

II. THE REASON THE SON OF GOD APPEARED (pt.2): Isaiah 61:1

INTRODUCTION. God says, through John, in **1 John 3:8**, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." In context, what John is specifically saying is that Christ Jesus, though eternally existing, became a man in order to destroy the habitually planned performance of sin in His people. Christ came to give sinners new hearts and minds so that they would labor to practice righteousness for God's glory and other's good! That is what John is meaning, in specific, by "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil" (**1 Jn. 3:8**).

Yet John is using a general truth and applying it to a specific situation. Christ did not simply come to destroy one of the works of the devil. *Christ came to destroy all the works of the Devil!* The Devil is not only a sinner, as John says in 1 John 3:7; he is also a Devourer, as Peter says in 1 Peter 5:8.

THE DEVIL IS A DEVOURER (1 Pet. 5:8).

1 Peter 5:8 "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

I) The Devil seeks to devour by temptation—*by tempting you to sin.*

- In **1 Thessalonians 3:5** Paul calls the Devil "*the tempter*."
- When the devil tempts you to sin he is trying to convince you to drink poison while saying it is medicine.

BOYS AND GIRLS,

II) The Devil seeks to devour by accusation—*by accusing you of guilt threatening condemnation.*

- In **Revelation 12:10** Satan is called "*the accuser of the brethren*."
- In **Zechariah 3:1** the prophet sees, "Satan standing at [the Angel of the LORD's] right hand to accuse [Joshua the high priest]."
- When the devil accuses you of guilt and condemnation he is putting before your eyes the truth of your badness but hiding the truth of Christ's goodness.
- He is putting before God's eyes the blackness of your sins, but not the redness of Christ's blood!
- When the devil accuses you of guilt and condemnation he is reminding you of the thief on the cross who was damned to hell, not the one that was delivered to heaven.

– **BOYS AND GIRLS,**

Satan loves to sift people like wheat, by accusing them of guilt and threatening them with condemnation after they have sinned.

- **Luke 22:31** "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat. . ."

III) The Devil seeks to devour by desperation—by tempting you to give up under the weight of sadness, sickness, or suffering.

- **Psalms 69:20** says, "I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none."
 - When a two foot flood of sadness, sickness, or suffering comes upon you, the devil tempts you to lay down in the water and give up. The flood only feels like it is too deep to survive when we lay down on the sand rather than stand on the solid rock.
- **BOYS AND GIRLS,**

All this devouring of the devil through temptation, accusation, and desperation, leaves this world filled with broken hearts. Is that not an accurate way to describe it?

- **Q1.** Have you experienced that broken-heartedness which comes from giving into temptation and drinking that poison that was promised to be medicine?
- **Q2.** Have you experienced that broken-heartedness which comes from being accused of guilt and threatened with condemnation after you have sinned—that broken heartedness which comes from seeing the damned thief on the cross rather than the one which was saved?
- **Q3.** Have you experienced that broken-heartedness which comes from being tempted to lay down in the flood waters of sadness, sickness, or suffering and just let yourself drown in despair?

Christmas is good news for you, if so, because. . .

DOCTRINE.

Christ came to destroy the devil's devouring and heal the broken hearted.

BOYS AND GIRLS,

This is the doctrine of our text for today, in Isaiah 61:1.

CON(TEXT). **Isaiah 61:1** "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the

LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; *he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.*"

OUTLINE. There are three truths to make note of in verse 1 of Isaiah 61, and will spend more time on the third.

I. CHRIST CAME PERFECTLY EQUIPPED TO DESTROY THE DEVIL'S DEVOURING (Is. 61:1a).

- **Isaiah 61:1a** *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted."*

Christ is the God-man and has the Holy Spirit without measure.

*He is perfectly equipped by God the Father,
with God the Holy Spirit,
as God the Son*

in order to destroy the Devil's works and redeem mankind.

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon [Christ]"

II. CHRIST CAME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE DEVoured (Is. 61:1b).

- **Isaiah 61:1b** *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor (afflicted, needy, lowly; i.e. the devoured); he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted."*

Christ became man not only in order to preach good news to the devoured, but to bring good news. Christ is not only the gospel preacher; Christ is the gospel.

*His life is why believers are counted righteous;
His death is why Christians are forgiven;
His resurrection is why the saints' death is defeated;
His ascension is why we have an advocate with God the Father;
His sending of the Holy Spirit into our hearts is why we have new life,
and peace, and perseverance.*

His ruling and reigning from the throne of heaven is why believers have peace amidst turmoil; joy amidst sorrow; a shield against the enemy; a hope that cannot be taken; a strength that cannot be drained.

"the LORD has anointed [Christ] to bring good news to the poor."

III. CHRIST CAME TO HEAL THE DEVoured (Is. 61:1c).

- **Isaiah 61:1c** "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; *he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted* (those who have been subjected to the devourer)."

I) Christ came to heal those devoured by *Temptation* through providing a way of escape and even forgiveness after a fall.

(i) Christ will heal the devoured by providing a way out of temptation.

- **1. Christ came to show us the strategy of slaying temptation—*swinging the Sword of the Spirit!***

- **Matthew 4:3-11**

"3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

4 But he answered, "It is written,

"'Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"'He will command his angels concerning you,' and

"'On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

BOYS AND GIRLS,

- **2. Christ came to give us the power and path to flee temptation—the *Holy Spirit's power within us and the use of our legs.***

- **1 Corinthians 10:13** "13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the

way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."

(ii) Christ will heal the devoured by forgiveness after a fall.

- **Ephesians 1:7** "In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. . ."
- **Isaiah 33:24** "No inhabitant will say, 'I am sick'; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity."
- **1 John 1:8-10** "8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Christ is the only physician whose can truly heal you from the heart breaking temptations of the devourer.

"Jesus was sent to bind up the broken hearted; to heal those devoured by temptation."

II) Christ came to heal those devoured by *Accusation* through providing no condemnation with Him as Advocate.

(i) Christ will heal the devoured by placing a banner over their heads which reads, "No condemnation."

- **Romans 8:1** "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
- **MARTIN LUTHER:** "So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: 'I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!'"

BOYS AND GIRLS, the Christian life is very hard, but it is as safe as can be. Because Jesus was condemned on the cross in our place, we who believe never have to fear being condemned by God for our sin.

(ii) Christ will heal the devoured by Advocating for them with both His righteousness and propitiation.

- **1 John 2:1-2** "1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the

Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

"Jesus was sent to bind up the broken hearted; to heal those devoured by accusation."

III) Christ came to heal those devoured by *Desperation* through providing His powerful Spirit, precious promises, and sovereign providence.

(i) Christ will heal those devoured by *Sadness* through providing His powerful Spirit to give a peace which surpasses understanding.

- **Philippians 4:6-7** "6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

***This is a promise**

- **This is the healing from sadness, anxieties, worries, and depression you so desperately need when you are in the valley of the shadow of death.**

BOYS AND GIRLS,

(ii) Christ will heal those devoured by *Sickness* through curing them in this life or the next.

- **1. Christ may heal you in this life so that you may serve Him and others.**
 - **Mark 1:30-31** "30 Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them."
- **2. Christ may leave you sick in this life for His glory.**
 - **John 11:6** "So, when [Jesus] heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was."
- **3. Christ will certainly sanctify you, if you are a Christian, through whatever thorn in the flesh He permits to stab you.**
 - **2 Corinthians 12:7** "So to keep me from becoming conceited. . . a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited."
- **4. Christ will certainly heal you in the life to come.**
 - **Revelation 21:4** "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and

death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

(iii) Christ will heal those devoured by *Suffering* through sanctifying and empowering grace.

- **1. Christ will sanctify you through suffering, if you are a believer.**
 - **Romans 5:3-5** "3 we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."
- **2. Christ will prepare you for glory through suffering, if you belong to Him.**
 - **2 Corinthians 4:17** "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,"
- **3. Christ will work all things together for His glory and your good, even suffering, if you trust in Him alone for salvation.**
 - **Romans 8:28** "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

BOYS AND GIRLS,

The Devil loves to devour people, and he is like a ravenous lion. So Christ became a man, and, like Samson, took that lion by the jaws and ripped it apart to defend His people.

The Devil is also like a poisoner, who loves people to drink poison and became more and more sick. So Christ became a man, and, as a great Doctor, heals people of their sicknesses, and gives them eternal life.

"Jesus was sent to bind up the broken hearted; to heal those devoured by sadness, sickness, and suffering."

USE FOR INSTRUCTION

See the love of God in Christ Jesus who was sent to bind up the broken hearted!

USE FOR REPROOF/REBUKE

You must not look to anyone other than Christ Jesus to bind up your broken heart.

- **Hosea 5:13** "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king. But he is not able to cure you or heal your wound."

USE FOR EXHORTATION

- I) Look to Christ in faith to be healed from the devouring of temptation.
- II) Look to Christ in faith to be healed from the devouring of accusation.
- III) Look to Christ in faith to be healed from the devouring of sadness, sickness, and suffering.

CONCLUSION.

All of you who are in Christ, and you who will trust in Christ, can you say with Paul in **2 Timothy 4:17**, "I was rescued from the lion's mouth."

DOCTRINE.

Christ came to destroy the devil's devouring and heal the broken hearted.

Hallelujah! Let's thank Him and praise Him through song and supper now.