

Title: The Flesh and the Word

Text: Isaiah 40: 6-8

Date: Dec 14, 2023

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

## **Subject: The Flesh and the Word**

**Proposition:** Every sinner—who is born-again of God—is born of two things: the flesh and the word of God.

Our text declares the two-point message that the Lord sends his messengers to preach.

**Isaiah 40: 6: The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.**

All flesh is sin and only produces sin. The flesh, along with our best goodness produced by our flesh, is sin. God does not say the bad of our flesh is as the flower of the field. We know our bad is sin. He said the goodness of our flesh is sin. Therefore our flesh is withering away. It shall wither to nothing. But the word of God shall stand forever. Therefore the new man which is born of the word of God also endureth forever.

The second thing we are to declare is that the word of the Lord stands forever.

**Isaiah 40: 8: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.**

Every chosen, redeemed child of God shall be born-again of the word of God. A new, holy heart is born within us by the word of God. The word of God stands forever, therefore the new man is forever. It is by the word that God grows us in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ—it is how he keep us stayed on Christ, trusting him alone.

1 Peter 1: 23: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 24: For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. [mark this passage, we will come back to it]

## **ALL FLESH IS SIN AND PRODUCES ONLY SIN**

**Isaiah 40: 6:...All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.**

This is true of every child of Adam. This is true of every person who has ever been born. But this is also still true of every sinner who has been born-again of God—*ALL flesh is grass*. This is not the special grass you plant in your yard, this is wild, worthless, field grass. All flesh is grass, all flesh is sin. Are there any exceptions? None—ALL flesh is grass—all flesh is sin.

Romans 5:12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Romans 3:23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

In our flesh we can produce some things that men consider good. But God says, “there is none good, no not one.” But concerning the goodness produced by the flesh, God says—*all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field*. You look in the field and see flowers. The flowers are colorful. They are appealing to the eye. But what happens to the grass of the field and the flowers it produces? *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth*.

Brethren, our flesh is sin. Therefore it shall wither to nothing. All the goodness produced by our sinful flesh shall wither to nothing like the flower of the field.

Why does our text say our sinful flesh and all our very best deeds wither to nothing? *Because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it*. For the sinner chosen by God the Father and redeemed by our Lord Jesus this is great mercy. God says, “No flesh shall glory in my presence.” So the Spirit of the LORD blows upon our flesh. When we begin looking to our flesh, he make our flesh and our goodness wither before us. He makes us see our sin-nature is sin. He makes us see our very best deeds are sin. It is only by the Spirit of the LORD that we are made to see our flesh is sinful and our best deeds are sin. It was by the Spirit of the LORD that Paul—as a regenerated believer—was made to say,

Romans 7:18: For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

It is only by the Spirit of the LORD that our sinful flesh is subdued. *Because the Spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it*. Having begun in the Spirit, when we look again to our flesh for anything--for assurance, to measure growth or lack thereof, to exalt

ourselves over another--the Spirit blows and withers our flesh. The Lord will keep his child having “no confidence in the flesh.”

Philippians 3:3: For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

So the Lord ends with this sure, certain, final word. *Surely the people is grass.* The Lord Jesus said,

John 6:63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

This never ceases to be true, even in the sinner born-again of the word of God

John 3:6: That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Romans 8:7: Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD SHALL STAND FOREVER

**Isaiah 40: 8: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.**

Christ Jesus is the Word of God.

John 1: 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2: The same was in the beginning with God. 3: All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made...14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The written word is the word of God.

2 Peter 1: 21: For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The written word is concerning the Eternal Word, God's Son, the Incarnate Word, Christ Jesus, who is the Righteousness of his people, the Salvation of his people. The gospel of God is:

Romans 1: 3: Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4: And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Elect sinners are born-again by the word of God. By the gospel—by the preaching of God's word, by the preaching of Christ the Word, by the Spirit revealing in us the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, we are born-again. The word declares not what we must do to be made righteous but what Christ has done in making his people the righteousness of God in himself.

Romans 8: 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

He gives us faith by the word of God to believe the Spirit's witness of Christ Jesus so that we believe on him unto righteousness. This is what he makes known Christ done for us and in us.

Colossians 2: 10: And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13: And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14: Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross...

Christ the Word is formed within. The living and incorruptible Word is planted within by the Spirit of our Lord. He gives us a new spirit, making us a new creature, using nothing of our old, sinful, corrupt man of flesh. God grows our new man by the same word by which we were born—the word that shall stand forever, the word of the Lord that endures forever. It is by the word that Christ our Shepherd grows us inwardly while he subdues our sinful flesh by the Spirit of the Lord blowing upon this grassy flesh.

Be careful to maintain good works. But remember brethren, all flesh is grass and the goodliness thereof as the flower of the field—**BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURETH FOREVER.** When we are made to cry out, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” He delivers us by the word and we are made to cry, “I thank God

through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom 7: 24-25). The new man has eternal life and lives forever by the Word OF THE LORD THAT ENDURES FOREVER.

## THE WORD OF THE WORD TO US

### 1 Peter 2: 1: Wherefore...

This is the Lord’s exhortation to you and me who believe by the word. Let me give you a summary of what Peter said before this. He uses the word “corruptible and incorruptible” several times. Nothing of our corruptible flesh contributed to our redemption and our new birth. All is by the incorruptible word of God that endureth forever.

### “Wherefore”--

Seeing as how God choose us by his unchangeable, incorruptible word of grace. Seeing that **1 Peter 1: 3...according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4: To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

Seeing as how **1 Peter 1: 18...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

**1 Peter 1: 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**

Seeing that--**24: all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: [because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it] 25: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.**

**1 Peter 2: 1: Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, [laying aside our corrupt flesh and all that comes from it] 2: As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.**

All things God has given us is by the incorruptible, enduring word of God. And *this is the word whereby the gospel is preached unto you.*

Our sinful, corrupt flesh is grass and we sin and fall, our goodliness withers by the Spirit of the Lord blowing upon it. But as that happens, in hearing the Lord’s word preached—hearing Christ speak into our new man commanding us to believe on him alone and love one another—believers experience the joy of personal fellowship with the Lord himself by the Spirit of God within. So the more God grow us by his word the more dependent we are upon his word like a new born babe desires its mother’s milk, like the deer pants after the waterbrooks, we desire more and more the sincere milk of the word.

The more mature the believer the more he knows his need of the preaching of God’s word—because the most mature believer is a baby in comparison with what he shall be in glory.

1 Corinthians 13: 1: 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

Remember our proposition? Every sinner born-again of God is born of two things: the flesh and the word of God. The flesh, along with the best goodliness of our flesh, is sin. Therefore it is withering away and shall wither to nothing because the Spirit of the Lord blows upon it. But the word of God shall stand forever. Therefore the new man which is born of the word of God also endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. This gospel is how we were born-again and its how the Lord grows us in the grace and knowledge of him. It is how he keeps us. So what is the point? What should we be taken up with? Our flesh or the word of God? The word of God!

**1 Peter 2: 1: Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2: As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.**

**Amen!**