

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of January 29, 2023 A.D.

Let the Wicked Forsake His Way

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Isaiah 55:6-7

1. Are all humans wicked by nature? Are all humans evil by nature? Is every human condemned to punishment in hell if he or she does not “turn to the Lord”?
2. How does a person “turn to the Lord”? Does every person need God’s mercy? In your opinion, what is the biblical definition of God’s mercy? Why does God freely pardon anybody? Is God’s pardon a gift? If so, who paid the price or cost to purchase that gift?
3. What would the world be like if every person asked for and received God’s mercy? If every person on earth received God’s mercy, would the sin nature continue to be at work in the heart and in the mind of every person? Would there still be evil, wickedness, sin, lying, and corruption in the world if every person were to become a born-again, Bible-believing, disciple of Jesus?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:2-6

4. Is planet earth primarily a battlefield in the war between righteousness and evil? If not, please explain why there is so much evil, wickedness, and corruption in every culture on the planet. If earth is a battlefield: (a) who are the leaders who oppose each other, (b) why are they fighting, and (c) what does each leader seek to accomplish?
5. Refer to verse 3. Why does Paul refer to “the world” as one of the combatants in the war which is being fought? Is the world at war against God? If so, why?
6. Refer to verse 4. What are “the weapons of the world” and are they powerful? Please give examples of the destruction and injury which those weapons inflict upon and among the people of God?

7. What are "the weapons" that Paul and the people of God "fight with"? How can those weapons, and do those weapons, have "divine power"? Please give examples of the strongholds which are demolished by the weapons used by the people of God.
8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Life on earth is solely and exclusively a battle between God and Satan for the possession and control of the hearts, minds, and eternal souls of humans."
9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "In the battle between God and Satan, Satan has captured (and Satan continues to capture) more souls for hell than God has captured for heaven."

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Satan does not actually capture the souls of humans. Humans belong to Satan in the first place."

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Planet earth is enemy territory in the battle between God and Satan. Jesus came to earth on a rescue mission on behalf of His Church. Christ has equipped His Church for victory if the church is courageous enough to do battle."

Read 2 Corinthians 10:2-6

12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Although each piece of the armor of God is important, it is absolutely essential for the Christian to study, know, and use the Sword of the Spirit in order to take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Consider: If a person "turns to the Lord...our God will freely pardon." If a person does not hunger and thirst to study, know, and use the Word of God, has that person turned to the Lord? Has that person truly chosen to forsake his wicked way and his evil thoughts? Has that person received the benefits of God's pardon? "You think about that!" Amen.