

Sermon Handout

Restoring the World to Righteousness
Isaiah 55:8-13

I. God's providence has an end game, a goal

Reversal of the curse Is 55:8-13 (*cf.* Gen 3:17-19)

The defeat of unrighteousness Is 46:9-13

God's exaltation in the world is certain Ps 46:8-11

The triumph of God in creation Ps 33:1-12

A cause of rejoicing among God's people (*cf.* Mt 21:9)

See also Mt 21:16 (quoting Ps 8:2)

II. The Role of the Church

The primary agency of God's work in the world Eph 1:15-23
cf. Gal 6:14-16; also vv. 9-10

Fitted out for warfare, the defeat of God's enemies

Eph 4:11-16; 6:10-18 *cf.* Rev 19:11-16; I Cor 15:25

Rom 16:19-20 (*cf.* Gen 3:14-15)

Key obstacles preventing the church from doing its job

Apathy – II Pet 1:10-14; II Tim 1:6-10

Fear – II Tim 1:7; I Jn 4:15-18

(“Do not fear” appears more than 350 times.)

Division – I Jn 4:19-21; II Cor 5:17-21

Gal 5:13-16; Eph 4:1-3

For next week:

The Role of the Family in exercising God's dominion

Meditate on Eph 6:1-9, especially vv. 4, 6-7, 9

Reforming the State under God's authority

Meditate on I Tim 2:1-4