

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

"I am the Lord's"

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 42:18-44:22

Theme: Rejoice and say, "I am the Lord's"

Introduction: Christians are called to live distinctive lives in the world. Our allegiance to Jesus should produce observable differences that others notice and comment upon (cf. 1 Pet 3:15). And as we have opportunity, we should be sure to bear witness to the truth that it is our allegiance to Christ that produces such fruits in our lives. We act as we do because we want to honor our Lord.

There are 3 reasons to rejoice and identify with the Lord:

1. He redeemed us (42:10-43:7)

The servant in Isaiah can speak of both the nation of Israel and his chosen servant, the Messiah. Here he addresses Israel as his people.

He rebukes his people for failing in their role of being a light to the nations. Yet even this is merciful, because the Lord reveals that he will also be the one to redeem them from the exile in Babylon.

It is better to realize the depth of our sin than to minimize the depth of God's grace.

It is in seeing sin rightly that we can appreciate his grace more fully.

2. We are his witnesses (43:8-44:5)

In these verses, the Lord declares and demonstrates his sovereignty over all things.

Our role in response to these truths is to be witnesses. We are to testify to the reality that he is the one true God and that he offers mercy toward sinners.

We should also rejoice in the salvation that he has accomplished—it is a new salvation, not like what went before, but the fulness of his plan as revealed in Jesus.

He also promises to pour out his Spirit to empower our witness to him.

3. Man-made religion is empty (44:6-22)

The Lord closes this section by exposing the emptiness and vanity of idols. They are an abomination to him, and an example of arrogant rebellion.

A man takes some wood and with half he heats for cooking, while with the other half he fashions an idol. Half he uses and half he worships—thus showing his rebellion.

Idolatry is not just an ancient phenomena. The human heart always manufactures idols, as we seek to put ourselves at the center and to manipulate our circumstances.

But the true God is transcendent and cannot be manipulated. He exposes the emptiness of idolatry and calls us to trust in him and be redeemed.

Questions:

1. What marks your life as belonging to the Lord?

2. How are you pursuing opportunities to point others to the Lord?