

“Seek Ye the Lord”

Isaiah 55:6-13

Introduction:

- A. Seeking the Lord involves:
 - 1. Wanting His blessings.
 - 2. Trusting His word.
 - 3. Adopting His ways.
- B. Seeking the Lord is profitable for 3 good reasons:

Discussion:

- I. His Pardon Is Available. (vv. 6-7).**
 - A. *Abundantly* available—“Will abundantly pardon.” (cf. Rom. 3:23; 5:20; 1 Jno. 1:9).
 - B. *Conditionally* available—“forsake ... return” (cf. Acts 2:38; 22:16; 8:22; 1 Jno. 1:7-9).
 - C. *Presently* available—“While he may be found...near.”
 - 1. God's longsuffering is limited. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:20; Gen. 3:6; 2 Pet. 3:9-10).
 - 2. Our sensitivity is limited. (Heb. 3:12-15; 1 Tim. 4:2; cf. Gen. 19:14).
- II. His Ways Are Superior. (vv. 8-9).**
 - A. We must make His thoughts our thoughts. (cf. 2 Cor. 10:5).
 - 1. Naaman: “Behold I thought...” (2 Kings 5:11).
 - 2. Israel: “Give us a king...” (1 Sam. 8:6).
 - 3. Greeks: (1 Cor. 1:21-31).
 - B. We must make His nature (ways) our way. (2 Pet. 1:2-4).
- III. His Word Is Effective. (vs. 10-11; cf. Heb. 4:12).**
 - A. It *always* accomplished God's intended results.
 - 1. It may not be *when* we expect it.
 - 2. It may not be *what* we expect it.
 - B. It *never* returns void — even with opposite results.
 - 1. Turns some on, others off (cf. Acts 17:32)
 - a. More offended by gospel than by faults of Christians.
 - b. Faults of Christians often just convenient whipping boy.
 - 2. Draws honest closer, drives dishonest further.
 - 3. Unites some—separates others. (cf. Matt. 10:34; Luke 12:51).
 - 4. Melts some—hardens others.
 - C. It always gets results that pleases *Him*.
 - 1. Converts the honest hearts. (Jas. 1:21ff).
 - 2. Turns a way less than honest. (cf. Lk. 18:22; Jno. 6:60).
 - 3. God wants man off dead-center. (cf. Rev. 3:15; Josh 24:14-18; 1 Kings 18:21).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us let God's word do its thing.
 - 1. Without forcing the results we want—Emotionalism, positivism, over-persuasion.
 - 2. Without murmuring against results we don't want — “Just ran them off...”
 - 3. Without undue credit or blame on the sower of the seed.
- B. Let's respect God's thoughts and ways.
- C. Let's find God's pardon — while we can! While have opportunity and interest.