

Pastor Brian's  
Mid Week Message  
July 28, 2021

**"A WASHOUT!"**

*"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:9-10)*

Typically, at this time of day (about 10:00am), as I write this, I would be on the tennis court. I'm not because a whole bunch of rain moved over Venice, and our tennis club, around 8:30 this morning. Even if it stops (it hasn't yet) it'll take a few hours for the courts to dry and be playable again, provided that another shower doesn't move in. I'm okay with this "washout". It saves me money on gas, and I have plenty to occupy my "extra time". Besides, I love the rain.



In the verse above, from Isaiah 55, I wish God had left out the snow part. I don't like snow at all! I do realize though that snow is a vital part of the water cycle for points farther north. I just don't need to personally be reminded of that. Rain is an interesting and amazing thing. It just does what it's supposed to do...it gets things wet. Rain is a gift from God that He literally sends down from the heavens, and without it we wouldn't be able to live on this planet. Water is essential for life, any and all life! Our bodies are even made up of a

majority of water...up to about 60%. When God sends rain, it does exactly what He sends it to do, get things wet. I think sometime the rain tries to be an overachiever, which causes floods. The lesson to be learned here is to never try to do more than we're supposed to...that tends to bring problems. At least, that's the way I see it. God sends the rain (again, we'll ignore the snow part) in order to make plants sprout and grow on the earth. The rain isn't responsible for the sprouting and growing, that's a miracle of our almighty God, but it's a needed tool that God uses to make it happen. In the end, God's purpose is fulfilled in providing bread, food, for people, and seed so that a lasting supply of that food can be maintained. You and I, God's redeemed children in Christ, are a lot like the rain, except that we don't get things wet...at least we shouldn't, not our job! But we do deliver from heaven life giving water, the Living Water of the Holy Spirit that comes in the Word of God. Our job is to deliver that water of God's Living Word, the Spirit of Jesus, to all the earth, to all people, so that they might have eternal life in Him. We too must be careful not to try to overachieve, because that will cause problems. Our role is not to provide life and salvation, only Christ can do that, and He already has done that for all people. It's there for the receiving in His perfect life, His sacrificial death that atones for all sin, and His glorious resurrection that justifies us before the Father. Because He lives we live also. We don't, we can't bring about life. That's uniquely the job of God the Holy Spirit, "the Lord and Giver of life". (Nicene Creed, Article 3) God's purpose in sending out His Word through us, the Church, is to provide life giving eternal Bread, the Bread of Life Himself...Jesus (John 6)...for all to eat. As more people are fed and eat of this bread the capacity to provide more seed is increased as there are more disciples raining the Word of God down into their homes and communities. It's God that accomplishes this purpose, not us, but He uses us in the process, to do the job.