

Introduction: Ezekiel 33:10-20

Discussion

- I. **“How can we then live?”** If Israel was going to be punished for that they had done, was there anything they could now do to change that? It was a matter of life and death.
- A. The words of the prophet spoke about the chance that they might live. **“Ezekiel 33:5 – ...But he who takes warning will save his life.”** So how could this happen?
 - B. **“I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked”** God does not want to destroy us or see us die.
 - 1. But His absolute holiness demands just punishment for every sin.
 - 2. It also demands **repentance** from sin. Three times in the book of Ezekiel God says that He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. In each of those instances there is a clear call for repentance. **Ezek 18:23; 18:32; 33:11**
 - C. **2 Peter 3:9** The longsuffering of God is at the heart of our salvation. Without it there would be no answer to our discouraging position.
- II. **“Turn, turn from your evil ways!” (Ezek 33:11)** – God’s answer is a call for repentance. The word **turn** here is also translated as **repent**. This indicates a change of direction.
- A. The N.T. word that is often translated as repent is **Metanaeo**. The term signifies **“to have another mind,”** to **change the opinion or purpose with regard to sin.**
 - B. **Matt 3:2; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38**
 - C. What does God require?
 - 1. Repentance is not merely confession of guilt.
 - 2. Repentance is not just remorse or sorrow. **2 Cor. 7:9-10**
 - 3. Repentance is not just reformation. **Ezek 33:14-15**
 - C. **Why should you die?** There is no reason for you to die because you are responsible for your own salvation.
 - 1. When Peter was defending his actions in the house of Cornelius, he convinced his Jewish comrades that God was extending the gospel to the Gentiles. **Acts 11:18.** God was going to extend them the same opportunity to live, in spite of their past sins.
 - D. **Day to Day Response (v. 12-16)** – One’s past righteousness does not make him righteous today.
 - E. The call to daily repentance is just and fair. – **Ezekiel 33:17-20**

III. “ ...As a very lovely song” Repentance is not an easy message. Most people will refuse the invitation to live. Notice how God describes to Ezekiel the response of the people to his words: **Ezek 33:30-33**

Conclusion: Repentance is at the heart of the gospel message. John the Baptist preached it; Jesus preached it; the apostles preached it. It is a call to life, because the opportunity to turn is an act of God's greatest mercy.