

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Confirmation &
Comfort

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

August 22, 2021

Scriptures:

Isaiah 65

Theme: Confirm genuine faith and you will be comforted in the promises of God

Introduction: One of the major themes of Isaiah is the necessity of having genuine faith. One of his chief complaints against Israel was that those who were supposed to be his people did not have a genuine trust in him. This self-deception is one of the most devious and common effects of sin—it blinds one to the true nature of rebellion against God. But the Lord gives great promises to those who truly trust him, and he will work for his own.

Isaiah captures this truth from 2 angles:

1. Markers of genuine faith (1-16)

In response to last week's message, we might envision two groups in Israel: those who are genuine, and those who blame others, including God.

They try to blame God for their lack of repentance; but he makes clear that's not an option. He's been open-handed toward them and yet they've refused to turn. They also sought to manipulate God like the pagans, trying to use him to achieve their own ends instead of submitting in worship.

In sum: God's true people evidence 4 traits—they don't blame him, they don't manipulate him, they listen to him, and they do what delights him.

2. Promises of great comfort (17-25)

Being true to the Lord can feel like a losing proposition in this world; but it's not. God always has the final word, and none of his purposes ever falter.

The Lord grants his people a picture of a final reality that far surpasses their very best dreams. There will be true and lasting peace and abundant and everlasting life. There will be prosperity all around.

Even more comforting is the knowledge that it was the Lord who took all of the initiative in this regard. He did not wait for us, but he sent his Son to die for his people "while we were still sinners" (cf. Rom 5:6-8).

Before we even knew we needed salvation, and just as we called out, we found that it had already been provided. Christ died for us. This knowledge should ground and strengthen our trust and comfort in him.

Questions:

1. Do you blame God?
2. How do you need to grow in taking responsibility in your life?
3. Do you find hope in Christ's return? Does it function in your daily life?