

SEEK YE THE LORD

ISAIAH 55:6-7

Text: Isa. 55:6

(Isaiah 55:6) "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

Introduction:

We live in a day of seekers. People are seeking wisdom. Some are seeking treasures and wealth. Others are seeking remains of animals.

But in our text we can see that each of us should be seeking the Lord. Because there will be a time when He can no longer be found. However there are right ways and wrong ways to seek the Lord. Notice some seek the Lord:

1. CRUNCH (2 CHRONICLES 15:3-4)

(2 Chronicles 15:3-4) "Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. {4} But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them."

A. Some turn in times of trouble

1. Jonah on the ship.
2. Disciples on the ship.

B. Some turn in times of testing.

1. Job

C. Some turn in times of torment.

1. Rich man.

(Luke 16:19-31) "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: {20} And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, {21} And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. {22} And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; {23} And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. {24} And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. {25} But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy

good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. {26} And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. {27} Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: {28} For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. {29} Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. {30} And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. {31} And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

Some seek the Lord in a crunch. Some seek the Lord by

2. COMMAND (2 CHRONICLES 14:1-4)

(2 Chronicles 14:1-4) "So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years. {2} And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God: {3} For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: {4} And commanded Judah to seek the LORD

God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment."

A. Rule Book Christians

1. If it's not written in the Bible then it's OK.

B. Seek the Lord by the letter.

C. Seek the Lord legalistic.

D. Seek the Lord loveless.

Some seek the Lord during a crunch, while others seek by command.

3. COVETOUSNESS (JOHN 6:26)

(John 6:26) "Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled."

A. Some seek to get.

B. Some seek because of greed.

1. Judas

C. Some seek because of His goodness.

4. CONVENIENCE (ACTS 24:24-25)

(Acts 24:24-25) "And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. {25} And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

A. Some seek on their own time.

B. Some seek and test. (Gamble their soul with eternity)

C. But we need to seek today.

How should we seek the Lord?

5. OUT OF CONVICTION WHOLE HEART (2 CHRON 15:11-13)

(2 Chronicles 15:11-13) "And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep. {12} And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; {13} That whosoever would not seek

the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman."

(Psalms 119:10) "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments."

(Jeremiah 24:7) "And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart."

6. WHEN COMPLACENT (REV 3:14-22)

(Revelation 3:14-22) "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; {15} I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. {16} So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. {17} Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: {18} I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. {19} As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. {20} Behold, I stand at the door,

and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. {21} To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. {22} He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

7. OUT OF CORRUPTION (2 CHRON. 7:14)

(2 Chronicles 7:14) "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

(1 John 1:9) "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

8. WHEN WE GET CALLUSED

- A. When preaching doesn't affect us like it once did.
- B. When people getting saved does excite us.
- C. When seeing the need no longer energizes us.

Close:

(Isaiah 55:6) "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"