

Our Calling Begins with His Cross

Isaiah 2:1-22

What is an obstacle to living out God's calling on your life? According to Isaiah 2, it is pride.

Our calling (vv. 2-5). We are called to worship Jesus, proclaim Jesus, and pursue the peace that Jesus brings. Isaiah looks forward to the glorious vision of Christ, the true Temple of God, lifted up, and the nations worshipping Him. As believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we are now the temple of God, the Zion of God (vv. 2-3). The nations are drawn to Jesus through the Church's proclamation of the Gospel (v. 3). As people believe the Gospel they find peace with God, which leads to peace with others. This peace has begun now but will be complete when Jesus returns (v. 4). We are called to live out this glorious calling (v. 5).

Our pride (vv. 6-9). While we have a glorious calling, we struggle with hearts filled with pride in the things of man. Richard Lovelace writes, "When men's hearts are not full of God, they become full of the world around like a sponge full of clear water that has been squeezed empty and thrown into a mud puddle." Our hearts can be influenced by man's values (v. 6), tempted to trust in wealth and power (v. 7), and worship idols (v. 8). David Powlison writes, "Has something or someone besides Jesus the Christ taken title to your heart's trust, preoccupation, loyalty, service, fear and delight?"

God's humbling grace (vv. 10-22). Isaiah looks forward to 'that day' when man's pride will be humbled and God alone will be exalted (vv. 11, 17). At the final judgement, God will humble all the ways that man exalts himself apart from God (vv. 12-17) including our idolatry (vv. 18, 20). If you are in Christ, your pride was judged at the cross. At the cross, God was exalted. Through the Gospel, we find the grace to stop trusting in man and worship Christ alone (v. 22).

God's grace humbles us, leads us to cast our idols aside, and bow in worship before the crucified and resurrected King.

Questions for Individuals, Families, and Community Groups

- 1) In what ways do you struggle with pride in the things of man?

- 2) Share a time in your life when God humbled you by His grace.

- 3) What is God calling you to in this season of life? How is God humbling you by His grace for your calling?