

The Possibility and Promise of Repentance by Joseph P. Murphy

(ESV Women's Devotional Bible)

Isaiah's poetry vividly proclaims the word of God in a time of societal and moral decline in Israel. Israel is religious rather than godly, a faithful spouse turned prostitute. Instead of genuine repentance, Israel clings hard to its religious actions without right intent, to the point that the One for whom their worship is meant is disgusted with them. This pattern has been repeated often in the life of God's people as a whole, and in individual lives.

Traditional ways of performing prayer, worship—and in Israel's case, sacrifice—are an integral part of the life of faith. God had established Israel's worship, including sacrifice, and obedience to his commands required practising those prescribed ways. God's displeasure was thus not with the external things but with the fact that they had become *solely* external. Forms of worship are not the issue, but whether they actually express our hearts: Israel was presenting to God "vain offerings," "iniquity and solemn assembly" (Isa.1:13).

Though it may be disagreeable to have our true motives exposed while we appear respectably religious, it should actually fill us with assurance and hope. It offers us, amid our hypocrisy, the opportunity for repentance. "Come now, let us reason together . . ." (1:18).

Rather than abandoning us to our own choices to do evil while cloaking it in the appearance of good, God calls us to soberly consider the truth—truth about him, ourselves, and his provision for our redemption. All is *not* lost. The truth *will* set us free—truth that puts into proper perspective God's action in redeeming us through the blood of Christ. Even if our hands are bloody from the suffering of those we have at least ignored, if not personally oppressed, through Christ we can be cleansed. We can turn again, we can learn new, truly good ways to the Lord and to those he brings into our lives.

The way forward is clear, and it won't change: the Lord has spoken. Each of us must embrace God's call to live lives that correspond to his gracious deliverance of us. Isaiah also provides a vision of the future to lift us above the seeming uncertainty of our personal struggles. What now has all the marks of failure and divine displeasure will yet become the source of lasting peace for humanity, bringing an end to warfare, external and internal. God's word shall not fail. He can be trusted.



29 July 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Isaiah #2— The Sinful Children of God

The Vision of Isaiah begins with a 'state of the union', a 'family meeting', outlining the state of God's children, the nation of Judah. The news is bad, very bad. The children of God have rejected God, offer empty worship and live godless lives of injustice. Yet, amazingly, God has plans to purify them through judgement and restore their righteousness.

Next Week:

Isaiah #3 : The Sinful Elect of God [Isaiah 2-5]



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	Have Mercy On Me On Come O Come Emmanuel You Alone Can Rescue
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Isaiah 1
Sermon	By Pastor Ben Ho
Song of Response	Have Mercy On Me

Stay Connected

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$10,145.15
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR THE BIG MESSAGES

from the book of Isaiah that we will encounter over the coming weeks. Pray that God would soften our hearts as we hear the relatively familiar themes again: the sinfulness of men, the sinfulness of God's people and our own hearts, the grave news of just and impending judgement, and the hope of God's grace to save.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

who have yet to hear, or believe, in the gospel of Jesus. Pray that we would courageously and clearly articulate the great saving news to them. Pray that God would be pleased to work His Spirit in them to help them see, hear, and understand that they might believe and repent.

PRAY FOR THE MANY IN OUR CHURCH

struggling with various illnesses—particularly those bitten by a recent gastro bug. Pray for our Pastors who have both fallen ill to this recently—for smooth and quick recovery.

PRAY FOR PASTOR STEVEN AWAY IN

Singapore this weekend with St Johns-St Margaret's Anglican Church (home church of Terence and Grace Seah). Pray that as he preaches this morning on the Tabernacle in Exodus 25-40 and as he meets with ex-SLEers late this afternoon, and Steven and Maggie Teo on Monday morning.

Community News

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Simeon	Joshua
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Ben
Bible Read	Boon Cheng <i>Dan Lowe</i>	Matthew <i>Jessica</i>
M.Tea	Corina Daniel	Winnie T. Tania
Wash Up	YF Sunday	YF Sunday
Welcome	Esther Richard Georgie <i>Marcus</i> <i>James</i> <i>Joy</i> <i>Leya</i>	Philip Mee Lan Meng Yin <i>Benedict</i> <i>David</i> <i>Hui Xian</i> <i>Jessica</i>
Stewards	Sunny Graham <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i> <i>Nethanel</i>	Norman Alvin <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Helen</i>
Piano	Sylvia	Aaron
Guitar	Dom	Jabez
Bass	Kevin	Chuan Yuan
Drums	Marcus	Ivan
Vocal	Alisha	Sharne
PA	Li Wei <i>Matt</i>	Reuten <i>Daniel</i>

The Sinful Children of God (Isaiah 1)

1. Introduction: State of the Union and Family Meetings

2. Rebellious Children (2-9)

A. Rejection (2-4)

B. Self-destruction (5-8)

C. The gracious LORD (Yahweh) (9)

3. Religious Hypocrisy (10-20)

A. Empty worship (10-15)

B. Worship the LORD (Yahweh) requires (16-17)

C. The LORD's (Yahweh's) gracious invitation (18-20)

4. Societal Sins (21-23)

5. Certain Judgement and Surprising Hope (24-31)

6. Conclusion