

## **The Sabbath, Foreigners, and Eunuchs Isaiah 56:1-8**

### **What is God calling Israel to do? (vv.1-2)**

Pursue justice and righteousness, keep the Sabbath, and keep from evil.

But he is not calling us to make ourselves good by our own will-power, or to make ourselves good before we can come to God — Isaiah 55 shows how we obey Isaiah 56:

First, we bring our heart-hungers to God in Christ, repenting of our sin, trusting Him as Savior, Lord, and Treasure — then when we are filled with Him, our hearts will be changed, and we will be enabled to obey.

### **What role does the Sabbath have today?**

In the Old Testament God commanded His people to set aside Saturday to rest — especially in Him (Exo 31:15-17, for example).

The Scribes and Pharisees make the Sabbath a day to display their own righteousness, instead of a day to seek rest in God (Mark 3:2, for example).

Jesus taught that He had authority to change the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28).

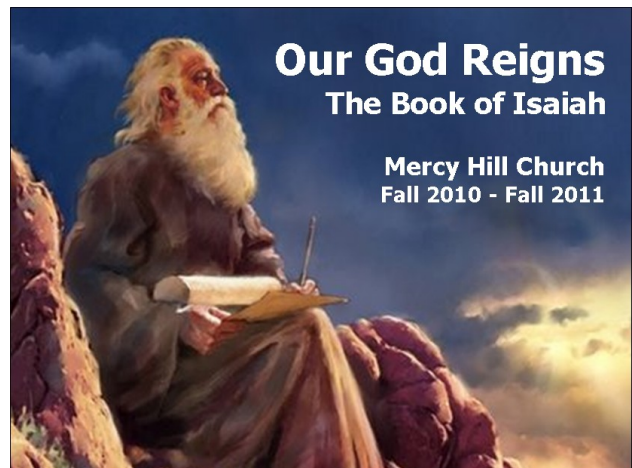
The New Testament shows that Jesus did change the Sabbath: God's people are now the temple (1Cor 3:16), the early church set aside Sunday for worship (Acts 20:7), individual made individual decisions before God about how to rest on Sundays (Rom 14:5).

### **Why should we turn from everything else to pursue God's promises?**

Because what God promises is better than anything this life can offer (vv.3-5).

Because if I am joined to God through Christ then nothing will ever separate me from God's promises (vv.3,6-8).

### **What does this mean for us?**



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

*(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)*

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Have you tried to obey God by your own power? Have you experienced the difference of first seeking His heart-satisfying presence? How have you seen God's presence enabling you to obey?

Have you tried to make yourself good enough to come to God? Can you see that this is not possible? Why is it such good news to be able to come to God through Christ just as we are?

Before this teaching, how important was it for you to set aside a day of rest and worship?

What have you found helpful in setting aside a day of rest and worship?

Which truth impacted you the most — that what God promises is better than anything this life can offer, or that if you are joined to God in Christ then nothing will ever separate you from God's promises? Why did you choose the one you did? How does that truth impact you?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

