



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Isaiah Sermon Series

Supports Session 13: God Restores

Sermon Title: "Two Ways to Live" (Isaiah 66)

Connection to Isaiah 65

Isaiah 65 speaks of the glorious creation of the new heaven and the new earth. God's redemption of His people and the earth will be completed. God will topple every enemy, redeem His people, and reclaim the earth. God is going to dwell with His people forever. The Christian hope contains resurrection and redemption and is to be viewed as a return to Eden, but the new heaven and the new earth exceed Eden by far. This is how history is going to conclude. However, this calls for decisive action in the present. Responding to God now is the only way to be part of the future new heaven and new earth. We are called to choose God over everything.

Introduction/Opening

The grand finale is a common term for the end of a fireworks display. This is usually marked by a spectacular time of lights and sounds. Isaiah brings his book to a close in a stunning fashion. There is no gray for Isaiah, either you are on the right side of history or you are not. There is no middle ground from Isaiah's perspective. There are two options that we can all take when it comes to God's revelation. We can respond to God's truth appropriately or wrongly, but we are accountable to God for our response to His truth. Make no mistake about it, God plays for keeps.

Outline

1. Two approaches to worship (vv. 1-4)
 - a) You can worship God the right way.
 - b) You can worship God the wrong way.
2. Two perspectives on power (vv. 5-14a)
 - a) You can tremble at God's Word and be hated.
 - b) You can tremble at God's Word and thrive.
3. Two ways to live (vv. 14b-21)
 - a) You can stick with your program and be humbled.
 - b) You can get with God's program and be exalted.
4. Two destinations (vv. 22-24)
 - a) You can experience eternal life.
 - b) You can experience eternal judgment.

Conclusion

Passages like this are difficult to hear. We do not like to be told that truth is absolute and that all of our religious preferences are not the same. The truth is that all religions are not the same and sincerity does not matter when it comes to our standing before God. The simple truth is that there are a million ways to be wrong about God and only one way to be right about God. The only way to approach God and to have eternal life is to tremble at His Word and to approach Him the way that He gave us. Christ is the only authorized agent of salvation. So we do not look at Jesus as one option among many. We must look to Jesus as the only option for salvation. The choice is yours, but you had better choose wisely. This is truly a life or death issue.

Benjie Loyd serves as senior pastor of River Road Baptist Church in Hilliard, Florida. He is married to Dawn, and they have two children, Connor and Carson. Benjie received his D.Min. degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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