, what does salvation do for us? What is the significance of proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord? How do verses 4-9 picture a believer's sanctification? How do they picture the church's ministry in the world? Do you think that there is sanctification apart from the church or do you think we can grow spiritually to our fullest potential apart from involvement in the local church? How does verse eight describe the difference between empty religious ritual and true maturity in Christ? How should verse 11 inform and motivate our missionary endeavors? What can we do as a church to continue to expand our global footprint in missions?