

## Arise, Shine! – Isaiah 60:1-9

**Introduction** – “I believe that there are some Christian men who have wasted a large part of their lives for want of somebody or something to wake them up” – Spurgeon. The call here, however, is not to an individual man per se, but to the church corporately. “Arise, shine, for your light has come!” Jesus would say to His disciples, “You are the light of the world” (Matt 5:14). You, the church, are light to a dark world not because of yourselves, but because “the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.”

**The Victory of the Gospel** – In Chapter 59 the horrific news of our fallen nature in Adam was made explicit (vv1-15) and Paul uses this passage to bolster his argument that all persons, all peoples, are lost - “all have fallen short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:9-23). Then, in 59:15-21, the Good News of salvation through Christ alone is declared, and Paul uses this passage to make clear the mystery that Jew and Gentile alike, in fact, the whole world, will be brought to salvation (Rom 11:25-27). Looking ahead, Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1-2 in His hometown, declaring that “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:16-21). The point is that this section of Isaiah is a prophecy of the glorious and victorious Gospel brought forth by Jesus and extended by His church in this age.

**The Redeemer Has Come** (vv1-9) – Zion, this congregation of Jew and Gentile, are called to “arise” and “shine” (59:20, 60:1) for the Redeemer, “your light,” has come. They are shining because the glory of the LORD is risen upon them. In contrast to this, all other peoples are surrounded in darkness (v2). Yet, because of the glory of this light from the LORD, the peoples, kings and their nations, will come (v3). The abundance of the elect from the sea/Gentiles will be turned to them as they see their radiant joy (vv4-5). On the one hand, he sees the caravans from the east coming and “they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD” bringing their gifts “they shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, and I will glorify the house of My glory” (vv6-7). Then he turns and sees the fleets coming from the west flying like clouds to make their homes in Zion, “to bring your sons from afar...to the name of LORD your God, and the Holy One of Israel” (vv8-9). This is all to occur because “He has glorified you “ (v9).

**Basking in the Light** – In order to shine the Light of the gospel to the world around us, we must first be people who bask in that Light. Do you love to bask in the Light of God’s truth and presence like you might long to be on a warm beach today, basking in the sun? Many are drawn by what the Light reveals of the kingdom, the gifts of a moral-compass, family values, children, like-minded friends, a sense of steadiness and purpose to life. It only takes a little while and we begin to idolize these things because we have forgotten our first love (Rev 2:4).

Basking in the Light means remembering, enjoying, and glorifying God for everything He is as well as for what He has given us, “For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor 4:6). God grant us a growing revival of love for Him in the knowledge of what has happened to us (Eph 1:16-19).

**Reflections of that Light** – The Gentiles come to our light and kings to the brightness of our rising, that is, God expects the world to come to the church-gathered for salvation. But we shine light like the moon does. It is real light in the midst of gross darkness, but it is the reflection of a Light which has come to us. And then they find that the Sun rises upon them as well. In other words, our good works do shine the light (Matt 5:16) but done in love and gratitude for the Lord and in humility, the glory of the Lord is revealed through us. In that sense, we do not produce light, we reflect the light shining upon us. If we walk in the light, we have a fellowship with one another the world cannot access (1 John 1:7). God is light (1 John 1:5) and so we bear witness not simply to walking in a particular manner but abiding in Someone Who is that light.

You and I know that our lives are far from perfect. But do not forget that we are a people who enjoy forgiveness, peace with God, and the fruit of the Spirit in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. There is much light to shine (Phil 2:14-16a).

**Illuminating the Darkness** – God, Who is the Word, spoke the Word, and He Who is Light said, “Let there be light” and creation began. Jesus, the Word of God, said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12). The Old Creation had fallen into darkness and the New Creation Jesus brought gave light. The church is that light to the world – now. We are to walk in the light (John 12:35-36). But hear this: you are to shine not only in obedience to what you are. You are to shine because that light is efficacious. “Doubt no longer; he that bids you sow intends to give a harvest; and he will bless your sowing if you will but sow in faith” – Spurgeon.