

Questions

1. Why might a follower of Jesus ask the question in Romans 6:1 (Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound)?
2. How would you describe the overall message of Isaiah, chapters 40 – 55?
3. Read Isaiah 56:1. What does it mean for you to "keep justice and do righteousness"? Why is it vital that we understand God's standard for righteousness and justice?
4. The warnings about the sinful influence of Judah's leaders (56:9-12) remind us that we too have influence by our lives. Are there ways in which you might better relegate your own desires, and love and serve your neighbors?
5. Idols are more than statues of wood or stone. They can be ruling desires in my heart; things that I want so badly that I'm willing to sin to get them. What idols still tempt your heart?
6. Read Isaiah 57:6. What characterized the people who were joined to the Lord?
7. How does Isaiah 57:6-8 incentivize Christians going to our cultures and other places with the Gospel?
8. Read Isaiah 57:15. Does this verse describe what God has done for you?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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Abounding with Grace

Isaiah 56 – 57

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Chapters 56 and 57 begin the final section of Isaiah's prophecy. Having promised the coming Servant who will graciously bring God's redemption to man, these chapters caution against presuming upon His grace. Those whom God redeems are graciously equipped to humbly glorify the Lord, love Him, and serve Him.

Setting up the problem: Those who are saved by grace are not left to live according to their own desires and strength. They are now empowered to live differently. Isaiah wanted his people to see the necessity of that transformation.

1. The call to righteousness and justice (56:1-2)

2. The influence of leaders for good or evil (56:9-12)
3. The people's self-made and worthless standards of justice and righteousness (57:11-13)
4. God graciously preserves a remnant of all kinds of people who are joined to Him and live to glorify Him (56:3-8)
5. In His grace, the just Holy One, takes away our sin and gives life to those who see the weight of their own sin and humbly turn to Him (57:13-19)