

## ***Message Summary***

Jesus, the Son of God and light of the world, entered into our world and ascended a hill called Golgotha to die for our sin. Three days later, when all hope appeared lost, Christ was raised from the dead to shine light to all around him. The church, likewise, is to be a mountain of God's house, a city on a hill. We are to display the kingdom's beauty to draw people to the light.

Isaiah prophesies of just this day. People from every tribe and nation would be drawn to Jerusalem, the hill on which this city of light will be placed. Spears, instruments of war, will be beaten to plowshares, instruments of peace and human flourishing. Rather than fighting one another, the great diversity of humanity will live at peace with one another and their Creator, as it was in Eden. Christ substituted himself for us so that we can be part of His dream, His church.

Because these things will one day occur, "what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God" (2 Pt. 3:11)! Isaiah ends his vision by encouraging Israel (and, by implication, Christians today) to walk in the light of the Lord (v. 5).

## ***WHY IT MATTERS***

### ***Digging Deeper***

Why is God's vision for the church multiethnic, multicultural, and multieconomic? How is God most glorified through a diverse body?

Why is the kingdom of God the only kingdom that can really bring lasting peace, as opposed to human effort (such as the United Nations)?

Why is Jesus uniquely qualified to establish the eternal peace and prosperity? How does the gospel meet this basic human need?

How does a vision for the future flourishing in God's kingdom give dignity to all our work now?

## ***NOW WHAT DO WE DO?***

### ***Group Discussion & Application***

*Use the following questions to examine what the sermon and its text mean, to apply the Word to your life, and to guide how you pray. Please note that you don't have to use all of the questions. These are just options (along with the digging deeper section) to help you frame the family/small group discussion.*

1. Do I have God's vision for the church? Is my view of the church polluted by worldly influences?
2. How am I using my "pruning hooks"?
3. How am I shining? How am I using the platform and gifts and resources God has given me?
4. Am I pursuing my own dream, or God's dream?
5. Are you following the light of the world, so that your
6. Is your life characterized by peacemaking, or by a violent and adversarial disposition?
7. Do you aim to bring about human flourishing through your everyday work now?

## ***Prayer***

- Pray for Our Church:
  - Thank God for Christ's ascent on the hill of Calvary to take our place.
  - Pray for the Lord's mercy on Ms. Emily Otwell, who had a stroke on Saturday. Pray for the Lord's mercy and healing, and most of all that Ms. Emily's hope would be fixed on the future city of light promised to her through Christ.
  
- Pray for Our Community:
  - Pray that our church would be as a city on a hill, rightly displaying God's glory to the people of Gadsden
  - Pray that the gospel would bring together people from various backgrounds, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses to display God's love for all the world.
  
- Pray for Our World:
  - Pray for Jeff and Misti Fairchild in their ministry to Honduras. Pray that the Lord would bless their transitions from Gadsden, provide healthy partnerships and relationships especially with locals, and use their ministry to preach the gospel to the people of Honduras who need it.