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by the myrtle tree. The everlasting life that they receive through what Christ did on the cross is an everlasting sign that will not be cut off.

Yet this figurative interpretation could hardly exhaust the meaning of the verse. In connection with statements elsewhere in Isaiah and in other parts of the Bible it clearly states that God will remove the curse that was laid upon the world when Adam sinned, and will bring it back to its Endemic condition.

Since chapter 55 comes to a great climax in its last two verses it might seem reasonable to leave 56:1-2 for consideration with the verses that follow them in chapter 56. Yet, as does so much of chapter 55, 56:1 uses the second person, being addressed to those whom the LORD calls. These two verses have far more in common with chapter 55 than with the remaining verses in chapter 56. We shall therefore consider 55:1-56:2 as a unit.

(1) Thus says the LORD, Preserve justice and do righteousness, for my salvation is about to come and my righteousness to be revealed. (2) Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who takes hold of it; who keeps from profaning the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.

While it may seem like an anticlimax for these practical statements to follow the great climax in verses 12-13, their presence here is a reminder that the believer who has been freed from the guilt of sin must still seek God's help to overcome its power. Sanctification is sometimes a rather slow process. It is vital that every believer endeavor always to keep his eyes on the LORD and to follow His righteous commands.