

"For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

Psalm 51:16-17

"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man." Acts 17:24

Raymond Ortlund, Jr. on Isaiah 66:5-6

"Isaiah is looking at God's people in this present age of mixture and conflict. What does he see? Two groups of people – true worshipers, and their 'brothers' rejecting them. It happens in liberal churches. It happens in conservative churches. Religious people who settle for a form of godliness but are threatened by its power always resist God. They may build beautiful temples, but the humble and contrite are not welcome, because longing for God to come down and change everything isn't what religious people want. So again and again in churches something like this can be heard: 'You're always saying you want to glorify and enjoy God. Let us help you. Let's see how joyful you are as we show you the door.'

"Why doesn't everyone welcome joy? Because religion is a mechanism for reinforcing the status quo, while joy is the power of the future, claiming and transforming all that we are. And for some church people – well, they just never figured on getting *that* much of God (see John 9:1-41). He and all who love him embarrass them.

"If you long for revival, if you're willing to sacrifice your religious culture for the sake of the new creation, you will be persecuted. Count on it. There is no easy way for God's kingdom to come into this world, including the religious world."

Read through the Bible in a year!

Printed 2022 schedules (a "chronological" schedule this year) are available in the back or may be requested on-line from the office.