GOOD NEWS FROM THE BIBLE

(Isaiah 61:1-3, v10-11)

INTRODUCTION

The television news, the newspapers, gives plenty of bad news to us.

Here's good news: (Mark 1:14-15) "After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, preaching the **gospel (good news)** of the kingdom of God, saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the **gospel (good news).**"

WHAT DOES THE "GOOD NEWS" OF THE BIBLE DO FOR US?

1. (Prov. 15:30) "Bright eyes gladden the heart; good news puts fat on the bones."

The proverb is not speaking about physical fattening; rather, good news strengthens us, makes us feel better, and makes the heart glad.

The gospel (good news) does that: (1 Peter 2:2; Eph. 6:10-11)

2. (Prov. 25:25) "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."

When one is thirsty, parched, and dry-mouthed, there is one desire: cool, cool water. (Mtt. 5:6) "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: they shall be filled" (Psalm 42:1-2) "... my soul thirsts for God, for the living God"

3. (Isaiah 61:1) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings (good news) to the afflicted ... "

Isaiah, in prophetic language, reveals the good news that God is promising through his Son a message of hope, deliverance, and salvation for all.

(v1) "to bind up the broken-hearted"

These soon to be captive Israelites were grieving over their rejection of God, were sin-sick, discouraged, and in need of relief.

When our sins break our heart, we have a Great Physician: Hymn #291

- (v1) "to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (John 8:31-32; Rms. 6:17-18)
- (v2) "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord ... " (Gal. 4:3-5)
- (v2) "to comfort all that mourn" (Matt. 5:4)
- (v3) "to give them beauty for ashes" Good news! God's amazing grace can take the ugliness of ashes and replace them with the beauty of forgiveness.
- **4.** (Mark 16:15-16) "he said to them, Go ye into all the world, preach the gospel (good news) to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved ..."