

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Isaiah 29:9-16

Sunday, June 16, 2013

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why do you think God allows people to suffer the natural consequences of their choices?

God respects their ability to choose; and perhaps they will learn by experience that God's law is right and designed for their own good and happiness and the good and happiness of God and others.

2. What can happen to someone's reasoning and thinking ability when they persist in doing wrong in spite of knowing what is right, hearing warnings to stop what they are doing, and experiencing or seeing others experience some of the consequences of doing wrong?

They can lose the ability to think clearly and rationally; therefore, they will close their minds further against the truths that they had learned before and had turned from in order to please themselves. They can live for mental and physical pleasures that will ultimately lead to their disappointment or destruction, but having lost their ability to reason they may not understand the true source of their disappointment is their own choices and behavior.

3. Why do you think some people draw near to God with their mouths and some semblance of worshiping God when they have no intention of really obeying God?

Some may want to impress others, perhaps to manipulate them or get support from them to achieve their goals. Some may want to be known as religious when they are not godly in their hearts. Sometimes those who are deceived think that giving lip service to God is all that God desires from them, or that lip service is all they need to give God in order to receive God's blessings.

4. What might it mean when God says to someone that their heart is far from Him?

They do not love or obey God, or have any desire to be near God or draw near to God.

5. What does God say about the person who denies that God created the world and them?

God says their thinking is upside down and they have no understanding.

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