

Explorer's Class

Lesson 200 (awk:Class 200 Jan 29, 12)
January 23 – January 29, 2012

Mon, Jan 23. Read Isaiah 57:1 – 13

pp. 911 – 912

1. a. Why are the righteous “taken away”?

To be spared from evil, to find peace and rest. The ultimate hope for the righteous is for peace after physical death.

b. What is the greatest disaster that can happen to believers today?

To lose their integrity through disobedience and be captured by sin in their lives.

2. a. What do you think is the most egregious sin from these passages? Why?

To turn away from God and toward all the idols of the world. All other sins follow that primary, sinful act.

b. What happens to our “collection of idols”?

The wind will blow them away or even worse, a mere breath will blow them away!

Tue, Jan 24. Read Isaiah 57:14 – 21

pp. 912 – 913

3. Who is responsible for building barriers to our relationship with God?

Man himself; man whom God created. The created man continually attempts to build relationship barriers toward God, the Creator.

4. a. Do these passages refer to God as one who is in a high and exalted place or does He meet His people where they are?

God extends Himself and comes to us. Man's salvation has occurred because of what God has done for us, not by anything we have done.

b. Why is that significant?

We must realize that we owe everything to God including our physical lives here on earth and our hope for eternal life with Him.

Wed, Jan 25. Read Isaiah 58:1 – 5

p. 913

5. What is God condemning in these verses?

Self serving acts which give other people the impression, falsely, of our piety toward God. It is done to show piety, not to be pious! It is deceptive, at best, and more likely an outright lie of actions.

6. When we behave hypocritically, whom are we trying to please?

It is typically self serving so we are trying to please ourselves. We are also trying to please other people. But God knows the truth and the self serving motives we have.

Thu Jan 26. Read Isaiah 58:6 – 14

pp. 913 – 914

7. What does God ask of all believers?

To serve and help other people who are in need. A fact we often overlook is that every person on earth is in need. When we believers have an attitude of service, we will always satisfy needs of other people. We need to be “other” focused, not self indulgent.

8. a. What is our reward for “keeping the Sabbath”?

We will find joy in the Lord. The only lasting joy is found in the Lord! All other sources of joy are only fleeting moments in time.

b. How can we apply that to our lives today?

We must honor the Lord on the Sabbath (Sunday, for believers today) and to “rest” with the profound sufficiency of His presence. That is true rest!

Fri Jan 27. Read Isaiah 59:1 – 15

pp. 914 – 915

9. Is our separation from God due to His actions or to ours?

We (man) are the first cause of separation from God. God’s arms are open wide to receive us in communion and only our actions cause separation.

10. Give examples from this list of sins that we see plainly all around us today.

- Your lips have spoken lies. - No one calls for justice. - They rely upon empty arguments and speak lies. - Their thoughts are evil. - Truth was nowhere to be found.

Sat Jan 28. Read Isaiah 59:16 – 21

pp. 915 – 916

11. Who will call “the colossal bluff” (Ray Ortlund Jr.’s words) of evil in the world?

God Himself! All man must do is repent and obey Him.

12. How has the covenant of God’s Spirit been given to His people today?

Through the in – dwelling Spirit possessed by all believers. The promise of the gift of the Spirit, in this case, was expressed about 500 years before the gift was given to believers as noted in Acts 2:1 – 21.