

Sermon Notes



Title: "The Gospel in Isaiah: Religion Without a Heart to Love and Obey the LORD Is Sinful"

Text: Isaiah 58:1-14

Theme: Religion without a heart to obey is sinful. But a walk with the LORD from a heart transformed by grace lifts you up to the heights.

I. The LORD Exposes a _____
_____ in the Religious Practice of His People (1-5)

A. Israel _____ To Be _____ About
Seeking the LORD by Fasting (1-3a)

B. In Reality Israel's Fasts Were a Cover for
_____ and
_____ (3b-5)

II. What the Real _____ of the LORD's Sabbath Fast
Is (6-9a)

A. The LORD's Fast Is Really About _____
Others (6-7)

B. What Will Happen If Israel Will _____ and
_____ (8-9a)

III. _____ God's People Must Make To See His Blessing
(9b-14)

A. Stop _____ and _____
(9b-12)

B. Truly _____ in God's Day (13-14)

IV. Applications

A. The Gospel does not denigrate _____
observance, but raises such observances to their proper
_____ and _____.

B. Religious observances without a _____ for
_____ are essentially _____.

C. The Gospel does not lead us to expect God's blessing if we
_____ _____ _____ in Church and
_____ _____ _____ at other times and
places.

Next Week Read: Isaiah 61:1-11

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. How was Isaiah to deliver this message (v. 1)?
2. How did Israel outwardly appear in its religious observance (v. 2)?
3. What religious practice does the prophet identify (v. 3a)? What is this practice?
4. What was Israel's complaint after performing this religious exercise (v. 3b)?
5. What was the LORD's answer to this complaint (v. 3b-4)?
6. What attitude did the LORD desire when one fasted (v. 5)?
7. What should Israel's fasts have produced (vv. 6-7)?
8. If Israel will seek the LORD as He desires, what will happen as a result (vv. 8-10)?
9. What prominent and important observance connected with fasting did Israel also corrupt (v. 13a)? How did they profane this (v. 13b)?
10. What will happen if Israel changes her attitude about this (v. 14)?
11. What do you think of when you hear the word "religion"? Why?
12. Should Christians be suspicious of religious observances? Explain.
13. How do religious rites, ceremonies, and performances lose their meaning?
14. Are there certain religious rites that should be kept and others discarded altogether? Why or why not?
15. How does the Gospel transform the rituals of the Church?
16. How do Christians lead a "double-life" spiritually? How does God often graciously get us out of the "double-life" syndrome?
17. How can you find greater delight and pleasure in the LORD on the Lord's Day?
18. How do you approach the Lord's Day in such a way that you might find your enjoyment and pleasure in the LORD?
19. How do Christians often subvert the goal of delighting in the Lord's Day? Can those who observe the Lord's Day scrupulously and fastidiously be in danger of profaning it? If so, how?
20. How can you improve your listening to the LORD's Word preached and your observance of the Lord's Supper?