

---

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. ISAIAH

---

## CHAPTERS 40-66

---

### Lesson 9: 58:1-59:21 - Worship with proper motives

#### Introduction

Consider the different aspects of the Christian worship service (invocation, hymns, confession and absolution, readings, sermon, confession of faith, communion, and blessing). Then, answer the following questions.

What section of the worship service do you most enjoy?

What section of the worship service is it easiest to be disengaged?

How do we approach temptations to just fall into mindless formalism?

**Lesson Goal: To renew our desire to engage in the worship service through the Gospel.**

#### Why do you worship? (58:1-14)

In verse 2, the Lord confronts the insincerity of Israel's worship. They went through the motions, but the motives were improper. In what ways can we fall into insincere worship today?

Let's talk about the practice of fasting.

Why did Biblical figures do it?

Have you ever fasted?

What are the benefits of fasting?

How can this practice be abused?

Referencing verses 3-5, what was God's problem with their fasting?

According to verses 6-7, what would God prefer them to do instead of these insincere fasts?

In verse 13, God instructs them to not trample on the Sabbath. They would do this by following the Sabbath laws with sincerity.

Consider the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment and Luther's explanation. How do we honor the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment today?

Why don't we have to take a day of rest as they did?

According to verse 14, Israel would be blessed if they observed the Lord's Sabbath. Why would they be blessed?

Agree or disagree: America would be blessed if more people would go to church on Sunday.

### **God gives what we don't deserve (59:1-21)**

According to verse 2, what separates a person from God?

Verses 3-8 are similar to Romans 3:9-20 which teaches the doctrine of total depravity. What can a person do by nature apart from the Holy Spirit?

According to verses 13-15, the LORD looked at them and saw wickedness. No one from among them could intervene. Who alone could intervene to establish righteousness?

The fulfillment of verse 20 is told to us in Romans 11:25-27. Jesus is the redeemer that the LORD promised. This truth moves us to worship God.

According to verse 21, God's word shall not depart from the mouth of the offspring of Christ. In a worship service that gives thanks to Christ, what should take center stage?

How does God's Word take center stage in our worship? Consider the following aspects.

The building -

The songs -

The structure -



### **Conclusion**

What moves us to be engaged in the worship service?