

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Lord Alone

Speaker:

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Date:

November 8, 2020

Scriptures:

Isaiah 2:1-22

Theme: Cast away every idol you trust because, in the end, the Lord alone will be exalted.

Introduction: Isaiah 2 begins with an encouraging vision of the future for God's people; but then it begins to strike darker notes. The Lord was exposing the idolatries of Israel as they sought their joy and salvation in other sources, and he was connecting their idolatry to fear of man. In light of God's coming judgment, he was calling them to repent and to hope in him alone.

We can discover 3 biblical principles on trust and idolatry in this chapter:

1. Let the end direct the means

As Christians, our methods should match our message. And by recognizing the end to which we're destined, we can allow our destination inform how we seek to get there.

God's people, both Jew and Gentile, are destined for the New Jerusalem. Isaiah saw a vision of this as the mountain of the Lord (cf. Rev 21:9-14).

In addition, the law of the Lord offers us instruction about how to live now in light of our final destination. By knowing and honoring the Lord, we will be kept from idols and from walking in the fear of man.

2. Every other thing we trust is of no account

Israel had been looking to many other places for hope—eastern goods and philosophies, fortune tellers, business dealings with Gentiles, wealth, war machinery, and the like. They were prosperous and secure.

But they had made a fatal error—they were hoping in these things rather in the Lord. Good things had become idols and could not bear the weight of salvation.

3. The Lord alone is exalted

The Lord opposes those who exalt themselves in pride. As Israel had looked to idols for salvation, the Lord opposed them.

Humility, therefore, is an essential virtue for us. We know that we are not in charge, and instead of resisting God we must walk humbly before him.

In the end, the Lord alone will be exalted. We should fix our hopes solely on him.

Questions:

1. Where do you see anxiety and sinful comparison in your life? Who or what are you looking to for help in your difficulties?

2. How does the gospel change us so that we can turn from idols and trust Christ?

3. Do your daily interactions and transactions reveal reliance on God or a willingness to compromise in order to get what you want?