



The Purpose of Time
Isaiah 60:22 (59:20-61:2)
For the Week of May 4
Sermon and Study by Dr. Kent Anderson

Sermon Theme: God can be trusted for his promise within the timing of his purpose.

Objective of this Study: To be encouraged by the knowledge that God's promises are reliable, no matter how long things *seem* to take.

Worship (5-10 minutes)

Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for how he wants to speak to you. After the five minutes have someone interrupt the silence by reading Psalm 103:13-19 to the group. (after each phrase pause and let the Lord speak to you before reading the next).

Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Welcome (5-10 minutes)

They say that "time flies." How do you perceive the passage of time? Why is it that sometimes time seems to go swiftly and other times it seems to go slowly? What might this say about our understanding of eternity?

Word (20-30 minutes)

1. What stood out for you from the sermon?
2. Read Isaiah 59:20-61:2
3. Isaiah 60 describes an array of promises made to Israel during their period of captivity in Babylon. How might God's people have heard these promises when they were first given? What might their response and reaction have been like when they heard this from Isaiah?
4. Isaiah makes a number of promises to his people in chapters 59 and 60. How have those promises been fulfilled in the time since this text has been given to us?
5. Isaiah 61 picks up direct prophetic references to Jesus, which are identified in Luke 4. How can we see Jesus in Isaiah's prophecy and how does that encourage us today?

Work (20-30 minutes)

1. We believe that God is eternal, which is to say that he exists outside of time. What implications does this understanding have for our appreciation of the passage of time?
2. Like the nation of Israel, we sometimes experience times of suffering. How does knowing the history of God's promises to his people help us? How has he fulfilled many of those promises already?
3. What are you anticipating from God as you think about your own future in faith with him?

Follow up from last week: How did it go this week? Did you write some questions to God from your journal? How did you obey God and how did you see him at work?