

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Isaiah chapter 58** verses 1-12, which can be found on page **890** in the **old testament** of your pew bible...*

¹Shout aloud without restraint; lift up your voice like a trumpet. Call my people to account for their transgression and the house of Jacob for their sins, although they ask counsel of me day by day and say they delight in knowing my ways, although, like nations which have acted rightly and not forsaken the just laws of their gods, they ask me for righteous laws and say they delight in approaching God.

Why do we fast, if thou dost not see it? Why mortify ourselves, if thou payest no heed? Since you serve your own interest only on your fast-day and make all your men work the harder, since your fasting leads only to wrangling and strife and dealing vicious blows with the fist, on such a day you are keeping no fast that will carry your cry to heaven. Is it a fast like this that I require, a day of mortification such as this, that a man should bow his head like a bulrush and make his bed on sackcloth and ashes? Is this what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this what I require of you as a fast: to loose the fetters of injustice, to untie the knots of the yoke, to snap every yoke and set free those who have been crushed? Is it not sharing your food with the hungry, taking the homeless poor into your house, clothing the naked when you meet them and never evading a duty to your kinsfolk?

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn and soon you will grow healthy like a wound newly healed; your own righteousness shall be your vanguard and the glory of

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the Lord your rearguard. Then, if you call, the Lord will answer; if you cry to him, he will say, 'Here I am.' If you cease to pervert justice, to point the accusing finger and lay false charges, if you feed the hungry from your own plenty and satisfy the needs of the wretched, then your light will rise like dawn out of darkness and your dusk be like noonday; the Lord will be your guide continually and will satisfy your needs in the shimmering heat; he will give you strength of limb; you will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. The ancient ruins will be restored by your own kindred and you will build once more on ancestral foundations; you shall be called Rebuilder of broken walls, Restorer of houses in ruins.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Matthew chapter 5** verses **13-20**, which can be found on page **7** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

¹³'You are salt to the world. And if salt becomes tasteless, how is its salt-ness to be restored? It is now good for nothing but to be thrown away and trodden underfoot. 'You are light for all the world. A town that stand on a hill cannot be hidden. When a lamp is lit, it is not put under the meal-tub, but on the lamp-stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellows, so that, when they see the good you do, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.

'Do not suppose that I have come to abolish the Law and the prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to complete. I tell you this: so long as heaven and earth endure, not a letter, not a stroke, will disappear from the Law until all that must happen has happened. If any man therefore sets aside even the least of the Law's demands, and

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teaches others to do the same, he will have the lowest place in the kingdom of Heaven, whereas anyone who keeps the Law, and teaches others so, will stand high in the kingdom of Heaven. I tell you, unless you show yourselves far better men than the Pharisees and the doctors of the law, you can never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.