

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time
Squandered Grace
Isaiah 5: 1-30

Common grace is God's willingness to sustain life so that salvific grace can be received. God does good things in our world that benefits everyone. He provides rain for crops, jobs for income, governments for order, science for advancement, and doctors for our well-being. He provides food that nourishes and water that refreshes. All of these things are provided through a grace that is common to everyone, both believers and non-believers.

1. We squander grace through aggressive greed.
2. We squander grace through excessive pleasure.
3. We squander grace through sinful attachments.
4. We squander grace through twisted worldviews.
5. We squander grace through arrogant folly.
6. We squander grace through willful injustice.

The prophets remind us that sin is a serious offense to the nature and character of God, and it must be judged. God does not take pleasure in this judgment. In fact, laments found throughout the writings of the prophets convey the truth that God is terribly saddened when His people reject Him and His redemptive plan. Because He is perfectly just, He will hold all people accountable for their actions, and he will do so with perfect precision and justice.

Reflection

How does Isaiah's love for God and compassion with God in his grief over Israel's failure to produce good fruit set an example for us as Christians? How is the parable of the failed vineyard a powerful tool for exposing Israel's sins and God's disappointment over the failed harvest? Read Jesus' parable of the vineyard in Matthew 21:33-41 and do a quick comparison of the similarities and the differences between the two. What are the things in your life that rob you of your affections for Christ? How does keeping those things close affect your answer to what should be a rhetorical question, "What more could I have done?" (Isaiah 5:4). How many of the sins exposed by the six woes are obvious in our culture today? How many have affected our churches? What do we need to do, individually and as a church, to stir our affections for Christ and make the most of the grace He freely gives?