



Isaiah was written about seven centuries before Christ, warning the people of Israel that they were on a path leading to God’s judgment. But judgment isn’t the end of the story. There is also comfort in the promise that God will have compassion, and ultimately rescue His people through His Servant. Isaiah also offers us the opportunity to ask the questions: What path are WE on? What is the way forward?

**Week Ten:** FUTURE HOPE

**Text:** Isaiah 65

This week we saw the contrast between those who live as servants of God and those who have forsaken Him. We should not assume that just because we call ourselves Christians that we are incapable of forsaking our God. In fact, like the Jewish people of Isaiah’s day, we are capable of rejecting God’s ways and doing the opposite of what He commands while believing we have godly motives for doing so. Isaiah presents an alternative. As servants of God, we can focus on the future hope of eternity with Him in such a way that it motivates us to action today.

**Discussion Questions:** *The following are based on the “My Application” Questions found in the bulletin this week. Leader urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.*

- Describe a time in your life when hope for the future motivated you to action.
- In Isaiah 65, the people of God were rejecting God and calling it holy. What are ways we can fall into this trap today? (Example: Sharing a prayer request that is actually gossip or slander.)
- Isaiah 65 describes people who are God’s servants and people who forsake God. Read vs. 8-16. Describe an area of your life where you have struggled with forsaking God rather than being His servant. Are there any steps you can take today to invite God to help you in this area?
- When you think about how Isaiah describes the hope of our future with God (v. 17-25) what is one thing that stands out that you are most looking forward to?
- How can your future hope of eternity with God motivate you to action today?

**Application:**

- Mark shared a quote by Paul Tripp. In summary, we if we don't properly focus on the paradise to come with Jesus, we will try to make this poor broken world into the paradise it can never become. This week, ask yourself this: "How am I expecting THIS world to be my paradise? What do I do as a result of that expectation? How is that effort contributing to my frustration or unhappiness? How can my future hope of eternity with God motivate me to action instead?"

**Memory Verse:**

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.  
This inheritance is kept in heaven for you."*

*1 Peter 1:3-4*

**Prayer Time:**

Pair up and share your thoughts on this question:

- What in your life is painful or discouraging or causes you anxiety?

Pray for each other:

- Ask God to reveal how your troubles look in light of eternity with Him. Ask Him to show you what he wants you to do in response to that revelation.