

A The Plan of Redemption:

❖ The high cost of salvation. Isaiah 55:1-5.

- Salvation is available to us for free. God does not want anything in return, it is for free.
- However, we must buy it. It is not worthless, but priceless. It had a high cost. If we want it, we must value it, desire it, and ask for it (Acts 16:30-31).
- The death of God Himself was the price of our salvation. However, God wants to give it to us for free as a gift of love (Romans 6:23).

❖ Beyond our understanding. Isaiah 55:6-13.

- Our minds cannot understand the mystery of salvation. It can only be understood in a spiritual way (1 Corinthians 2:14). Therefore, God gives us the necessary knowledge to understand it (1 Timothy 2:3-4).
- This knowledge grows as our daily relationship with Christ does (Colossians 1:10; 2 Peter 3:18). However, we will never understand it to the fullest. We will keep studying the plan of redemption for all eternity.

B Fasting:

❖ Fasting that displeases God. Isaiah 58:1-5.

- The Israelites expected God to approve their fasting (Isaiah 58:3). However, God's responded in an unexpected way: "You will not fast as you do this day, to make your voice heard on high." (v. 4)
- They were trying to soften God's heart with their "religiousness" in order to buy forgiveness. God was not requesting that at all.

❖ Fasting that pleases God. Isaiah 58:6-12.

- The things that please God are not related to refraining from eating for some time. He is pleased when we share what we have, and care for others. This is a lifestyle, not a one-time act.
- Our fasting pleases God only if we are already showing His love to others in our daily life. Then, He guides us, satisfies our soul, and strengthens us (Isaiah 58:11).

C Sabbath:

❖ Delighting in God. Isaiah 58:13-14.

- How are afflicting the soul, helping others, and keeping the Sabbath related?
 - (1) All three involve concentration upon God, His priorities, and recognition of our dependence upon Him.
 - (2) By doing all three, we pursue holiness by emulating God, who humbled Himself (Philippians 2:8), demonstrated self-sacrificing kindness (Acts 10:38), and ceased from labor on the Sabbath (Genesis 2:2-3).
- Besides being a delight, keeping the Sabbath also brings special blessings (v. 14).