

Sermon Discussion Questions
September 30, 2018

The Guide to Future Hope | Isaiah 2

1. This message begins with a story from Pastor Jim's days at the University of Michigan and a surprising memory that brings joy to this day. What are a few things from your past that unexpectedly make you the happiest today?
2. It is easy to get caught up in desiring "the latest and greatest." We have so much right at our fingertips. In Isaiah 2:6-8, God shows us that this can look like:
 - a. seeking after wisdom,
 - b. striving for wealth and prosperity
 - c. getting wrapped up in politics,
 - d. being hooked on the latest technological trend

Is there anything you are currently turning to for joy that may potentially lead to future idolatry? Is God calling you to set aside the things of this world that may be pulling you away from Him?

3. In Isaiah 2:17-18 it says, "The arrogance of man will be brought low and human pride humbled; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day, and the idols will totally disappear."

What in this world or in your life has brought you pride or arrogance? How might the Lord be calling you to humble yourself now and seek future joy? If you feel God pulling you away from a temporary fulfillment of joy, what might He be pushing you toward?

4. Jim tells us that the Church is what God is pushing us toward. The New Testament tells us that the Church is:
 - a. the temple of God
 - b. the place where God dwells among us in a powerful way
 - c. and the institution that the gates of hell will not overcome.

Is the Church the place where you come to learn God's ways? If so, what has God been teaching you? Is the Church where you study God's law? If so, what has God been revealing to you through it? Is the Church where you are bearing fruit that will last for eternity?

5. Jim shared in his sermon this morning that the Church is how we invest in future joy. We know that the stuff that God is doing here has a future. How might you further invest in His Kingdom, the only thing that will give an eternal return on your investment?