

Preached at GBC on 3/10/24
"Our REPORT"

Isaiah 53:1

As sinners saved by God's free and sovereign grace, brought from a state of spiritual death and darkness to a state of spiritual **LIFE** and **UNDERSTANDING**, we are fully aware of the necessity of the Gospel message being preached to God's elect in every generation – "*For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*"(I Cor.1:21-24) We have not only heard about Him with our physical ears, but we have been given spiritual ears to hear, having been quickened by His Holy Spirit through the declaration of "*the power of God*", which Paul declared in **Romans 1:16,17** to be the Gospel message which sets forth and reveals "*the righteousness of God*" – "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*" This **miracle of grace** radically changed our view of ourselves, our sin, our friends and family, as well as changed our attitude toward Him "*who loved us and gave Himself for us.*" **Now**, by God's grace freely given to us - "*we LOVE Him, because He FIRST LOVED US.*" Far too many who have made professions of religion, have only changed religions, but never changed or known the true and living God – "*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*"(Rom.10:1-3) They know and believe in "**a god**" and one they call "**christ**", but it is not the one true God or His Son, the One set forth in this chapter we are going to begin looking at today.

Look at **Vs.1** – "*Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*" Let me read you a literal translation of this verse – "Who hath given credence to that which we heard? And the arm of Jehovah, On whom hath it been revealed?"(YLT) The **FIRST THING** I noticed in Isaiah's opening words is that **WHATEVER** that "*which we heard*" **IS**, which he spoke of as "*our report*", Isaiah, those who had and did believe it in his day, as well as all God's elect who are "*born again*" by the Holy Spirit **WILL DECLARE IT**. It's one thing to hear about it with our unregenerate ears, but it is another thing altogether when this "**REPORT**" comes in the power of the Holy Spirit. The woman from Samaria our Lord met at the well is a good illustration of what Isaiah is setting forth. That's why we read that story in the "**Call To Worship**" – **Turn back over to Jn.4:20-25**. She had **HEARD** about Messiah with her physical ears from her "*fathers*", but all they had said had no life in it. Notice what Christ said to her in **Vs.26** in response to what she said she had heard and been taught about Messiah – "*Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am [he].*" When Christ spoke these words, notice the change – "*The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me*

all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”(Vss.28,29) Didn’t all of us at one time experience this “*power of God unto salvation*” that brought us to true faith and true repentance? Didn’t we, just like this woman, having been given eyes to see and a mind to understand the freeness and fulness of salvation from sin want to and seek to tell every one of this wonderful report? We heard in this wonderful “**REPORT**” the Gospel message of the **ONE** who “*set us free from the law of sin and death.*” We “**HEARD**” the promise of **Acts 13:38,39** – **QUOTE IT**. We **THOUGHT** that every one would be as thrilled, just as we are, to hear such a gracious, saving truth, yet when we sought to tell others, the same “*report*” we believe and love is met with scorn and contempt by those to whom we declare it– **ELABORATE**. We don’t stop declaring the report because men by nature hate and despise it. Isaiah’s statement in these opening words weren’t calling into question the necessity of declaring what we’ve heard, but an expression of astonishment at most people’s thoughts toward it – “*Who hath believed our report?*” Our responsibility **IS NOT** to be concerned with whether or not sinners believe “*our report*”. Our responsibility is to preach what we have **HEARD** and been given faith to believe – “*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*”(II Tim.4:2); “*For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*”(I Cor.9:16)

Seeing we have been called into this Gospel ministry, called to declare what we’ve heard, Isaiah makes it plain that we have a **UNIQUE** message or “*report*” that is absolutely essential in the salvation of God’s elect – “*Who hath believed **OUR REPORT**?*” The original word translated “*our report*” means ‘report, news, or tidings’. Abraham believed what Isaiah called “*our report*”- “*For what saith the scripture? Abraham **believed God**, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but **believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly**, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, [Saying], **Blessed [are] they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed [is] the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.**”(Rom.4:3-8) Do you see what “*our report*” **IS**, i.e., what we’ve heard and believed? Paul described the report in this fashion: “*This [is] a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*”(I Tim.1:15) “**OUR REPORT**”, i.e., ‘what we have heard’, **IS NOT** an offer of a potential salvation if a sinner will surrender to the terms, allowing Christ to save them from their sins. “**OUR REPORT**” is a declaration of God’s righteousness found in the **PERSON** and **ACCOMPLISHED WORK** of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Think back on Rom.1:16,17**. As justified sinners, we boldly and dogmatically declare what God **HAS DONE** for His people through the accomplished work of His Son – “*And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*”(II Cor.5:18,19) We tell them the true and living God, who the Scriptures declare to be both “*a just God and a Savior*”, imputed His people’s sin to Christ, and has imputed Christ’s righteousness to His people – “*For he hath**

made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”(II Cor.5:21) We tell them boldly, and with great simplicity, God justifies the ungodly – “For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly**. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only [so], but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.**”(Rom.5:6-11) We tell them there is **NO POSSIBILITY** that any of those given to Him by the Father, those He redeemed by His accomplished death, those regenerated and converted by His Holy Spirit **IN TIME CAN EVER LOSE** that which He **HAS FREELY GIVEN** – “**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**”(Jn.6:37-40); “**Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: **And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father’s hand. I and [my] Father are one.****”(Jn.10:24-30) Somebody has to tell you about all of these blessings “**in Christ**”; somebody has to tell you about **THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** – “**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. **For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?****”(Rom.10:13-16) We tell them, and for the most part they will reject it, rail against it, and ridicule us for it!

But pay careful attention to what Isaiah said **NEXT** – “**and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?**” The reprobate **CAN’T** and **WON’T** ever hear this report - “**Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? [even] **because ye cannot hear my word.****”(Jn.8:42,43) But thanks be to God, all “**HIS SHEEP**” will be given eyes to see, ears to hear, as well as a mind and understanding will **HEAR** “**our report**”, and by God-given faith **BELIEVE IT. Listen to our Lord** – “**Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the**

prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes, and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed [are] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.”(Matt.13:13-16) I love what Mr.Hawker wrote on these words of Isaiah – “When we consider how sunk and fallen our nature is, even to the total ignorance of our ruin, it becomes a matter of still greater wonder, that any should receive it. Nothing, indeed, but sovereign grace can accomplish it in the heart.” **This is SO IMPORTANT:** The **ONLY WAY** this can be “**REVEALED**” is by the **POWER OF GOD**, which Isaiah calls “*the ARM of the Lord.*” The Lord’s “*arm*” is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ – “*My righteousness [is] near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.*”(Isa.51:5) When I think about “*the arm of the Lord*”, I always think of how Moses described Him – “*The eternal God [is thy] refuge, and underneath [are] the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy [them].*”(Deut.33:27) It takes the “*power of God*” to free the sinner, and when that power goes forth, those who were formerly captives are set free. **Listen to these four passages and we’ll close** – “*Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.*”(Ps.110:3); “*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.*”(Phil.1:29); “*For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*”(II Cor.4:4-6); “*For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, [yea], and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*”(I Cor.1:21-31) **Listen to me:** **NO ONE** have never **WON** one soul to the Lord. But the One True God, by His sovereign, omnipotent, eternal power, will bring all those that are His to Himself in His appointed time. That should give us great comfort as we seek to preach His report.