

**The Saviour's Message to the Hypocrites:
Guilty of Deceptive, Phony Behaviour
Isaiah 58:01–14**

1. *The phony, deceptive behaviour of religious hypocrites*

- a. Their phony behaviour
 - 1) They seek God daily:
Are pious
 - 2) They seem eager to learn
God's ways, His Word
 - 3) They pray for guidance,
for right decisions
 - 4) They worship, seek God
- b. The actual day-to-day
behaviour they conceal
 - 1) They complain to God,
He has not noticed
their fasting or prayer
 - 2) They live selfishly
 - 3) They exploit people
 - 4) They are divisive, arguing
and fighting
 - 5) They expect God to bless
them despite their wicked
behaviour
 - 6) They think their religious
behaviour will be accepted

2. *The specific behaviour demanded by God*

- a. To be humble before God
- b. To bow one's head: Pray
- c. To obey the LORD

- 1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back.
Raise your voice like a trumpet.
Declare to my people their rebellion
and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.
- 2 For day after day they seek me out;
they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right
and has not forsaken
the commandments of its God.
They ask me for just decisions
and seem eager for God to come near them.
- 3 'Why have we fasted,' they say,
'and you have not seen it?'
Yet on the day of your fasting,
you do as you please
and exploit all your workers.
- 4 Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife,
and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.
- 5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen
only a day for people to humble themselves?
It is only for bowing one's head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

- d. To be just and fair to all
 - 1) End the stream of injustice
 - 2) Set the oppressed free

- e. To minister to the needy, Gal 6:10
 - 1) Must provide food, shelter and clothing
 - 2) Must not turn away from a needy family member

3. *The results of righteous behaviour: God's promises*

- a. Light and healing: Salvation
- b. Righteousness and protection: Assured by God's glory
- c. Answered prayer: After doing away with oppression and malicious talk

d. Light:
Will be a strong witness and beacon to those in need

- e. God's guidance
- f. Abundant provision and strength to meet every need

6 Is not this the kind of fasting [religion] I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter
— when you see the naked, to clothe him,
and not to turn away from
your own flesh and blood?"

8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD
will be your rear guard.

9 Then you will call,
and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help,
and he will say: Here am I.
If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk.

10 And if you spend yourselves
on behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.

11 The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs
in a sun scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.

- g. An honourable name
 - 1) Will rebuild ancient ruins:
Ruined lives and property
 - 2) Will be called The Repairer
of the Breach (Broken Walls)

**4. *The importance of keeping
the Sabbath day holy***

- a. God's commandment
 - 1) Must not break the Sabbath,
doing as you please
 - 2) Must make the day a delight
 - 3) Must not engage in idle,
useless talk
- b. God's promises
 - 1) Joy in the LORD
 - 2) Great honour:
Will be victorious over
the enemies of the earth
 - 3) A full share of the
inheritance promised
to Jacob (the promised land)

12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of streets with dwellings.

13 "If you keep your feet
from breaking the Sabbath
and from doing as you please on my holy day,
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the LORD's holy day honourable,
and if you honour it
by not doing your own way
and not doing as you please
or speaking idle words,

14 Then you will find your joy in the LORD,
and I will cause you to ride in triumph
on the heights places of the land
and to feast on the inheritance
of your father Jacob."
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.