

Weekly Rhythm (Readings)

Engaging with the weekly Lectionary Readings
Comment and Questions

Readings, with thanks to www.gbod.org:

[Isaiah 2:1-5](#)

Out of the house of the Lord shall come wisdom and instruction, and all nations will convert their weapons of war into implements for sustaining life.

[Psalm 122](#)

A psalm rejoicing in Jerusalem, a foretaste of what Isaiah prophesies.

[Romans 13:11-14](#)

Salvation draws ever nearer, so live in the fullness of Christ, freed from the power of sinful desires.

[Matthew 24:36-44](#)

The coming of the Son of Man will be a surprise, so stay on the lookout!

Comments:

Christ comes as surprise. He comes to bring Shalom (peace). So this is the end that we need to buy into now. This is the end that inspires us, guides us and shapes us. This is the perspective from which we engage in the now. By doing this we are ready. What are some of the things we need to “buy” into? The following outline taken from *Discovering Your Neighbourhood Needs* by Dick Taylor offers some suggestions:

"His will is shalom (peace) for all.

1) God wants everyone to have the basics:

- * Enough food to eat and clothes to wear
- * A decent place to live
- * Education to develop gifts and talents
- * Good affordable medical care
- * Work that is enjoyable and provides adequate income
- * Time and places for rest and recreation
- * A chance to enjoy beauty in one's surroundings
- * Opportunity to participate in the political and economic decisions affecting one's life
- * Representation by fair, just governmental office-holders

2) God wants people with special needs to have special help:

- * Adequate income support for those who can't work because of a disability
- * Understanding counsel for those who are emotionally distressed
- * Loving visitors for those who are sick or lonely
- * Help and adequate legal counsel for those in prison or in trouble with the law
- * Dignity, respect, friendship, and security for the elderly
- * Adequate educational, social, and recreational outlets for the young
- * Special care for those with special needs, such as the retarded, orphans, people with drug or alcohol problems.

3) God wants people to feel secure from threats to their life, health and dignity:

- * Freedom from exploitation or oppression (for example, by loan sharks, unscrupulous real estate speculators, political bosses, police brutality, consumer fraud)
- * Personal safety, free from fear or crime or other harassment
- * An opportunity to live in a safe, ecologically sound environment

4) God wants people to be free from discrimination or humility:

- * Respect as a person created in God's image
- * Protection of equal rights before the law
- * Freedom from discrimination because of age, sex, race or religion

5) *God wants us to love one another and to bear one another's burdens:*

* Good feeling and cooperation among neighbours-blacks and whites, Jews and gentiles, young and old, men and women-to help build a neighbourhood in which no one is denied his or her rightful shalom."

I would add a sixth point:

6) *God wants us to know His love and live as His children for ever.*

Questions for reflection:

How do you understand the call to be ready?

How does this call influence the way you live?

How might this call change the way you live?