

The Benefits of True Heart Change

Text: Isaiah 29:17-24

Date: 11-7-21 @ 10:30 AM

Living a counterfeit 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.

What is the antidote? True Heart Change centered on God Alone!

What are the benefits of true heart change?

Benefit 1: Reversal of Circumstances (Isa. 29:17)

Lebanon was a wooded and mountainous region. Yet in the future it would be turned into a fertile field (Hebrew – Carmel). This fertile ground would be a place where trees and plants could grow abundantly and would provide for mankind. The flip side would be that the fertile field would be turned into a wooded area.

Benefit 2: Understanding of God's Word (Isa. 29:18)

Those who are spiritually deaf will hear the words of the book.

Benefit 3: Enhanced Joy (Isa. 29:19)

The meek, those who were lowly and oppressed, would have an increase of joy in the Lord.

Their suffering and oppression as they submitted to the will of God will be turned into a constant and unending delight in Jehovah.

Benefit 4: Enemies Defeated (Isa. 29:20-21)

Why all the rejoicing? Why would the field be fruitful (v. 17)? Why would the deaf hear and the blind see (v. 18)? Those who had hurt the poor, ridiculed the meek would be brought to an end and finished.

Benefit 5: Changed Attitude (Isa. 29:22)

The hope of the people rests in the hands of the Almighty God of His people.

Where now the house of Jacob was a shame to God and ashamed to follow God, in the future, Jacob and his descendants will not be ashamed as they truly trust God and His work. God will keep His covenant word with His people.

Benefit 6: True Worship (Isa. 29:23)

The future descendants will then bow and worship Jehovah. Who exactly is the work of God's hands? Here it would refer to the remnant. In the future it will represent the Jews who trust in the Lord. Where the physical nation had failed God, the totality of the spiritual seed of Jacob will worship God.

"They will sanctify God's Name and glorify Him as the one who has brought about so great a work of deliverance" (Young 331).

The people will worship God because they realize He has protected them and their response will be one of awe and reverence to the Holy One of Jacob and the God of Israel.

Benefit 7: Desire to Learn from God (Isa. 29:23)

Whereas those in Isaiah's day refused God's counsel, wisdom, and revelation from the prophet, in the future the people will come to a place of divine understanding and instruction.