

28th March Application notes.

Isaiah 61 In Christ is Our Expectation and Hope.

What a staggering revelation the Spirit of Christ gives to us here. It comes into a day when Jesus Christ went to John the Baptist to be baptised in water, this was on Jesus thirtieth birthday. At that moment He was anointed in the Holy Spirit from His Father. A couple of months later in the synagogue at Nazareth Jesus declared,

“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The religious teachers and leaders had taught from a wrong expectation of the promised Christ. This brought themselves and the people into a wrong attitude towards God. It meant that their expectations did not conform to God’s intentions for Christ and His ministry. Their hearts were opposed to Jesus and the Father, but also towards each other.

In Matthew 22.37-40 Jesus tells us the heart that God looks for.

Now read Paul’s statement that applies to us in the way we follow Christ from our new creation hearts, Philippians 2.1-13.

Consider this carefully, asking the Holy Spirit to search your heart.

Q. Do I have a servant heart or do I expect to be served?

Christ’s anointed ministry did not cease when He had sat down at the right hand of the Father. He continues to serve others through His spiritual body the church, that is you and me all who now live IN Christ.

“Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made. You are my witnesses says the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen.” Isaiah 43.7, 10

On Sunday Peter highlighted this in 1Peter 2.9 “**But you are chosen.....that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”**

If we are to live this out as lights displaying Christ’s life to this lost world, we must ask and allow Christ to bring us out of whatever imprisons us, holds us captive, or cause us to be broken hearted. This may mean asking others to pray with us and walk with us into this glorious freedom in Christ. We live in this freedom because this is the year of the LORD’S favour, His Jubilee, or joyful year. He endured the cross for the year that was set before Him. Hebrews 12.2

On Sunday Peter’s encouragement to us is to be wide open to others, to welcome them to the only one who can help them. Why? Because He has welcomed us in mercy out of His great love with which He loved us and undoubtedly them. Our own lives as we draw nearer to Christ remind us continually that there is no pit too deep for the LORD Jesus to save us from.

Q. Are our expectation for life together as a church set in Christ who has chosen us to be His witnesses?

Some further scripture to read, 2Corinthians 5.16-6.2.

Or if you want a book to read that will reinforce this glorious reality in Christ, why not read Peter and Jill’s story, ‘No Pit too deep’.