



Sunday, May 3, 2020

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Jeremiah 31:3

As we grow in the Christian life, it can be easy to convince ourselves that we have “moved on” from the basics of Christianity. We know that Jesus died on the cross, that He rose again, that He ascended to heaven, that He’s coming back. We know that His death paid the penalty for sins. We know that His resurrection assures us of the promise of eternal life.

Yet in a most profound sense, we never truly “move on” from the basics of the gospel. The truth that God loves us ought to be as soul-stirring in our hearts and minds as it was the first time we heard it. We should never grow tired of hearing how the God who spoke the universe into existence could love His creatures who have rebelled against His good authority and sought out for ourselves ways of living that lead to death. We have despised Him and rejected Him in totality. Everything about our natural selves is opposed to God, and yet He has never been ultimately opposed to us. He has loved us with an everlasting love and demonstrated His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus, to die for us so that we could experience abundant and eternal life in Him.

Context

Jeremiah, as Pastor Don noted, is called “the weeping prophet.” His preaching ministry spanned the last few years of the nation of Judah before its destruction at the hands of Babylon and subsequent exile. The book of prophecy that bears his name as well as the book of Lamentations, which he also wrote, portray the people of God that had become totally opposed to God. Jeremiah preached to them and wrote to them about their impending destruction, but also offered notes of hope for the people—sending the signal that God would not always be angry, that He would enter into a new covenant with them because He loves them.

Discuss

- 1) When you think about God's love for sinners, what comes to mind?

- 2) How might (or how have you seen) God's love misrepresented in our culture?

- 3) What are some things that might cause us to doubt that God loves us?

- 4) How can we be more confident in God's love for us?

- 5) In what ways is your love for people different from God's love for us? How can you grow in loving others in a godly way?