

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

No Alternatives

Speaker:

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Date:

January 10, 2021

Scriptures:

Isaiah 28

Theme: Cherish God's word and you will not be attracted to alternatives.

Introduction: Courage and steadfastness in the truth in the face of opposition and adversity are especially commendable qualities. If our words don't have integrity, what good are they? Yet many words in our world are lies, deception, and manipulation. All of this makes God's word more valuable and precious. His words are supremely valuable and reliable, and those who are truly his people love and cherish his word.

We can consider the source of our hope under 3 points:

1. A lesson in terrible alternatives (1-13)

Ephraim (Israel—the northern tribes) were smugly assured that they were safe. Yet the Lord's judgment was certain and sure.

Their leaders were evil and even mocked the Lord's words. They saw themselves as wiser and more sophisticated.

The Lord promised judgment by foreign armies, and Assyria fulfilled it in 722 BC. Yet the Lord preserved a remnant.

2. A warning to heed the lesson (14-22)

Isaiah warns Judah that all of their plans and preparations will not protect them from God's judgment.

The Lord will turn their proud mockery into judgment.

The Lord is jealous for his people. We are to take refuge in him alone. Our only true security is in him.

3. A call to hear the voice of God (23-29)

Isaiah finally offers a call of hope and comfort. God will have his way. His purposes will prevail.

He uses farm imagery to communicate the truth: the Lord is using the right tool (judgment) for the right job (salvation of his people).

The Lord knows exactly what he's doing and he must be trusted.

Questions:

1. Do you cherish God's word? How does it function in your life?
2. Do you fear the Lord, or do you scoff at his judgments? How can you grow in fearing him?
3. Where are you turning for refuge? What alternatives tempt you?