

Sermon: **Six Questions About Your Spiritual Life (Isaiah 43:22-28)**

Date: **January 21, 2018**

The book of Isaiah is one of the prophetic books in the Bible. Isaiah was a prophet called by God to announce God's plan of grace and redemption for his people even though they were rebellious towards him. God's people in Judah and Israel have sinned against him and have experienced the just and righteous judgment of God for this. However, his judgment toward his people is only temporary. His plan is to ultimately save and deliver them from their sins. Isaiah 43:22-28 captures the message of Isaiah and really the essence of the gospel itself. The people of God have been weary of God. They have not called upon his name. They have not honoured him with their sacrifices. The only thing they bring to the table in their relationship with God is their sin and their iniquity. They are deserving of God's righteous judgment. Yet, this is how God responds to the sins of his people, "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins," (v. 25). We learn that God is the only Saviour for his people. Only he can deliver them from their sins. In his grace and for his glory, God has blotted out our transgressions and remembers them no more.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Isaiah 43:22-28 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. How is verse 22 contrasted with verse 21? Why is it a sin to not call upon the Lord?
 - b. What does it mean to call upon the Lord? What are some different ways in which we can call upon the Lord? How can you work on this in your life?
 - c. What are some ways in which the people are weary of God (v. 22b)? Is there anything in your life that might indicate that you are weary of God?
 - d. What are the two types of sacrifices given in verses 23-24? Why are they significant?
 - e. Instead of giving the Lord their best, the people offered meager sacrifices to the Lord. What are some ways that we can be meager for the Lord in our lives?

- f. Verse 24 says that the sins of God’s people were a burden to him. How might our sins be a burden to the Lord? How might our sins weary the Lord?

- g. What are some things that we learn about the salvation of God in verse 25?

- h. What is a transgression? What does it mean that God will “blot out our transgressions,” (v. 25)?

- i. How is God able to blot our transgressions and to remember them no more?

- j. What challenge does God give to his people in verse 26? What is the significance of this?

- k. According to verses 27-28, what happens to those who are not repentant toward God?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. Why is it important to regularly call upon the Lord? How can we practically do this in our lives? In the church?

3. What does it mean to be weary of God? What situations in our lives might tempt us to become weary of God at times? How can we avoid this?

4. How does God’s promise in verse 25 encourage you? How should it affect the way you view your past sins?

5. How would you use this passage to explain the gospel and to witness to an unbeliever?