**Isaiah 50:7-11 “For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. 8*He is* near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who *is* My adversary? Let him come near Me. 9Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who *is* he *who* will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.**

**10“Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord And rely upon his God.
11Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle *yourselves* with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled— This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.**

Tonight, we finish Isaiah 50. In verses 3 through 6, we met the Suffering Servant. We know Him as Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We ended last week with the suggestion of crucifixion and the torment that Jesus suffered on our behalf. Isaiah 50:6 - I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Tonight, we pick up the prophecy in verse 7 - “For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.” Jesus is expressing His confidence in God – this is not a suggestion that He is less than fully man and fully God. He’s expressing a strong faith and confidence in His Father to see Him through whatever He will face – He will soon take on all the sin of humanity! He will shoulder all the sin there ever was and all there ever will be! He knows from whence His help cometh. It’s a reminder that we are never in a situation when we do not need God’s power in our lives. We are to be dependent on Him always and in all ways. Though Jesus is being shamefully treated and abused, both in the presence of Pilate and the high priest, He is not ashamed. He doesn’t defend Himself or His ministry. He is confident that He has completed His work and God is well pleased. In Luke 9:51, it says Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem. Jesus set His whole being upon the Cross and finishing His Mission – He set His face as flint to complete His task of redemption and salvation, He was resolute and steadfast. He would not be denied and He would not be ashamed.

Verse 8 - He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Jesus knows that His Father is near Him through it all – God justified Him. 1 Timothy 3:16 says - And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory. Notice it says He was justified by the Spirit. Likewise, we must be justified by faith – Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, know this, if God had not approved the work of Christ, we would not see the testimony of Acts 1:9 - Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. We know that Satan himself, a beautiful angel created by God could not stand against Christ… who are we to resist Christ? Paul says, in Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? In Acts 5:38-39, Gamaliel said – And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God. And so it is today, what God intends, He will bring to pass.

Verse 9 - Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who *is* he *who* will condemn Me? Verse 9 starts out as verse 7 did – confidence in the Lord. There is a certainty and confidence – no enemy will stand. In Christ, we must have that same confidence! When we are in the will of God, no one can stand against us and our success is certain! Listen to this confidence in Romans 8:33-35 Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? This world can be a challenge, but we must regularly, through prayer and meditation, center our sights back on the cross. We know from whence our help comes! It is the Lord. In the last part of this verse, Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up. Those who contend against God will come to utter ruin and be completely useless – it will happen slowly, like a moth eating away at a garment, but the ruin will be irreversible. This goes for the individual and the Jewish government – This goes for whatever resists God even today.

Verse 10 “Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord And rely upon his God. This is a statement of the Gospel! Obey Jesus, trust in Him and you will no longer walk in darkness. John 1 speaks of Jesus as the Light – He is the Light of Grace to a sin darkened world - and the world did not understand who Jesus is, but John 1:12 says - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. When we believe in His name, we trust and rely upon God. We receive the Light, through the Holy Spirit in our lives. We begin to have understanding of the Gospel, because we obeyed the voice of the Servant. In Luke 12:5 Jesus instructs us to fear the One who can cast our souls into hell. Reverential fear and love of God is bedrock to the Christian walk. Trusting in His sufficiency is our only lasting hope.

In verse 11 - Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle *yourselves* with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled— This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment. Those who reject Jesus reject Him because they have an idol, they have a god, they have a light that they have kindled in this world that they are worshipping rather than the one true Light. John 3:19-21 confirms this - And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” When we worship something other than Jesus, we are rejecting the Light of His Grace. The Servant tells us here that those who reject Him will receive judgement – the judgement is that they shall lie down in torment, they shall go into an everlasting damnation. They are walking in the light of their fire, the fire they kindled – it is all about self! Let’s finish by listening to what Paul said Jesus told him when he spoke to King Agrippa in Acts 26:17-18 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’ How are we sanctified? Through Faith in Christ. Darkness is the domain of Satan. God is Light – 1 John 1:5 - This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Tonight, we have received the message of Hope from the very Light of the World 750 years before He completes His work on the Cross. We must receive this truth with Thanksgiving and the confidence we find in verse 7. God is our help, our hope of eternal salvation. In Him we find our Light and, when we allow this Light to consume us, we find that there is no darkness at all.