

Weekly Study Guide for July 6, 2025 | How Should We Then Live?

Looking at the world today, we should ask ourselves a question: “How should we then live?” How can we live, love, grow, and thrive in uncertain times? How can we be an effective witness, and salt and light in a dark world?

Read Ezekiel 33:1-20

1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, speak to your people and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, 3 and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, 4 then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not heed the warning and the sword comes and takes their life, their blood will be on their own head. 5 Since they heard the sound of the trumpet but did not heed the warning, their blood will be on their own head. If they had heeded the warning, they would have saved themselves. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone’s life, that person’s life will be taken because of their sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.’

7 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 8 When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. 9 But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

10 “Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ 11 Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

12 “Therefore, son of man, say to your people, ‘If someone who is righteous disobeys, that person’s former righteousness will count for nothing. And if someone who is wicked repents, that person’s former wickedness will not bring condemnation. The righteous person who sins will not be allowed to live even though they were formerly righteous.’ 13 If I tell a righteous person that they will surely live, but then they trust in their righteousness and do evil, none of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered; they will die for the evil they have done. 14 And if I say to a wicked person,

‘You will surely die,’ but they then turn away from their sin and do what is just and right—
15 if they give back what they took in pledge for a loan, return what they have stolen,
follow the decrees that give life, and do no evil—that person will surely live; they will not
die. 16 None of the sins that person has committed will be remembered against them.
They have done what is just and right; they will surely live.

17 “Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ But it is their way that is not
just. 18 If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and does evil, they will die
for it. 19 And if a wicked person turns away from their wickedness and does what is just
and right, they will live by doing so. 20 Yet you Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not
just.’ But I will judge each of you according to your own ways.”

Additional References: [Ezekiel 33:1-20](#); [1 Chronicles 12:32](#); [1 Peter 4:4](#); [Romans 1:32](#);
[Matthew 3:8](#); [Philippians 1:9-11](#); [Hebrews 12:11](#); [Romans 2:4](#); [Ephesians 4:15](#); [Psalm 33:12-18](#);
[2 Chronicles 16:9](#); [Galatians 5:1, 13](#)

Summary: Freedom carries a weight of responsibility: the responsibility of the nation, the
responsibility of the individual, and the responsibility of the watchman. Each of us is
responsible for our own life. We have a responsibility to speak the truth in love. There are
no secular solutions for spiritual problems. Repentance is the right response to God’s
offer of mercy. We must acknowledge and repent of any known sin. God’s mercy is
greater than our failures. A changed heart results in a change in behavior.

Reflection: Take time to prayerfully reflect on how this lesson applies to your life.

1. How are you bearing the weight of responsibility of freedom? Individually and as a nation? For good or for self? As a watchman? Are you using your freedom to sin or to serve?
2. Is there any sin in your life that you should acknowledge and repent of? What is holding you back from responding to God’s love and goodness?
3. Is the enemy holding you captive through guilt and shame? Do you feel unworthy of God’s love and mercy?
4. Do you have a victim mentality? Is there something that you are blaming God or others for that you should take responsibility for yourself?
5. Are you producing good fruit, righteousness? Is there fruit in keeping with repentance?
6. What did you learn from this lesson? What are some personal takeaways and insights you gained? How can you apply this to your life?