

"SEEK YE THE LORD"**Introduction**

1. Isaiah 53: Christ our Saviour
2. Isaiah 54: Christ's Church
3. Isaiah 55: Christ's Invitation

1. IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL TO SEEK THE LORD

- 1) What "seeking the Lord" means:
 - (i) To realize it is possible to know God personally
ILLUSTRATION: Samuel / Nicodemus / Paul...
 - (ii) It is the greatest of blessings. Explain.
 - (iii) No one is born knowing God as a rule:
EXCEPTIONS: John the Baptist...
 - (iv) We have an inward sign when saved
- 2) It is our duty to seek God:
 - (i) because God requires it. Texts
 - (ii) we are foolish to refuse God's appeal
 - (iii) it offends God when men do not seek Him
APPLICATION: Do you realize this is your duty?

2. SEEKING THE LORD INVOLVES PRAYER

- 1) "Call ye upon him": refers to prayer:
 - (i) There is no finding God without prayer
EXAMPLE: King Manasseh; Paul ("Behold...")
 - (ii) God is near to us when we seek him
- 2) God gives us every encouragement:
 - (i) Many texts encourage prayer
 - (ii) If any wishes God's mercy, this is the way to get it.
 - (iii) None who wants God will fail to get him if their wish is sincere.
DOCTRINE: God is near in this life only
APPLICATION:

3. SEEKING THE LORD INVOLVES REPENTANCE

- 1) Repentance means a change of heart:
 - (i) we acknowledge we are "wicked"
 - (ii) we need to "forsake our way"
 - (iii) and alter our "thoughts"
- 2) Is it not worth this to get heaven?
 - (i) consider the end of a godless life
 - (ii) consider the meaning of eternal death
 - (iii) weigh up the preciousness of your soul
 - (iv) see how ready God is to receive you
APPLICATION: Practise repentance as you pray

4. SEEKING THE LORD HAS GOD'S ENCOURAGEMENT

- 1) "Mercy" – "abundantly pardon"!
ILLUSTRATION: the Prodigal Son's experience
- 2) How does God encourage sinners?
 - (i) Look at these words – full of love
 - (ii) Consider what God has done for us in the Person and work of Christ
 - (iii) Realise you can be saved at once
ILLUSTRATION: a long + painful operation
But you are saved as soon as you seek!
 - (iv) Look at the reward: eternal life!
APPLICATION: Is God not very generous to us?

CONCLUSION

1. Who is the kindest man you ever met?
God is kinder!
2. What is the best gift you were ever given?
This is better!
3. What is the best company you ever had?
God's is far better still!

PSALM**1: 1 – 6****42: 8 – 11****105: 1 – 7**