

Isaiah - Prophet for Gentiles

Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs, so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name."

Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples." And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him." (Romans 15:7-12)

The first words of Isaiah make it clear that his prophecy is for Judah and Jerusalem (Isaiah 1:1). Why does Paul say that Gentiles are the beneficiaries of what Isaiah prophesied? Paul quotes also from David and Moses in the above verses, but only mentions Isaiah by name. It is as though he is identifying with Isaiah personally because Paul is unashamedly the "Apostle of the Gentiles" (Romans 11:13). Like Isaiah, Paul is calling out to his own people, the Jews. But, he is constantly putting his own people in the context of the Gentiles, which is the rest of the world. The word for Gentiles is the same word that is used to mean *nations* in both the Old and New Testaments. Can you imagine what it was like to be a Jew in the days when God did indeed make a distinction between Jews and the rest of the Earth's population? How confusing it must have been when they came under the dominion of other nations (Gentiles). Yet Isaiah, and other prophets, warned them that this would happen. They also promised that God would eventually liberate them from such bondage. How God would do that was to be even more startling than the fact that Gentiles could conquer Jews in the first place.

Isaiah is called the "Messianic Prophet" because he has many references to The Savior (Messiah). He refers to the incarnation in Chapter 9 and also to the death, burial and resurrection in Chapter 53. In Chapter 11, which Paul quotes above, Jesus is referred to as the "root of Jesse". Whenever this Messiah is mentioned by Isaiah you will find it in the context of him being involved as a savior of the Gentiles as well as Jews. That is the startling fact that Paul refers to as a "mystery" (Ephesians 3:3-6). Can you imagine living in the days when God was telling Jews that they needed the same Messiah that the Gentiles needed? Not only that but that they themselves were to be used in a way that would bring salvation to the Gentiles and vice versa!

Strange indeed, but now we know why Paul puts Jew and Gentile both in the context of needing a savior and then says, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you in order to bring praise to God."

[AB]



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

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July 11, 2021

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: **Where the Bible Speaks**

Paul will be preaching today.

Scripture Reading: **Acts 15:1-5**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: July 14th, at the building, 6:30pm-** Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew. Come at 6 and eat with us before the lesson if you like.
- ❖ **Next Potluck:** July 18th **NEXT WEEK.**



BAPTISM! Paulette Frycek was baptized into Christ on Friday, July 2nd, in Catherine Creek near Montour Falls. Please give Paulette a warm welcome when you see her this morning!

- **Gail Westerhold** will probably need more surgery to remove cancer from her remaining kidney.
- **Next Sunday is Potluck. Please plan to stay after worship and eat with us. Bring a dish to pass (or not) and enjoy some good fellowship.**



PRAYERS

- Pray for **Paulette**, our new babe in Christ, as she begins her Christian walk.
- **Dan Myers**, Paulette's friend, needs prayer for multiple health problems.
- **Pray for the visitors we have had in the last few weeks, that we can make a connection with them and have Bible studies.**
- Pray for **Zachary Cowles** as he will be deployed soon.
- **Jackie** is suffering from pain caused by Rheumatoid Arthritis and the side effects of the pain and anti-inflammatory meds. Pray that she can get relief.
- **Pat Guthrie** from Kittanning has lung cancer.
- Please pray for **Gail Westerhold** as she is possibly facing another kidney surgery to remove more cancer.
- Pray for **Linnett Short, a former coworker of Paul's.** She has stage 3 lung cancer.
- **Arthur's younger sister, Sue**, has metastatic breast cancer and **his brother Chris** in England has Alzheimer's Disease. Please pray for their health and for their souls.
- **Don Myers**, former preacher for the Elmore, AL church, will be visiting a neurologist in Mobile for an evaluation about Parkinson's tomorrow.
- **Ted** has been dealing with pain in his back and kidneys from kidney stones.
- **Amy Connor's friend Denise Whitfield** has colon cancer and will soon have surgery.
- Please pray for **Nancy Holcomb** from the Horseheads church as she is suffering from dementia and pray for her daughter **Sarah** as well.
- **Pray for Dawn's sister Alice, who** is in the final stages of cancer and in hospice care.
- **Nancy Black**, who is a good friend of Ruthie's is suffering from complications of diabetes.
- **Prayers of thanksgiving as the Huddlestone's arrived safely in Cape May, NJ for a short vacation and the Zimmermans and Littles both arrived safely home in PA and LA. We also give thanks for the encouragement we all got from their visit.**

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.