

Judgment and Salvation - Isaiah 65:1-16

Topics: Abundance, Blessing, Call, Children, Choices, Death, Disobedience, Evil, Forget, Forsake, Holiness, Idolatry, Invitation, Joy, Listening, Name, Punishment, Rest, Revelation, Sacrifice, Self-centeredness, Self-righteousness, Shame, Silence, Sin, Sorrow, Stubbornness, Swearing, Truth

Open It

1. When was the last time something good came to you that you weren't expecting?
- * 2. How does it feel to encounter people who think they are too good to associate with you?

Explore It

3. To whom did God say that He had revealed Himself? (65:1)
4. What characterized the people to whom God reached out? (65:2)
5. By what activities did Israel provoke God? (65:3-4)
- * 6. How did Israel evaluate their own morality in comparison to others? (65:5)
7. What did God promise He would do because of the people's sin? (65:6-7)
- * 8. How did God portray the fact that there was a remnant of faithful people even in an unfaithful nation? (65:8)
9. What did God promise to do on behalf of those who remained faithful? (65:9-10)
- * 10. What did God say He would do to those who forsook Him and consulted other gods? (65:11-12)
11. Why did God hold the people responsible for their disobedience? (65:12)
12. How did God contrast the future of His servants with that of the disobedient in Israel? (65:13-14)
13. How did the names of the obedient and disobedient reflect their standing with God? (65:15)
14. Who would be the source of all blessings and all promises when God redeemed His remnant? (65:16)

Get It

15. Why do you suppose Israel was not seeking God or asking for Him?
16. Why would God respond with such fury to the hypocritical idolaters?
17. In what way was God being just by not destroying the whole nation?
18. What is desirable about a religion that has prescribed rituals a person can observe in order to feel superior to others?
- * 19. Why is Christianity not a religion in which we can measure our righteousness and compare it to others?
- * 20. What is challenging about being willing to remain faithful and wait to see God reward His servants and punish the wicked?

Apply It

21. What spiritual habits can you begin to cultivate this month which will help you to remain faithful to God and wait for His reward?
- * 22. How can you avoid the temptations that may come your way in the coming weeks to feel superior to other Christians whom you don't like?