

MOVING IS A PAIN BUT OH THE GAIN

(Is. 55:1-13)

Introduction:

1. This beautiful appeal from God to man typifies man's relationship with God from the beginning.
2. God desires fellowship with man, but to be with God man must be like God.
3. God is saying, "This is who I am, you are not like that, but I offer you the ability to be so. Come and accept My gift!"
4. Let us consider this relationship from the beginning, along the way, and today.

Discussion:

I. In the Beginning.

- A. He created us and gave us everything (Gen. 1, 2; Ps. 8:3, 4).
- B. He created us in His image (Gen. 1:26).
 1. That is why we were given dominion over all of His (our Father's) creation.
 2. That explains the "mannishness" of man.
 3. That is why we are free moral agents. Able to choose right or wrong (Gen. 2:15-17; Is. 7:16).
- C. Man chose to follow Satan in rejecting God's authority in favor of self (pride! Gen. 3:1-7).
- D. The consequence was, in theory, what man wanted; separation from God. But since God is the source of all good and perfect gifts (Jas. 1:17) this also meant the loss of many of those gifts.
 1. Eternal life (Gen. 3:24); and not for us alone (contrast Gen. 1:29, 30 and Gen. 3:21; 4:2, 4; 9:1-4).
 2. Spiritual life, fellowship with God (Gen. 3:23).
 3. Freedom from toil and strife (Gen. 3:16-19).
- E. Truly paradise lost, but paradise is simply the privilege of being in the King's garden.

II. And Then...

- A. A gracious promise was made.
 1. Man could have a limited fellowship with God by way of faithful obedience (Gen. 4:3-16; esp. v7; Patriarchal System; Mosaic System; and Christian System).
 2. If man remained faithful in his physical life he could rest again in God's garden, aka paradise (Luke 16:19-31; 23:43; Ps. 73:23, 24, 17; Job 19:25-27).
 3. At the end of time, man can be completely restored to God as in the beginning (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20-22).
- B. God sent His Son into the world to fulfill that promise (Gal. 4:4; John 19:30) and to be that grace (Rom. 6:23; Titus 2:11ff).
- C. Our Lord sent forth His apostles to spread the good news to all people everywhere (Matt. 28:18-20) and every-when (2 Pet. 1:3, 12-15).

III. And Now....

- A. We have the complete revelation of God to man (2 Pet. 1:19-21, 3; Jude 3; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Eph. 4:13 = 1 Cor. 13:10; Rom. 10).
- B. We must be diligent to take it all in and keep taking it all in; as if we were eating the body and drinking the blood of Christ continually (John 6:53-58). Only in this way can we be confident that we shall live forever.
- C. All that diligence brings about a transformation (Rom. 12:2; 8:29; 1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 11:1; Luke 9:23).
- D. Because ultimately, to be with God forever in heaven, we must continually be with God here on earth. To be saved "in Christ" we must be in Christ and that implies like Christ.

Conclusion:

1. It is an amazing thought, that from the very beginning nothing has really changed between man and God. He is still God and He still desires fellowship, and He still demands faithful obedience as a condition of that fellowship. Just as Adam chose, so do we every second of every day.
2. Is. 55:1 = THE Invitation.