The Time of Rain and Snow Ray Stedman

I. Introduction. Text: Isaiah 54-58.

- II. There is joy and gladness in the heart set free by Jesus.
 - A. God gives us companionship.
 - B. God shows us compassion—the time of trial will be over soon.
 - C. God gives us security in our relationship with Him. (Romans 8)
 - D. God appeals to those who thirst for life and invites us to be satisfied. (John 4)

E. Man is not satisfied with all he is given because he does not find satisfaction in God—this is found in the gospel.

- 1. The man must seek and return to the Lord.
- 2. Ask of the Lord, and He will pardon.
- F. The Sabbath is not a day to be kept but rest to be kept. (Hebrews 4)
- G. There is great danger in self-confidence and pride.
- H. The Scripture calls for reality within and not outward conformity.
 - 1. This is the test of true faith.
 - 2. Pure religion manifests itself in kind actions.

Application questions:

1. What are some reasons we have to be glad that we are believers? Can you think of any more than what is provided?

2. What is meant by "the Sabbath?" How can a believer fulfill it practically?

3. Who has been a model for you of "pure religion?" What have they done that has made them an excellent example?