

Reading assignment for July 23-29: Ecclesiastes 3-12; Song of Solomon; Isaiah 1-5

Theme: The importance of a meaningful relationship with God

Memory: Isaiah 1:18 *“Come now, and let us reason together,” says the LORD, “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”*

Consider/discuss:

1. Ecclesiastes 3 describes the journey of life as a series of seasons.
 - A. What “season” best describes your life today?

 - B. Are these “seasons” arbitrary or do we have some measure of control over them?

2. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 states *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. ¹⁴For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.*
 - A. What does it mean to fear God?

 - B. What is involved in keeping God’s commandments?

 - C. How should this message be communicated in the pulpit today? How should it be communicated in your school or place of work?

3. The book of Song of Solomon illustrates God’s passionate love for His people, through a love story. Verse 10 of chapter 7 states *“I am my beloved’s and his desire is toward me.”* What does this verse say about God’s feelings toward you?

4. What similarities do you see of the culture described in Isaiah 1 and the culture of our day? How does verse 18 of chapter 1 apply in this situation and how do we best communicate the message of this verse to our community?

5. Isaiah 5:20 states *“Woe to those who call evil good & good evil.”*
 - A. How does this verse apply to our culture today?

 - B. What is your response to the person who says the standard of good and evil is arbitrary and to be determined by individuals?