



**GREAT CHAPTERS FOR GREATER LIVING**  
**“OUR WAY IS NOT GOD’S WAY”**  
**ISA. 1: 10-15**

AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY SEEN, THE PROPHET ISAIAH HAS BEEN HOLDING THE PEOPLE FACE TO FACE WITH THE NATURE AND CHARACTER AND HORROR OF SIN. HE HAS SHOWN THEM WHAT IT LEADS TO AND THE DANGER THEY ARE NOW IN. WERE IT NOT FOR THE MERCY AND COMPASSION OF GOD, THEN THEY WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN DOOMED. THE PEOPLE HAVE HEARD ALL OF THIS AND THEY ARE NOW READY TO LISTEN, BUT ISAIAH DOES NOT GIVE THEM A POSITIVE MESSAGE. INSTEAD, IT IS A NEGATIVE ONE BECAUSE HE TELLS THEM THAT WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN DOING IS WRONG AND IS DOING NO GOOD. THEIR WAY IS NOT GOD’S WAY.

**I. HUMAN IDEAS OF HOW TO GET RIGHT WITH GOD**

PEOPLE TODAY ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THE PEOPLE OF ISAIAH’S DAY. WHEN THEY DECIDE TO GET RIGHT WITH GOD THEY INSTINCTIVELY TRY TO DO SO BY DOING GOOD WORKS. GOING TO THE TEMPLE AND OFFERING LOTS OF SACRIFICES WAS THE METHOD BY WHICH THEY TRIED TO DO GOOD WORKS AND GOOD ACTIONS. IN ADDITION TO THAT, THEY DECIDED TO ATTEND WORSHIP MORE OFTEN—THEY TOOK UP RELIGION! THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE TODAY WHO DO EXACTLY THE SAME THING. THEY “TAKE UP” RELIGION—THEY START READING THE BIBLE, THEY START PRAYING, AND START ATTENDING SERVICES, GOING THROUGH ALL KINDS OF RITUALS. THEY MAKE “SACRIFICES” BUT THEY KNOW NOTHING OF THE WAY OF GOD’S SALVATION.

**II. WHY THESE THINGS ARE ALL REJECTED BY GOD**

**THESE THINGS ARE EXTERNAL ONLY, AND NOT OF THE HEART**  
**THESE THINGS ARE SUPERFICIAL**  
**PEOPLE THINK THESE THINGS ARE MERITORIOUS**  
**THEY ARE NOT THINKING OF GOD, BUT ONLY OF THEMSELVES**

THE LORD SAID TO HIS PEOPLE, AND HE SAYS THIS TO US THIS MORNING---“I DON’T WANT YOUR OFFERINGS, I WANT YOUR OBEDIENCE!” GOD WANTS THE RIGHT USE OF THESE THINGS. HE DOES NOT WANT OUR OWN IDEAS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. HE DOES NOT WANT OUR GOOD WORKS AND OUR OFFERINGS AND CEREMONIAL RITUALS. HE WANTS OUR HEARTS, OUR OBEDIENCE, OUR LOVE FOR HIM, AND OUR SUBJECTION TO HIM. GOD CANNOT BE FOOLED WITH OUR HYPOCRISY.

LET US STRIVE TO DO THINGS HIS WAY, AND NOT OURS!