



A Bed Too Short & A Cover Too Narrow

Isaiah 28:20

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- Isaiah was a prophet of God who sought to warn Israel and Judah that they were facing God's judgment.
- For centuries they had been rebellious with idolatry and immoral practices.
- Isaiah exposes their corruption and refusal to repent, including many of the leaders

Isaiah 28:20

- Our text is in the midst of a condemnation of the leaders.
- **Vs. 16** is Messianic, declaring that God would one day lay a foundation stone in Zion, and reward those who will believe in Him. (**cf. 1 Peter 2:6-7**).
- But they had rejected God and would reject this Stone. **See Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 8:14**

Isaiah 28:20

- Our text, even though a deliverer would come, God was going to punish them for their sins.
- Why? 1) Because they were relying on foreign nations to deliver them; 2) Because everything they had done was not adequate.
Anything less than total obedience is inadequate!
- **Vs. 20**, the expression "*For the bed is too short to stretch out on, And the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it*", was a message of their insufficiency!

Insufficiency

- Today we want to address insufficiency
- Many today profess to follow God. They may be doing much of what God says, but if it is LESS THAN what He has commanded it is inadequate.
- **Let us notice some examples**

Thinking morality alone will save

- Many think they are right with God even though they are not religious or nominally religious.
 - They might appeal to their moral lives (what they do not do) as sufficient to warrant their salvation.
- Understand! If we are to be saved, we must live moral lives. AND, we need to let God determine the standard.

Romans 1:16-17, 6:13, 10:3 – righteousness

But is being moral enough?

Thinking morality alone will save

Is morality enough?

- We cannot earn our salvation! **Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-6.**

To trust in morality (or righteousness) alone is insufficient!

- **Romans 3:23** – all have sinned.
Romans 6:23 – all need Jesus – **John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Ephesians 1:7**

Thinking all one has to do is believe

What about “faith alone”?

- While many passages emphasize faith, no passage teaches “faith only”
- Faith or believe can be an all inclusive term - **Ephesians 2:8-9, cf. Acts 16:31-33** - the jailer was told to “believe... and you will be saved.”
- **Hebrews 5:8-9, Romans 6:17-18** – call for obedience

James 2:14-25 address faith without works!

Thinking all one has to do is believe

God's plan of salvation includes:

- Hearing the word – **Romans 10:17**
- Believing in Jesus – **Mark 16:16, Romans 10:9**

To leave out any step of God's plan is to
"short-sheet" yourself

- Confessing Jesus as Lord and the Son of God –
Romans 10:9-10, 1 Timothy 6:12
- Baptism – **Acts 2:38, 22:16, Romans 6:3-4,
Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:21, etc.**

Thinking the church is not necessary

- Some have no problem accepting God's plan of salvation, but they do not think being part of His church is important
- Recently we have addressed:

To dismiss the importance of the church is to fall short of the glory of God

Ephesians 5:23, cv. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

- There are acts of worship that can only be fulfilled within the local church – **Acts 20:7,**
1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Preaching MOST of the truth

- Most will teach some truth. Many will teach MOST of the truth.
- BUT is that adequate?
- God expects us to proclaim the “whole counsel of God”
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** “all scripture” makes the man of God complete!
- **Revelation 22:18-19 (cf. Deut. 4:2, 12:32)** do not add to or take away from His word

Preaching MOST of the truth

- **Jeremiah 26:1-2** – “do not diminish a word.”
Isaiah 30:8-11 – Israel judged because they demanded that prophets speak “smooth things” to them
- **1 Corinthians 5:1-2** – rebuked for NOT addressing immorality in their midst
Also **Revelation 2:12-15** – Pergamos,
Revelation 2:18-22 – Thyatira

Preaching MOST of the truth

- **2 Timothy 4:2-4** – Timothy was to preach “in season and out of season” Why?

To preach anything less or more than the whole truth is insufficient!

• Counsel (adding or subtracting) is to preach a different gospel

Failing to live a godly life

- We began by discussing those who proclaim a moral life is enough (it is insufficient)
- NOW, we notice those who fail to live a godly life
Matthew 23:23 – the Jews did many things based on the LOM, but they neglected moral and fundamental matters
- Many today, are religious and devoutly faithful outwardly. But inside they are living corrupt lives
Matthew 23:24-28 – Jesus exposed this!

Failing to live a godly life

- This was a major downfall of Israel – **Isaiah 28:7-9** – the priests were intoxicated and could not

If we are inwardly impure, we are insufficient!

Putting off obedience

- Many know what they need to do, but they put it off intending to obey later

- On the day of judgment, good intentions will be inadequate, when you put off obeying God now!

Salvation



**Have you fully obeyed God?
Or is your “bed too short”?**



Let us pray