Good morning, Pine Ridge Family!

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” Isaiah 55:1 [KJV]

We are continuing in the wonderful passage of Isaiah. Chapter 55 holds some of our most cherished passages in the Old Testament. “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.” This is not primarily a call to believers to return to God in times of trouble. Given the direction of this passage it is a call to Israel to return to the Lord before His awesome judgement falls upon them!

Isaiah reminds us that I must turn from both evil actions and unrighteous thoughts. Repentance is never about just changing habits. It is not that I have been caught at something and now have learned to not get caught again. It is not merely that the punishment is greater than I want to risk, so I will not do it for *that* reason. It is that it is evil and the very thought offends a holy God. It is that I don’t want to do or think of it because it will offend my God; the one who loved me and pardoned my “un-pardonable” sin. It is like when you love your parent but have indulged in some sin that, when you are caught, shocks and embarrasses them. You can see it instantly on their face and you instantly feel genuine shame.

Then we have verses 8 & 9. These are spoken in the contest of the nature of our God to abundantly pardon. His thoughts are not like our thoughts and His ways are not anything like our ways. We do not readily pardon. We have a hard time forgetting. This is the greatest area where we can rejoice that the God of Heaven is nothing like us. The “Heavens” that he refers to is not merely way up there somewhere beyond the milky-way, but in a dimension that we cannot reach. So His thoughts and actions are beyond our comprehension.

Just as the rain and snow do not fall without fulfilling their natural purpose, so the word of God, that is, His will, cannot be prevented. He will accomplish what He wants in His pardoning of the sinful and restoration of the wicked who turn to Him – and He will do it without reservation.

Then… “you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap *their* hands.”

Isaiah talks about both present salvation and the future fulfilment of all God’s promises. We look to and rejoice in the future promises of the Lord because we get to celebrate our own blessing in His present promises. We are pardoned and we go out with joy and are led by God in peace.

In Christ, our Lord…

Pastor EA

*Roman 14:7-8 “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.” [KJV]*