



reach the World - by Serving Communities in Mercy and Justice

A Closer Look at Isaiah 58:1-14

•A bold call to listen (1)

•Privatized spirituality and request for personal justice (2)

•Their question and the prophet's response (3-5)

•The call to true spirituality (6-14)

•We can trace out the application of this in the context of the NT church in the Gospels, Acts, and Epistles

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## Overview of reasons we ought to be concerned for biblical mercy/justice?

1. The consequences of the Fall - Genesis 3-11

2. The commands of the Law - Deuteronomy 10:18-19

3. The call of the Poets and Prophets - Micah 6:8

4. The teaching and example of Jesus - Matthew 23:23

5. The teaching and example of the Apostles - Galatians 6:10

6. The standard of the final Judgement - Matthew 25:31-46

7. The promise of the World to come - Revelation 21:1-4

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## The priority of the Gospel

•Not either/or, but both with a undergirding of what is eternal

•While we are to put a priority on the eternal needs of others, we are not to neglect the temporal needs of others

•Two possible ditches:

•The drift into a merely "social gospel"

•The drift into a "hyper-spiritualized gospel"

•The cultural discussions and application necessitate nuance, conversation, and clarity, not merely summarized mottos

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## **Applications to RBCN**

•By serving communities...wherever we live, work, play, and worship

- •This is the reason for our promotion of various ministries, making opportunities known (Project Connect Nashville, Cottage Cove, Nashville Rescue Mission)
- •Our desire to encourage and intermingle the varying gifts of Christ within His body and apply them in a variety of ways

•Not everyone can/ought to do everything

- •Some things church-wide, other things individual
- •The place of calling/vocation (parenting...education...righteous laws...medical fields...engineering...building maintenance...real estate...accounting, etc.)

## Q/A

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