

Portland Area Bible Students Convention

Study Session 3 – Public works, privileges and responsibilities in the last days

A: What is the Mission and purpose of the harvest message in the world?

Definition of terms:

Mission: Our assignment, vocation and calling. *What* we are told to do for the World. This mission becomes our responsibility.

Purpose: The reason *why* we have this mission.

The kingdom hope: Isaiah 61:1-3 – *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, . . . to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”*

Anointed: A divinely authorized commission.

To preach the Good Tidings – including the resurrection hope. (See also Isa. 52:7.)

Target audience: the meek; the brokenhearted; the captives; those that mourn. (Zeph. 2:3)

Judgments for the world:

Isaiah 61:2 – *“to proclaim...the day of vengeance of our God...”*

Psalms 149:5-9 – *“Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints.”*

Div – *“As we proceed to set forth our understanding of the symbols of the Revelation, we wish to state most emphatically that we are saying nothing whatever against godly Christians anywhere, at any time, whether in any church or out of any church. We have nothing to say respecting people. We discuss PRINCIPLES, DOCTRINES, ALWAYS; individuals, NEVER!”*

Israel’s role in God’s plan: Isaiah 40:1,2 – *“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.”*

B: What has been or is expected to be the effect of the truth message in the World?

Key Scriptures:

Ezek. 2:5,7 “*And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they [are] a rebellious house,) yet shall [they] know that there hath been a prophet among them. ... And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.*”

Isaiah 61:3 – “*...to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...*”

History: What has been the *effect* (actual *results*) of the truth message in the World?

The present and future: What are our *expectations* (our *hopes*) in regard to preaching the Truth to the World.