

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time  
The Futility of Idolatry  
Isaiah 57:3-21

We know that our position in Christ does not release us from suffering in this world, but it does give us a different perspective of that suffering (or at least it should.) Isaiah indicates that in Christ everything is fine, in fact, those who die in Christ, especially those who die for the cause of Christ, are actually finally removed from the evils of this world. They finally enter a rest and a peace that cannot be found this side of heaven. Psalm 116:15 reminds us , “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” None of the righteous die accidentally. Our deaths do not catch God unaware and wondering what to do next now that we are gone.

1. Human nature is naturally bent towards idolatry.
  
2. God is willing to send revival to the humble.
  
3. Our eternal destiny is determined by God’s perfect judgment.

There will always be people in this world who choose to serve themselves, develop their own ways of gaining security in this world, forget God and worship other gods such as money, prestige, and fame. This path may seem easier, more popular, and more fun and it certainly avoids the perils of persecution for the cause of Christ, but it offers nothing beyond this world. There is only one way to divine peace, healing, comfort, and revival and that is through trust in Christ that leads us to be loyal to His kingdom. Isaiah calls on each of us to carefully make our choices and be ready to accept the destiny of each option.

Reflection

Take some time to read the parable of the wheat and tares found in Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. How does that parable help explain the rhythm of Isaiah’s prophecy bouncing back and forth between the righteous and the wicked? How do we see the growth of paganism and idolatry in our culture today? Why do you think people are more inclined to doubt God and rebel against Him rather than believe God and trust in Him? What about your life? Would an honest evaluation of your heart bring assurance of your salvation or would the actions that stem from your heart betray your trust in Christ? Is it possible for us to differentiate between the lost and the backslidden? In either case, what is the solution to their condition? (Hint: It’s the gospel!)