

If My People...

- Isaiah 5:1-21
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
- Woe means “grief, anguish, affliction, wretchedness, calamity, or trouble.”
- How do we avoid grief, anguish, affliction, wretchedness, calamity, or trouble?
- Today we’ll see three things that will get us on the right path as a nation and going in the right direction as a follower of Jesus.

1. Believe in God’s justice and hate sin.

Summary: Believe God!

Isaiah 5:18-19 Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords of falsehood, and sin as if with cart ropes; 19 Who say, “Let Him make speed, let Him hasten His work, that we may see *it...*

- The third woe is directed against audacious sinners who make unbelief in God’s justice the foundation of their wicked doings.
- “Iniquity” means to be bent or crooked.
- “Sin” means to fail or miss the mark.

2. Mark the difference between right and wrong.

Summary: Do Right!

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

• Consider the existence of evil.

- Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.
- Evil is anything contrary to the nature and character of God.
- 1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.
- Proverbs 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil.
- James 3:8 [Your tongue] is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
- Mark 7:21-22 It is from out of a person’s heart that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

• Consider the reality of darkness.

- Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those...who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness.
- John 8:12 I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.
- Woe to those who opt for darkness instead of light

- **Consider the tragedy of bitterness.**

- Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those...who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
- Satan is so crafty. He makes sin look sweet but it's actually very bitter.
- When a person lives in bitterness for so long, that state becomes normal and even comfortable.
- Denying absolute truth is people's feeble attempt to avoid accountability to God.
- Right and wrong, or moral absolutes, require an absolute standard of truth, which we believe is the Bible, which is rooted in God Himself.
- How do you mark the difference between right and wrong?

3. Seek true wisdom.

Summary: Be Wise!

Isaiah 5:21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!

- What makes a person wise in his own eyes?
- They think they're wise, but in fact, they're not.
- **Our source of wisdom.**
 - 1 Corinthians 3:19 "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God."
 - Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
 - Psalm 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

Further Thought:

- 1 – How will believing God impact or even change your life this week?
- 2 – Can you think of a previous action that would have been different if you had been resolved to do right?
- 3 – How does the cultural actions of calling wrong right impact your perspective on doing right?
- 4 – How does doing right help you conquer evil, overcome darkness, and reverse bitterness?
- 5 – What steps will you take this week to seek true wisdom?