

God's Response to Hypocritical Hearts

Text: Isaiah 29:13-17

Date: 10-31-21 @ 10:30 AM

Truth: Living a life of godliness without true heart change not only grieves God it forces Him to act against us and to respond with justice and judgment.

When mankind, including us, thinks he or she can fool God, deceive Him through any sin, transgression, or rebellion, attempt to trust man's wisdom and philosophy, and worship any type of idols, it is irrational, it is a perversion.

I. The center of Judah's problems was a life devoid of true heart change (Isa. 29:13).

They had honored God with their lips, but that had become a substitute for what should have come from their hearts.

The people's hearts were so far removed from Him that it was laughable at best, sin at worst, and overtly hypocritical.

"The people 'worshipped' God in the way that pleased them, but not in the way that was prescribed" (Young 320).

Truth: If we only draw near to the Lord in a cold, formal, ritualistic way, while our hearts are far from Him, our loyalty and trust will be in pretense only. If our hearts are wicked, our lips cannot truly draw close to the Lord. Outward conversion without a heart change is worthless. Conversion to God, true repentance, always begins in our hearts and is manifested in outward works.

II. God removes wisdom from the leadership (Is. 29:14).

The leadership will have their wisdom removed so that neither the wise nor the prudent would be able to understand or apply knowledge to their life or the nation's problems.

What had their wisdom done for them? Man's wisdom had caused them to look to other nations for help. Their human wisdom had led them to refuse divine revelation and not listen to the prophet's message. Their plans caused them ruin and now were leading them on path of destruction. Their wisdom had led them to think they could hide from God and skirt His laws.

Paul stated in I Cor. 1:19, all human wisdom that leaves God out will lead to failure. All human wisdom apart from God's wisdom is bound to fail.

III. Woe to those who hide their plans from God (Isa. 29:15-17).

It was then the height of foolishness to think that mankind could hide their ideas from an omniscient God.

While man can hide things from gods and from images made in their minds, mankind cannot hide anything from the all-knowing, all-seeing Creator God (Psalm 139).

The perversion of these people was they thought they knew better than God. To think that they could hide their counsel from the Lord and do their deeds in secret was behaving as if God has less understanding and wisdom than man does.

Conclusion

Reminder: Living a life of godliness without true heart change not only grieves God it forces Him to act against us and to respond with justice and judgment.

When mankind, including us, thinks he or she can fool God, deceive Him through any sin, transgression, or rebellion, attempt to trust man's wisdom and philosophy, and worship any type of idols, it is irrational, it is a perversion.