

Isaiah 58:13–14

“God’s Gift of Delight in Himself”

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***How can those who find themselves enjoying created things more than the Creator be trained to delight in Him?*** Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Isaiah 58:13–14 prepares us for the opening portion of Morning Public Worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these two verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the LORD has given His holy day as a gift by which He trains our hearts to delight in Him Himself above all. He reserves for Himself the honor of making a day holy or making a day honorable; and, He reserves for Himself the prerogative of deciding what we should find enjoyable on that day; because, He alone has the ability to train our hearts to delight in Him. And this enjoyment of Him is the greatest gift any of us can ever receive—which we gift we reject if we dishonor Him by altering His design for the day or coming up with our own religious days.

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## Tuesday, December 21, 2021 ▫ Read Isaiah 58:13–14

*Questions from the Scripture text: From what were they to turn their feet on the Sabbath (v13)? Whose day is it? What were they to call a delight? What were they to call honorable? Whom do we honor when we delight in the Sabbath? Whose ways are they not to do on the Sabbath? Whose pleasure are they not to find on the Sabbath? Whose words are they not to speak on the Sabbath? What (whom!) does v14 say that this kind of Sabbath-keeping will make them delight in? Upon what will this Sabbath keeping make us to ride? Upon whose heritage will this kind of Sabbath-keeping make us to feed?*

In this passage, we hear about God’s solution for hearts that tend to view His law as a burden (like those in vv1–12). His Sabbath. So... God’s remedy for our bad attitudes about His commandments is... the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment?

Immediately, we can see that following this remedy is going to require faith. It requires a decision to rely upon what God’s Word says instead of what I feel. It requires a commitment to treat my own wisdom as folly and follow the Physician’s advice instead of what I think I know.

So, it doesn’t surprise us that this commandment is at first about submission: “turn your foot away from doing your pleasure!” Does your heart resent that idea? We need to yield to the fact that when we do God’s pleasure instead of ours, we find out that He is better at making us glad than we are. He cares more for our happiness than we do. He knows better how to give it to us than we do. Am I willing to admit that? If so, all my complaints against the commandments in this verse will evaporate.

Turn away from my own pleasure? Does God want me to be miserable every Sunday? On the contrary! That was just the first command. And the second is like it: call the Sabbath a delight. God’s command isn’t about no pleasure; it’s about substituting a superior pleasure. In other words: you don’t know what delight is. God designed many pleasant things for us. But He did not design us for those things. He designed us for Himself. For us who are made in His image, there is a greater delight than can be found in any creature. That delight is delight in the Creator.

Now, here comes the part that requires the greatest humility. We have to admit that we simply don’t enjoy God like we should. The greatest commandment is to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, but as soon as we are told to spend an entire day with Him, we begin proposing all of the alternative things that we might prefer. Our chief end is to enjoy Him forever, but we have an entire list of things that—when push comes to shove—our heart of hearts finds more joy in. But He uses this day to train our hearts: “then you shall delight yourself in Yahweh.”

It’s the Lord who made those things for us. But He made us for Himself. Jesus knew this and felt this and lived this. If we trust in Him, we have the glorious promise that His obedience is counted for us as if we had done it. And, if we trust in Him, we have another glorious promise: that when we see Him, we shall be like Him. Don’t you want that? Don’t you want to delight in God Himself more than in any of His gifts? He will surely do it. Here’s what He uses though: set apart the Lord’s Day as holy!

**Who cares most for your joy? What are some evidences of that? What is the biggest one?**

*Sample prayer: O glorious and ever-blessed God, who have made us for Yourself and redeemed us for Yourself, forgive us for when we insist upon rejoicing more in created things than in You, Our Creator. Bless unto us Your day, week by week, and use it to train our hearts in the pleasures of heaven, for we ask it in Your Name, who are Yourself the very heavenliness of heaven, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP118D “Now Open Wide the Gates” or TPH153 “O Day of Rest and Gladness”**

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

So, let's take heed to our hearts that we hear these words. Isaiah 58 verses, 13 and 14. D's are the words of God.

If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath from doing your pleasure, on my holy day, I'm call the Sabbath. A delight. The Holy day of Yahweh, honorable and shall honor him. Not doing your own ways. Nor finding your own pleasure nor speaking. Your own words than you shall delight yourself in Yahweh and I will cause you to ride on the high heels of the earth and feed you with the heritage of Jacob, your father, the mouth of Yahweh spoken.

And then so, and the earlier part of the chapter, the Lord was actually rebuking Israel. Both for their keeping and observing some of the things that he has commanded because they were keeping it in a way that he had not commanded with a heart and desire that they had not commanded.

And then he was also rebuking them for not living lives that that show love for him and worshiping for him.

And so, one of the things that they were doing wrong is they thought that the point of Sabbaths and the religious ceremonies of the Lord had commanded was to make them feel miserable and that if they felt badly enough, if they were willing to endure enough religion for God's sake, Then God would give them the stuff that they would want, But they weren't getting the stuff that they wanted.

And the Lord told them when you fast like that, when you treat me like a god who wants you to be miserable. And when you treat me, like you're being miserable earns, the stuff that you really want from me. You a make me out to be an ogre who enjoys your pain and B show that you don't and join me or delight in me.

So the big problem by the time we and people who do that, you know, if they don't enjoy God and the light of God, then they don't value God's image in others. And I treat each other for you which he also reviews in the middle of the chapter. So by the time we get to verses 13 and 14 which are our portion just now we're realizing something about the Israelites that is correcting that is also true of our own hearts.

And that is we don't find God as delightful as we ought to and God's prescription. For that disease is the Sabbath His holy day and referring to it as his holy day. Actually prepares us for what the Christian Sabbath comes to be called in the New Testament, which is the Lord's day.

You know. And the apostle John says that Revelation chapter 1 is not just building upon the fact that for a generation at that point that had been the day of Jesus, the day of the Lord Jesus, for the church that they would know. In that sense what he means from.

These says, the Lord, the Lord's day. It's also building upon Isaiah, 58, 13 and 14 in which the Lord gives the Sabbath different name. He says my holy day so that we will know that it is the Lord's day. Now The Lord's day is to be kept by delighting in the Lord which is God's method by which he trains us to delight in him more.

So he says, if you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, there's two things going on here. One is feet that wants to do what they want to do and then God's comes and he says, no, this one's my. Holy day on this day, your feet to do what I say to do, okay?

You have liberty in the service and enjoyment of God. The other six days to turn your foot in whatever direction is is not sinful and you are the decider of that. The Lord's day, God has specific place for you to go. Where do you go on the Lord's day?

Sophia.

I didn't hear her, But you go to church, right? You go to the assembly of God's people, You go to other acts of worship, You go to do those specific things for which God has prescribed the day. But this turning away your foot from the Sabbath is also has a fuller or a second.

Meaning that is part of the full meaning, which is turning away. Your foot from trampling, the Sabbath. So that when he gets into the the rest of the verse, they're not going your doing your own ways or finding your own pleasure speaking, your own words, he's already said at the beginning of the verse that if we do want to decide for ourselves, what is enjoyable.

If you've ever heard anyone say, well, this is how I relax and God wants me to be rested. And that's what the Sabbath is about. From God describes that as a trampling of his Sabbath, a stomping on his Sabbath.

He says, don't you stop on. Don't you trample my Sabbath?

Okay. He says, so if you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, don't stomp on the Sabbath from doing your pleasure, on my holy day here, the contrast there between the your and the mind it's a day that is consecrated in a special way by God to himself so that we don't do our pleasure.

Why? Well, he goes on the sand. Call the Sabbath of the light. So who has decided, what should be our pleasure on that day? God has he says call the Sabbath at the light and the Holy day of Yahweh. Honorable So there's a pleasure competition on the Lord's Day.

Is it going to be? Is it going to be our day? Or is it going to be his day? So you call the Sabbath of the light in the Holy day if you always honorable and shall honor him. Now, the word honor means way to. So, the day ought to be a weighty thing.

Why? Well, you call the Holy day, of Yahweh, honorable and honor him verse 13. So the day is wagey because he is weighty, Think about it, There's a day that's been consecrated by God for you to delight in the day, by delighting, in him, by spending the day, in worship.

If we take that lightly, are we not saying that the pleasure of God is a small thing or the worship of God? The enjoyment of God or the worshiping of God, our small things, The word honorable means heavy way too. The Lord is a great and infinite God. And when he gives himself to be our pleasure, that should be a great and weighty and good pleasure.

So We call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of Yahweh, honorable and we honor him by what not doing our own ways or finding our own pleasures. Speaking our own words or what does that mean? Who's gonna come up with the things to do and the thing on what to enjoy and what kind of conversations to have, If we don't come up with them who comes up with them, God does.

Now there's a sense in which you kind of wish you just had that the other six days, it would sure. Help with decision making. If the Lord told you what that whole day was for, but there are many things that each of us have to do. And we have different roles in life and scripture, instructive wisdom has to help us on those days.

But on the Lord's days, He's given us what to do, what to enjoy and the kind of words to speak. Then it gets very exciting in verse 14 because he says, if you enjoy having a day like that, then he's going to use it to do something in you verse 14, then you shall delight yourself in your way.

So a lot of people when they first come they first hear about keeping the Lords that they say oh that sounds. So miserable. So yeah, that sounds miserable because you haven't started keeping the Lord. Stay yet. Sounds miserable because you don't enjoy him. But the Lord's day is an instrument by which he trains you to enjoy it and if you keep it, he makes you this promise through the keeping of it through his blessing to you that keeping of it, you will start to enjoy him more However, much you think you enjoy him.

Now you will more truly and more intensely enjoy him. The more you keep his day as consecrated unto him a day of delighting in him. And when you first start out, yes to your worldly heart, that enjoys the things he gives more than him himself, it will not be as enjoyable but the more he blesses the day to you to delight in himself, the more you'll delight to come and enjoy his day and as you delight in his day more what will he use that to do?

Increase your delight in him and the more you delight in Him, what will you find more delightful His day? Do you see the the good and generous and kind design of God for the keeping of his Sabbath? So if we find ourselves, we hear this doctrine and we're resistant to it.

And we've got all of these arguments for the things that we would enjoy more than God himself for keeping of the day. Well, we're just at the beginning of it and we ought to obey because he's God and it says prerogative to command us, but we ought also to be incentivized all the more to obey.

Because he's a good and generous God who he himself is the most pleasurable. Most delightful more than all of the things taken together and His design for the day is that of kindness to make us to enjoy Him more than the created things, more than all those things that all the anti-sabitarrians argue for doing instead because that's just what they find relaxing and enjoyable What a self-demning way to reason.

But our God is good and merciful because then, you shall delight yourself in Yahweh and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth and feed you with the heritage of Jacob. Your father, you see the Israelites thought If we do all this miserable religious stuff and we endure, the pain of spending time consecrated unto God in these fasts and other other days and observances from the ceremonial law, Then God will give us to rule the rest of the nations and possess the gates of our enemies.

Just like you would give to the Israelites to rule all the nations and possess the gates of our enemies. That's what we want. But what is the Lord saying You saying actually riding on the high hills of the earth isn't to dominate the other nations? It's to have me and be kings and queens and princes and princesses

who have fellowship with the living?

God, who is the king of kings and the heritage of Jacob, your father isn't to inherit a strip of land in the ancient Near East, the heritage of Jacob. Your father is the Lord Himself. He is our inheritance, He is our portion. He is our heritage and if you really want these promises fulfilled, then the path is the enjoyment of the Lord himself and the mechanism by which he gives to come into that and enjoyment is the good keeping of his day.

Which means some of your little ones that when there's something else that you want to do on a Lord's Day and we say this isn't today for that or we ask you, what day is this and what is this date for that? We're not trying to be mean in order to stop you from doing those things that you think are fun.

We are trying to love you. Like God loves you and help you find Him to be more joy than any other activity or any other thing. And you that may encourage you to know that this is something that every one of us is still growing in, you know, the way our hearts reproach us, when we find ourselves thinking, I wish I could just do this chore or hurry up and finish that or maybe even enjoy this other thing.

And we find that reflex in our hearts. And we say, oh Lord, help me because I still delight in your gifts, more than a new yourself, in a lot of ways blessed to me, this Lord's day, blessed to me, the keeping of your Sabbath now. By making my heart to grow in, its delighting in you.

So wonderful design for a wonderful command and gift of God. That is the fourth commandment. Let's ask him to bless it to us. Our father in heaven. Thank you for your Word for the way you correct. Our spiritual foolishness. We thank you for the gift of the Sabbath. We thank you for the gift of the Lord's Day which Christ our God and Savior as consecrated unto himself.

We pray that you would help us and the keeping of at least by week that you would train our hearts to delight in you that indeed we would ride on the high notes and inherent have possessed the heritage of Jacob. Our father, who has these things in Jesus name?

Amen.