

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time
Modern Golden Calves
Isaiah 2:1-22

In 1859, Charles Dickens wrote a Tale of Two Cities. He began his novel with these words, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair...” 162 years later, we could write a modern novel and these words would be just as relevant and just as timely.

1. The power of the gospel is intended to change the world.

2. The power of the gospel is undermined by the lure of idolatry.

3. The power of the gospel is destined to destroy idols.

4. The power of the gospel is designed to call us to Christ.

We need to stop being enamored with human glory. We need to see what Jesus has accomplished in His death, burial, and resurrection. In the end, that is all that will be left, that is all to which we will be able to turn. Pride has led to the destruction of men and nations. God will not share His glory with anyone or anything. In the end, the Lord Jesus alone will be exalted.

Reflection

What are some “high places” that compete for the glory of God in your life? What takes the place of God in your life? How do you react when a fellow Christian points out a potential idolatrous blind spot in your life? Is it possible that the kingdom of God is not limited to just a future millennial rule and reign of Christ on earth? If there is a spiritual aspect to the kingdom of the kingdom of God now (and I believe there is), where is that spiritual aspect lived out and how should its presence now facilitate our priorities? How should the words of Is. 2:3 affect our view and practice of mission? Take some time to reflect on Rev. 22:17 and what that verse means for the church today. The gospel calls us to run to Christ, which means that we are to run from other things. Using Isaiah 2:6-9, consider what those other things (if any) might be for you.