

Readings for the week of Dec. 3/23:

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Romans 3:23 says, *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* so we know that Isaiah’s words agree with that, when he says in verse Isaiah 46:6, *“We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”*

Then, Isaiah goes on to say, in vs. 7, *“There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.”*

A little further in the same chapter of Isaiah, in verse 8, he says, *“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

We are all lost because of our iniquities, without Jesus. However, if we are willing to surrender our lives to Him, with soft and flexible hearts, like clay, He promises to transform our hearts, much like a potter does with clay.

The Psalmist who wrote Psalm 80, says in verse 19, *“Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.”*

We can be restored, by saying ‘yes’ to Jesus. That’s the first step to restoration in our lives. After we repent of our sins (iniquities), and invite Jesus to come into our lives, He begins the process of transforming us into His likeness.

We have a desire unlike we had before. We long to be with Jesus, and to see Him face to face.

We believe, and know, that He will come again in glory.

Jesus will return unexpectedly, so Mark 13:33 tells us to, *“Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.”*

Let’s ‘keep alert’ friends!