

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time  
The Danger of Spiritual Hypocrisy  
Isaiah 29:1-24

We recognize that there are occasions when things must get worse before they can get better. We don't like it, but it is the reality in which we live. Often, a person struggling with addiction must come to their complete end before they will ever take the necessary steps towards healing. Bones that begin to heal incorrectly must be rebroken and reset for true healing to take place. Even dentists cut through healthy enamel to get to the decay beneath the surface.

1. God will destroy our arrogant self-sufficiency.
2. God will judge our fake spirituality.
3. God will rescue our humble and repentant hearts.

Christ has come to open our eyes and our ears to the truth of God's Word. He has come to set us free from our slavery to sin. He has come to carry the burdens that are forced on us by religious leaders who are unwilling to carry those burdens themselves. He has come to bring order to our chaos and peace to our struggle. And to prove that he could make good on this offer, he willingly laid down his life at the cross only to rise again on the third day. He is the Holy One of Israel and one day those who have trusted in Him will hallow His name forever.

#### Reflection

What timeless lessons does Isaiah 29 have for every generation? How do we share the same heart sins as they did? What does religious formalism look like today and how can it affect our individual walk with Christ as well as the corporate mission of Christ? What is the significance of the fact that so many medical remedies must hurt the body in order to heal it? How does that ring true in our spiritual lives as well? Consider the idea that Isaiah 29:13 might be one of the most important verses in the Bible on worship. What must happen if we discover that our hearts are far from God?