

My Righteousness Will Be Forever

Isaiah 51

1. A Command to _____ (v. 1-8)
 - a. To those who _____ righteousness (1-3)
 - i. Those who _____ the LORD
 - ii. Children of _____
 - iii. Children of _____
 - b. To those who are _____ righteousness (4-6)
 - i. Due to _____ with God
 - ii. Due to _____ of God
 - iii. Due to _____ of God
 - c. To those who _____ righteousness (7-8)
 - i. With _____ in their heart
 - ii. With _____ in the LORD
2. A Plea for _____ (v. 9-16)
 - a. Asking the LORD to act _____ (9-11)
 - i. Based on the LORD's _____ history
 - ii. Looking to the _____ return
 - b. _____ the request (12-16)
 - i. As the true _____
 - ii. As the true _____
 - iii. As the true (Servant) _____
3. A Command to _____ (v. 17-23)
 - a. To the helpless and the hopeless (17-20)
 - i. Helpless due to God's _____
 - ii. Hopeless due to human _____
 - b. To the wretched and the impaired (21-23)
 - i. Yet with a great _____
 - ii. Yet with the great _____

"The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" *Psalms 118:6*
[God] "gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things which do not exist." *Romans 4:17b*

Who Are God's People?

Thoughts on Isaiah 51:1-8

Isaiah issues a call for a people to "listen" to Him. First, God describes this people as those who "pursue righteousness." These are not people who *are* righteous or who can *attain* righteousness. These are those who pursue righteousness. But how do you do that? *By seeking the LORD*. Righteousness is a word to describe right ethics, attitudes and actions consistent with God's holy character and His revealed law. But pursuing righteousness is actually pursuing God Himself. Only He has (and is) true righteousness.

Secondly, God describes this people commanded to listen to be "my people." This is not a people who deserve God's attention or have an innate righteousness of some kind that merits God's favor. They are simply God's people. Just as the first description emphasizes the people who (by faith) pursue a relationship with God so this second description emphasizes God's continued relationship with them. It is this love God has for His people which is paramount – not their biology, their heritage, their goodness or anything else.

Finally, God describes this people as those who "know righteousness." In other words, God has placed His law upon their hearts. They know righteousness in two ways. They know that God is their righteousness and, by faith, they know that God can work His righteousness through them as they walk with Him. Unlike the world or the world's "righteousness," God's righteousness and His salvation (both found in the Servant – the person of Christ) will last forever.

Read through the Bible in a year!

Aug 29: **Ps 126-128; I Cor 10:19-33** Sep 2: **Psalms 137-139; I Cor 13**
Aug 30: **Psalms 129-131; I Cor 11:1-16** Sep 3: **Ps 140-142; I Cor 14:1-20**
Aug 31: **Ps 132-134; I Cor 11:17-34** Sep 4: **Ps 143-145; I Co 14:21-40**
Sep 1: **Psalms 135-136; I Cor 12**

*** Lord willing, all who complete the reading at the end of the year will be invited to a dinner and celebration at the end of the year!***