

“His Invitation”

***“Look to Me, and be saved; all you ends of the earth!
For I am God and there is no other.”
Isaiah 45:22 (NKJ)***

Prepare your heart with Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your study time. Ask Him to keep you from distractions. Ask Him to open your heart to receive from Him.

God consistently extends His invitation to all people, to “whosoever will”. He invites us to a personal relationship with Him. He wants us for Himself. He desires communion with us. He wants us to know Him. He has revealed Himself in His word and through His life on earth as Jesus, the Christ. (Matthew 1:23)
The severest discipline of the Christian life is to learn to keep looking to Him, abiding in His Presence. These lessons are designed to help us learn to look to and abide with our God.

On a 3x5 index card copy Isaiah 45:22. Post this verse where you can read it several times each day; on the refrigerator or bathroom mirror. Read it aloud when you see it. Fix it in your memory.

Read Isaiah 45:20-25

1. This chapter is addressed to Cyrus, the successful Persian conqueror who would decree the release of Judah from captivity. A master statesman, Cyrus won many victories through diplomacy, never having to personally lead in battle. Cyrus is said to be **anointed** in the sense that God had chosen this Gentile king for a special mission. God, through Isaiah, called Cyrus by name 100 years before his time to prove to the Persian king that He, Yahweh, was the only true God. (Isaiah 45:1-13).

**Note Cyrus’ confession in Ezra 1:2-4.*

**Josephus, the Jewish historian, tells us that Cyrus released Israel when he was shown the prophecy of Isaiah 45.*

Although addressed to Cyrus this passage contains much comfort and encouragement for God’s faithful whoever they are. Discuss this.

**Explain God’s invitation. What are we invited to do? How do you do that? Vs. 20, 22*

**To whom is this invitation given? What is the result of accepting it? Vs. 22*

What does it mean to **be saved? Vs. 22*

**How does Isaiah describe God? What attributes or character qualities of God do you find? Note the phrases he uses and the verse.*

Isaiah 45:20-25

How would you describe your God? How do you relate to Him?

*What is said against the worship of **idols**? Vs. 20-21

Verse 22 says, “I am God, and there is no other.” When we build our lives on something other than the Lord Jesus and His Word that is making an idol. What are some “idols” we look to---things we depend upon other than God? Be specific. What will you do about it? How will you bring down these “idols” in your life?

2. From the following passages list the attributes or character qualities of God that cause us to “look to” Him alone for all our needs. *Note some of the situations or some of the needs we face. Note how He can help.*

*Isaiah 51:1

*Isaiah 17:7-8

*Psalm 25:15

*Psalm 123:1-2

*Psalm 34:4-6

*Micah 7:7

*2Chronicles 20:12

*Hebrews 12:2

*Titus 2:11-14

*John 3:14-16 (see Numbers 21:8) ***** *See note at the end of this lesson.*

Summarize your findings by writing a short paragraph that tells why you think it is important for you personally to “Look up to God”.

Read Matthew 14:22-31

3. Jesus had just fed five thousand with a small boy's lunch. After this miracle, Jesus sends His disciples across the Sea of Galilee, while He went away to pray. This incident illustrates the importance of **looking to Jesus**.

*In your own words, briefly describe the events.

*How did Peter have power to walk on water? Vs. 28-29

*Why did Peter sink? Vs. 30

*How was he restored? Vs. 30-31

Put yourself in Peter's place. What did you learn? How does it apply to you?

Understand that knowing God involves experiencing regular times of silent waiting, expectant praying, and diligent search of His Word. The Lord Jesus gave Himself to you, are you willing to give yourself to Him?

It will require a commitment on your part---a commitment to put your life into God's hands, looking to the Lord Jesus continually. Will you make such a commitment? The rewards are great both now and for eternity.

****Perhaps you have never known God as your personal Savior, or are unsure of your relationship with Him. You can pray to Him right now and ask Him to make Himself real to you. Confess your sin and tell Him you need Him. Ask Him to forgive you. Offer yourself to Him. Tell Him you want to belong to Him, that you believe He died for you and He rose again. You know He is God and is alive today and forever. Romans 10:9-10, John 3:16, Revelations 3:20*

Everyday make time to talk with Him. Thank Him that you belong to Him. You can start a new life walking close to Him right now.

What stood out to you from this lesson? How did God speak to you? Record your thoughts and reflect on this throughout the week.