

Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



Message Info

Title:

Humble and Holy

Speaker:

Steve Heitland

Date:

July 11, 2021

Scriptures:

Isaiah 56-57

Theme: Pursue holiness in humility and you will see the Lord.

Introduction: It can be easy for Christians to confuse Law and Gospel, and in the process we can have a misunderstanding of the nature of God's grace. It is tempting to think that grace is a lowering of standards; but it is actually a resting in the fulfillment of those standards by another on our behalf. If we are recipients of the grace of God we will want to grow in holiness because God is at work in us by his grace to produce that change.

These chapters offer us 2 kinds of responses to the Lord, righteous and faithless:

1. A truly holy people (56:1-8)

The Lord calls his people to "keep justice and do righteousness." He calls his people to live a life of holy obedience to him.

He then gives two unlikely examples of persons who will receive a reward for this kind of life: foreigners and eunuchs. They were the recipients of God's blessings because they trusted in him. Their holy lives demonstrated their faith.

The Lord also promises these afflicted persons a better reward than they could even hope for in this life. He brings them into his holy presence.

2. Faithless leaders (56:9-12)

The Lord then curses his leaders for their laziness, selfishness, ignorance, and greed. He holds them accountable before those who are called to follow them. In their failure, they have left the people vulnerable to attack. Anyone with a position of authority in this life must recognize and step into the responsibilities that the Lord has given us for the good of those he's entrusted to us.

2. Faithless people (57:1-13a)

The Lord next judges the people for their idolatry. They have mocked godliness and given themselves over to immorality. They are public and brazen in their rebellion against him.

Their embrace of worldliness is linked to their fear of man. We need God to work in us so we know and love and fear him more than anyone else.

4. A truly humble people (57:13b-21)

The Lord then offers a powerful testimony to his glory and transcendence, He is high and lifted up, and he inhabits eternity. But mercifully, he also dwells with the humble and contrite of spirit.

The Lord knows our sins, and yet he promises to heal. He works to transform his people, to make us holy.

Questions:

1. Do you understand the distinction between Law and Gospel?
2. Is your understanding of grace producing a desire and pursuit of holiness in your life?
3. How is the fear of man present in your life? How can you fight it?