

message be carried to all the nations of the world. Now is the day of salvation. These verses imply that a time will come when it will no longer be available. For some the return of Christ will mean the beginning of a new and joyous existence. For others it will mean the end of all opportunity to accept God's gracious invitation.

The second note mentioned here that was not contained in verses 1-2 is the requirement that the wicked man forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts. The order of these two passages is important. Man is not first told that if he will forsake his way and leave his thoughts God will have mercy on him. In verses 1-2 he is told that he may drink the water of life freely, in view of what Christ has done. In verses 6-7 it is made clear that the one who accepts this gracious invitation will be expected to leave his ungodly thoughts and change his ways. No man can do this in his own strength. The power promised in verses 1-2 is necessary first.

The third note in these verses that was not contained in verses 1-2 is the specific emphasis on pardon of past sins. Some come to Christ because of a great feeling of guilt and need of pardon; others are won through the gracious invitation and then come to realize their guilt and seek the pardon that God so freely offers through what the Servant accomplished at Calvary.

(8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

These verses are not a statement of the Barthian view that God is "so altogether other" that no one can really know Him. For proper understanding, they must be considered in relation to verse 7. God promises abundantly to pardon men who have turned their back on their Creator and cast aside His righteous Law. This is something that no mere human being could do. These verses show the contrast between God's loving character and the attitude of human beings who have not been changed by the regenerating power of Christ.