

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 33 – Suppressed Truth

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Does the corruption in this nation bother you? Does the immorality in this nation bother you? Does it bother you that unrighteous, ungodly men seem to rule or that they get to high places and all of a sudden, you've discovered the corruption within their souls? Does it bother you? Do you know why that's happened? It's happened because **"...truth has stumbled in the [streets]..." (Isaiah 59:14)** and that's what we'll look at today.

PART ONE

All this week we're looking at ten things that happen when truth stumbles in the streets. It is amazing as you read Isaiah 58, 59 and 60 to see the darkness that comes into a society because they have turned away from truth. The other thing that you see that happens in a society is God is unable, in a sense, to demonstrate Himself as God. Why? Because He can't act on your behalf if you're going to walk in the darkness, if you're going to walk in a lie, if you're going to refuse to walk in the light of truth. Well remember Isaiah

chapter 59, verse 14 says this, **“Justice is turned back, and righteousness [is] far away...,”** why? **“...For truth has stumbled in the street, and uprightness cannot enter. Yes, truth is lacking; and he who turns aside from evil....”** In other words, wants to do right, **“...Makes himself a prey.”** (Isaiah 59:14-15) So it is very demoralizing when a nation turns from truth and it keeps God from blessing them. Let’s look at it. Remember, I’m giving you ten things. Well this is number four. When truth stumbles in the streets, number four: you keep God from demonstrating who He is. You keep God from demonstrating who He is as God; His power to hear, His power to rescue. That’s Isaiah 59, verses 1 and 2. **“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor...His ear so dull that it cannot hear.”** (Isaiah 59:1) He wants us to know that **“...[His] hand is not...short that it cannot save [you]...,”** (Isaiah 59:1) that it cannot rescue you. You’ve seen those movies where the arm is reaching down to somebody that is clinging to a branch or a tree or something like that, and about to fall or about to go off the cliff, and one hand is trying to reach the other hand to grab it, to pull it up to rescue. And He’s saying, “Look, God’s hand is not so short that it cannot save you. That’s not why you’re not being saved. His ear is not so dull that He cannot hear. That’s not why God’s not answering. God’s not answering you because He can’t hear you.” He says, **“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and...God....”** (Isaiah 59:2) God’s not getting ’cause His hand is short. He’s not getting you because of your sin. God’s not hearing you because He’s deaf, He’s not hearing you because of your sin. He says. **“...Your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”** (Isaiah 59:2) He’s turned His face away from you and He’s not listening; not that He can’t hear you, but He’s not listening to your cry because of your sin. God says in the Scriptures, **“...Be [ye] sure your [sins] will find you out.”** (Numbers 32:23) God cannot bless those that continue in rebellion against Him. God cannot bless those that do not honor His Word, that do not want truth. God

cannot bless you. It goes against His character. He is righteous. He is just and He cannot act unjustly in blessing you in your unrighteousness. So this is what He wants you to see. All right, now what He tells us, and this is verses 1 and 2 and this is point number four: you keep God from demonstrating that He is God, because He is able to be God but He will not override sin. All right, the fifth thing that I want you to see is this: that when truth stumbles in the streets, iniquity is conceived in the hearts of people and that iniquity destroys others. And we see this in chapter 59 in verses 3 through 8. So let's look at it. He says, **"For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity...."** (Isaiah 59:3) Remember we said, "What are you doing with your fingers? Where are they going? What are they touching? What are they typing? What are you saying through your fingers as you get on your cell phones and all of that?" He says **"...Your lips have spoken falsehood, your tongue mutters wickedness."** (Isaiah 59:3) You know how people go on the Internet and how they're trapping pedophiles and others, because what's happening is, their tongues are false and then they are muttering wickedness and they're saying, "Oh meet me, oh let's talk." And then all of a sudden there is a disappearance or there is a destruction. He says, **"No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly...."** (Isaiah 59:4) And literally, that's in truth. No one's pleading in truth. They're being deceptive. **"...They trust in confusion and [they] speak lies...."** (Isaiah 59:4) Do you have somebody that's constantly confusing you? You watch out. Some of you are married to men or to women that are abusing you. And they'll say nice things to you and then the next time they're whopping you across the face, or they're pushing you up against a wall or they're yelling at you, or they're reviling you. And then a little bit later they're sending you flowers. I want to tell you something, if you're not married to that person and that's going on in your dating life, you get out of there. You are an absolute fool if you stay. You will never change them. You will never convert them. Only God can do that and you wait until

He does and you wait until it has been proven that they have been converted. Some of you are taught that you deserve what you're getting, that it's you that makes them angry, that it's you that makes them beat them up, that it's you that is causing this anger in, in them. That is a lie. This is a person that "truth has stumbled in the street." This is a person that is conceiving iniquity and is going to destroy you. Watch what He says. It says, **"No one sues righteously...."** I want to go back and read verse 4 again. **"...No one pleads [in truth]. They trust in confusion [they] speak lies; they conceive mischief...."** They're thinking about how they can do what's wrong and they **"...bring forth iniquity."** (Isaiah 59:4) There are people that in their mischief, in what they're doing, they are really bringing forth iniquity. You know one of my pet peeves is all the graffiti that you see on walls and monuments and things like that. And I think, just when you catch them, take off one finger. Just amputate their finger. And then as you amputate their fingers they'll learn not to do that. You say you sound hard and tough. Listen, what they're doing is wrong. These are people that are conceiving mischief and in conceiving mischief they're bringing forth iniquity. That's a sin that they're doing. He says, **"They hatch adders' eggs and [they] weave the spider's web...."** They're setting on an egg. They hatch it and the person **"...who eats...."** Listen to what He says. **"He who eats of their eggs dies....,"** why? Because they're hatching something that is destructive. **"...And from that which is crushed a snake breaks forth."** (Isaiah 59:5) They sit on an egg; it's crushed and an adder comes out and stings and poisons people. He goes on to say, **"Their webs will not become clothing...."** (Isaiah 59:6) They're weaving a web and they think it's going to hide them. **"..Their webs will not become clothing, nor will they cover themselves with their works...."** (Isaiah 59:6) There are people, there are people that are doing things that are sinful and they're covering it with their works. You've seen this and you seen it in the Catholic church and you've seen it in other denominations. You've seen it in people that are immoral

and seductive and involved in seducing other men or seducing women. And what He's saying here is, **"Their webs will not become [their] clothing, nor will they cover themselves with...works...."** (Isaiah 59:6) You see when truth stumbles in the streets we want to cover ourselves and disguise ourselves and look like we're all right, and God says O no, **"Their webs will not become clothing, nor will they cover themselves with their works; their works are works of iniquity...."** (Isaiah 59:6) There are so many people that have been hurt in the name of God. There are so many people that have been mistreated and misused and abused by those who, in a sense, put a collar around their neck or put a "Reverend" in front of their name of a "Father" or a "Pastor". He says, **"...An act of violence is in their hands, their feet run to evil...they hasten to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, devastation and destruction are in their highways. They do not know the way of peace, and [there's] no justice in their tracks...."** (Isaiah 59:6-8) Pretty bad, isn't it? We'll talk about it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

It's frustrating, isn't it, when you expect justice and you don't get it. It's frustrating when you look at someone and you think, this is not right, the way they're living, the way they're talking, the way they're treating people, the way they're handling their finances, the way their relationships are going. It's not right. That's right. Truth has stumbled in the streets because what's worse is, they profess themselves to be followers of Jesus Christ. They profess to be believers in God, and yet they're living contrary to that. Well in this next segment that we're looking at we are still looking at the fact of what happens when truth stumbles in the streets. Iniquity is conceived and it destroys. And then what we're going to see is that justice and righteousness are far away. I want to make sure that we cover this and that you understand it. So let me go back, 'cause we had a break right in the

middle of the fact that iniquity is conceived and it destroys. So let's go back to verse 7 of Isaiah 59. **"Their feet run to evil...they hasten to shed innocent blood...."** (Isaiah 59:7) How many church members have had an abortion? How many church members have told their daughter's "Oh well, you know you made a mistake and everything, but we'll just get you an abortion. You don't need to say a thing to anyone." What are they doing? Abortion takes innocent blood. Abortion takes a life that God brought into existence. Psalm 139 says **"...You formed...me in my mother's womb."** (Psalm 139:13) In abortion you are playing God. You are saying, "Okay, God, You created, but I have the right to destroy." And so this is what happens when truth stumbles in the streets. What we do is, we take the Word of God and we distort the Word of God or we alter it by our circumstances and we say, "I know that God means this, but—" or "I know that it says this, but—," and the same thing is happening in, immorality, saying it's all right to have sex outside of marriage, it's all right to have sex with a child, as an adult, it is all right to have sex, one man with another man, or a woman with a woman, it's all right and you see it. And you see top leaders in the United States of America and what are they saying? "My daughter, my son, my family member is a lesbian or is a homosexual or whatever, and it is all right, and I'm going to love them and I'm going to embrace them." Love, them; they're your children. But tolerate their sin? No; endorse their sin? No; excuse their sin and say it's genetic? No, no, it goes against the Word of God and truth is stumbling in the streets. And that's what's happening in the United States of America. We are not pursuing righteousness. Rather, what we are doing is, we are conceiving iniquity; and listen to me carefully, it will destroy our nation. As a matter of fact, we are under the judgment of God. God can't bless us when we're walking in sin. So this is what it says, **"Their feet run to evil...they hasten to shed innocent blood; their thoughts of iniquity, devastation and destruction are in their highways. They do not know the way of peace...there is no justice in their tracks; they have**

made their paths crooked....,” why? Because they’ve departed from the Word of God. **“...Whoever treads on them does not know peace.” (Isaiah 59:7-8)** Have you got it? This is what happens. It puts death, it puts destruction on the highway. Now what’s the next point? The next point is number six out of the ten that I’m giving you this week, of ten things that happen when truth stumbles in the streets. And the sixth thing is this: that justice and righteousness are far away. They’re far away. Watch verse 9. **“Therefore....” (Isaiah 59:9)** When you see a “therefore” it’s a term of conclusion, and if you are downloading our free study guides, and I hope that you’re doing that so that you can study the Word of God, so you can learn how to observe the text. But one of the things that we teach you to look for is “terms of conclusion.” And we say when you see a “therefore” or a “wherefore” or whatever, look at what the “therefore” is there for, or the “wherefore” is there. Look for the “wherefore” of the “wherefore” so that you understand. This is a term of conclusion. So He says, **“Therefore justice is far from us....” (Isaiah 59:9)** and I mark “therefore” with three red dots in the shape of a triangle. **“Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us....”** Now watch. **“...We hope for light, but behold, darkness, for brightness, but we walk in gloom. We grope along the wall like blind men, we grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at midday as in the twilight....” (Isaiah 59:9-10)** I broke my foot in the twilight. I broke my foot in the dark of night. I stumbled. They’re stumbling in the daylight as they would stumble in the twilight. **“...Among those who are vigorous we are like dead men. All of us [groan] like bears, and [we] moan sadly like doves; we hope for justice, but there is none, for salvation, but it is far from us.”** Why? **“For our transgressions are multiplied before You [God] and our sins testify against us....” (Isaiah 59:10-12)** You see God never changes what is sin. And God has laid it down very clearly what is sin. Read Romans 1 and you will find out what happens when truth stumbles in the streets; when men

know God and they glorify Him not as God, when they become vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart become darkened and they profess themselves to be wise, but they are fools. (PARAPHRASE, Romans 1:21-23) He says, **“...For... our sins testify against us...our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities: transgressing and denying the LORD, and turning away from our God....”** (Isaiah 59:12-13) And that’s what happens when we distort the Scriptures and say, “Hey, immorality’s all right, homosexuality’s all right, abortions are all right, stealing is all right.” He says, **“...Transgressing and denying the LORD and turning away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving in and uttering from the heart lying words.”** (Isaiah 59:13) That’s not truth. **“Justice is turned back...righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the street, and uprightness cannot enter.”** (Isaiah 59:14) Does it make you sick when you look at our society? I pray it does. I pray that it makes you sick. I pray that it grieves you. I pray that it causes you to groan and moan and weep before God. Because if you are groaning and moaning and weeping, that’s because you see that truth has stumbled in the streets and that’s why people are in bondage and in darkness, and that’s why it’s getting worse and worse in our society. O Beloved, be valiant; stand for Him. We’ll talk about that in the days to come.