

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Goal of Life

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 66

Theme: We reach the goal of life in the kingdom of God.

Introduction: In sports, the objective is often to get the ball across some kind of goal line. Yet the greater objective is to win the game, and eventually to win the championship. Any athlete or team was satisfied with scoring one goal would miss out on the greater objectives. To mis-prioritize the goals is to miss the goals. Christians can be guilty of this, pursuing goals that fall short of the ultimate goal. It's in coming to eh Lord that we enter his kingdom and find what is our ultimate purpose in life.

Isaiah captures this goal in answering 3 questions:

1. What will the kingdom of God be like? (66:7-14)

The promise of God for our future destiny is a new heavens and a new earth. He will make them new, and that will be his kingdom come.

Isaiah uses the imagery of motherhood to explain how the New Jerusalem will affect us: she will feed, care, and comfort us.

The kingdom will also come suddenly and dramatically, and the intended effect of this news is that we must rejoice. The certainty of God's promise should inform our hope.

2. How will we know the kingdom has come? (66:15-23)

Though this text reveals the promise of the future, it also focuses on our response in the present. There is much at stake here and now.

Part of what we learn is that the goal of our lives is to see God's glory (v. 18). God's people gather before him to behold and enjoy his glory.

But they don't stay there; they are sent out to proclaim his glory to others and to bring them back before the Lord.

The Lord also promises a sign of the fulfillment of his promise—a sign that we know from the rest of his book and from the rest of the Bible is Jesus himself.

3. Who will reach the goal? (66:1-6, 24)

The promise of God is offered to everyone, but it does not save everyone. Who does receive the fulfillment of what God promises? The humble.

Who are the humble? They are those who tremble at God's word. They are truly spiritual. They recognize God's sovereign goodness and submit to him.

But there is a stark warning here: those who reject God's gracious promises will face a terrible judgment (v. 24). They will suffer eternal torment in hell.

Questions:

1. What are your goals for life? What are you pursuing?
2. Does the Day of Jesus' return fuel your hope? Does it affect how you live?
3. How do you want to grow in humility?