

Session 5
Paul and Isaiah's Servants
2 Corinthians 5:13-21
Leader's Guide
(Video 24 minutes)

Complete PowerPoint presentation available: email request to gellul@sbcglobal.net

Warm up questions pre-video: (15 minutes)

Read: Isaiah 53:1–12

Matthew 8:14–17

Luke 22:37

- ❖ How do the gospel writers use Isaiah to point us to the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?
 - The words of the Lord of the Old Testament are for Christ's church.
 - The Lord's servant described in Isaiah is the coming Christ.
 - The promise of God of the Old Testament was fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Why should Christians take comfort in the words "we" and "many" in these words of God spoken through Isaiah?
 - Everyone, whether they have faith in Christ the savior or not, are included in what this servant has done.
 - Christ our Lord came and died for the forgiveness of all the world. The "many" meaning all, not the some meaning those predestined to heaven while others were predestined to hell.
 - Living in the knowledge that it was Jesus's work for the many reminds us that it is not our works that earn us our salvation but Christ alone.

- ❖ What comfort do we take in the understanding that Christ our risen Savior is our prophet, priest, and king? What complete comfort do we have knowing that our Lord is also the perfect sacrifice for our sins?
 - Everything is a complete work and gift from God.
 - Our Lord has done it all for us.
 - Our Lord's full grace.

Read: Hebrews 4:15–16

- ❖ Christ our Lord suffered and died not in majesty and beauty but by being rejected, marginalized, and numbered among the ugly and sinful of the world. Why do Christians find hope in this crude image of our Lord?
 - Jesus came to be like us.
 - Jesus came to be our intercessor.
 - Our Lord took our place, those who are truly ugly and sinful in the eyes of God, upon the cross.
 - Christ our savior died the death that we deserved as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:13–21

Post-video follow up question: (15 minutes)

- ❖ Throughout the verses of 2 Corinthians 5:13–21 Paul aligns himself with the “we” and the “us” of Isaiah. In verse 17, how does Paul take the “we” and the “us” and pull them together into the one body of Christ?
 - We are the servant’s offspring of Isaiah 53:10.
 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - We as the body of Christ here on earth are all (we and us) members of the servant spoken of in Isaiah.
 - As Christians we are the new creation brought about by the work of the one servant, Christ our Lord.

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:8–11

- ❖ How does Paul’s message in 2 Corinthians point us to the mission of the church described through the works of the servant in Isaiah?
 - The proclamation of the gospel of our Lord is our work today.
 - The authority given to us in proclaiming the love of Christ is not centered on us making it egocentric, but stunning in what the word of our Lord can do to those it touches and calls to repentance.
 - We as Christians carry in our bodies the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus can be manifested through us.

Read: Isaiah 53:10–12

Acts 14:21–22

Acts 9:15–16

- ❖ What is the promise and the warning spoken of through Isaiah and shown to us through the life of Paul?
 - As Christians we will suffer in this world, but as the offspring of the servant, Jesus Christ, we shall share in the gifts of the Lord, Christ’s righteousness.
 - We will live with Christ as his new creation.
 - Jesus doesn’t leave us, but Jesus authorizes us in the sharing of the grace of God.
 - In Christ’s death is the only place for Christians to find true life.

Read: John 8:12; 9:5

Matthew 5:14–16

Acts 23:11

- ❖ What is the great command that God’s word teaches Christ’s church that we “must” do? Why is the divine “must” so important for the “we” and the “us” of the world?
 - The mission of the church.
 - The proclamation of the gospel.
 - Being the light of Christ in the world we live in.
 - Bringing the rest of the “we” and “us” to the word and promise of God

It’s not about us and our works,
it’s about the Servant of the Lord who went from high, to low, to high again for us,
Christ who says follow me.
We may not know when the full shalom, the peace will come,
but through our Lord, the Servant it has already begun.
We live in the chaos of today,
and we as Christ’s Church are called to start rejoicing in faith what the servant
has already accomplished,
that rejoicing that someday we will see with our own eyes.