

To Whom Shall We Go

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Jeremiah 16-17.

B. In Jeremiah we find out how to deal with stress and difficult circumstances with serenity and power.

II. God forbid Jeremiah to do certain things.

A. Jeremiah could not take a wife.

1. God's love prompted Him to do this.

2. There would be great tragedy in the land--this spared Jeremiah additional grief. (I Corinthians 7)

B. Jeremiah was not to mourn.

C. Jeremiah was not to go into the house of feasting.

III. The people had done worse than their fathers had and they bore responsibility for failing to heed the word given to them.

IV. The nation would be restored, but in the meantime, the people would be plundered.

V. Jeremiah's response: he praises God because one day the nations would recognize their folly.

VI. God's response: Only by the utter collapse of that, all people have trusted in will people come to trust in Him.

VII. The people will experience God's power because...

A. Their evil is entrenched.

B. Their evil is infectious.

VIII. What lies behind the movements of history.

A. There are two ways in which man can live.

1. The man is cursed who believes that the answer lies within him.

2. The man who trusts in the Lord is blessed.

B. The heart is deceitful above all else.

1. This is the answer to all human ministries.
2. The heart is desperately corrupt.
3. The only thing that the evil nature is good for is to be put to death, and this is what Jesus did on the cross.
4. The heart is deceitful-it never looks bad like it is.
5. To know what is in the heart one must examine the fruit of the life.

C. It is useless to rely on natural wisdom or goodness to enrich one's life.

D. A man finds the answer to his life in the understanding of his own nature and an understanding of the place to go.

1. The good news is that God has found a way for us to die without dying.
2. This place is the life of God found in Jesus Christ.

IX. The Sabbath day is to be kept holy.

- A. The Sabbath was the cessation of God's works.
- B. Keeping the Sabbath is trusting in God--ceasing from one's own self-effort.
- C. The Sabbath accepts the new way of life of God living and working within a person.

Application questions:

1. Why is it sometimes important for people to suffer great loss in order for them to trust in God?

2. What does it mean that "the heart is deceitful above all else?" Do you find this true to life?

3. How does one "die without dying?" Why is this so important to the Christian faith? Explain.
