

# Sermon Study Questions

**Sunday, May 25, 2025**

1. Read Isaiah 1:2-9
2. What is the Mosaic Covenant? Why is it important to recognize the backdrop of the Mosaic Covenant in our study of Isaiah?
3. What was one of the unique functions of the OT prophets, including Isaiah?
4. The Lord's charge against Judah and Jerusalem was rebellion. What is rebellion? How is this rebellion described in our text? How does this charge harken back to the Mosaic Covenant?
5. In our text the Lord confronts His covenant people with their sins. Why is it important for Him to do this in our lives? What does Luther mean by saying "All of life is repentance?"
6. Throughout this passage we see the Father's heart for His children even in spite of their rebellion. What encouragement do you take from this?
7. In v.5-8 Isaiah makes it clear that sin ruins, first with the image of a beaten body, and second with the image of an invaded and desolate land. In what way does sin bring ruin?
8. Isaiah also warns God's people of the consequences that are associated with unrepentant sin. What consequences did Judah eventually face? What are the consequences we as His New

Covenant people face? Why is it that even though we still face consequences for our sin that we will never be cut off from the Lord (i.e. “treated like Sodom and Gomorrah)?

9. What practical lesson or application can you make from this text/sermon?

10. Pray!

Ray Ortlund writes, “Conviction of sin is the lance of the divine Surgeon piercing the infected soul, releasing the pressure, letting the infection pour out. Conviction of sin is a health-giving injury. Conviction of sin is the Holy Spirit being kind to us by confronting us with the light we don’t want to see, the truth we’re afraid to admit, and the guilt we prefer to ignore. Conviction of sin is the severe love of God overruling our compulsive dishonesty, our willful blindness, our favorite excuses. Conviction of sin is the violent sweetness of God opposing the sins lying comfortably undisturbed in our lives. Conviction of sin is the merciful God declaring war on the false peace we settle for. Conviction of sin is our escape from malaise to joy, from attending to church to worship, from faking it to authenticity. Conviction of sin, with the forgiveness of Jesus pouring over our wounds, is life!”

### **Reading of Law: Romans 6:13**

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

### **Prayer of Confession:**

Our Father in heaven you are worthy of all praise, honor, and glory. For you alone have created all things and hold all things together by the word of your power. We come before you this morning and confess our sin to you. We confess that we have broken your laws and violated your commandments. As your Law tells us, we are to use our bodies and minds in ways that honor you, but we have used them in ways that are selfish, unkind, impure, and harmful to ourselves and others. We have failed to use our hands to serve others and our feet to run to the aid of those in need. We have failed to use our tongues to build up but have used it to tear down. We have failed to use our minds in ways that are fruitful but often set our minds on

things that are offensive to you. In all of this we have failed to present ourselves to you and our members as instruments of righteousness. Father, please forgive us. Please also help us to grow in Christlikeness that we may live in a way that conforms more and more to your holy Law. We thank you for Jesus Christ through whom we have access to you and in whom we are reckoned as righteous. In His name we pray, Amen.

### **Assurance of Forgiveness: Philippians 1:6-7a**

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace.

### **WLC: 181**

**Q.** 181. Why are we to pray in the name of Christ?

**A.** The sinfulness of man, and his distance from God by reason thereof, being so great, as that we can have no access into his presence without a mediator; and there being none in heaven or earth appointed to, or fit for, that glorious work but Christ alone, we are to pray in no other name but his only.

[John 14:6](#); [Isa. 59:2](#); [Eph. 3:12](#); [John 6:27](#); [Heb. 7:25-27](#); [1 Tim. 2:5](#); [Col. 3:17](#); [Heb. 13:15](#).

### **NT Reading: Hebrews 12:1-11**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly

fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.