

The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

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(618) 667-6708



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

Vol. 50 No. 05

1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

January 30, 2022

Be Careful Who You Follow

-Renn Ferguson

Isaiah is often called the Messianic prophet because of the many prophecies of Christ that are contained in his writing. However, there was another primary point of his preaching- the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem. As Isaiah is prophesying against them he said, “My people- infants are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, your guides mislead you and they have swallowed up the course of your paths” (3:12). The first to statements in that verse are interested. He said, “children are your oppressors.” There is slight debate surrounding this phrase. Some hold the position that those in leadership positions were literally young of age. Others suppose he is using this term to simply de-cribe that they were unfit for their position. Either way, the point is that their rulers were immature, ignorant, and foolish. Then he said, “women rule over them.” Most agree that this is not literal and what he means by this is that their rulers were weak and effeminate. Though these are interesting points I want us to focus primarily on the last statement, “your guides mislead you and they have swallowed up the course of your paths.”

While this certainly would be applicable to their civil leaders it is just as applicable to their spiritual leaders. This was a nation that struggled with its faithfulness to God. In part, it was because their desires be-came their priority. In Isaiah 30:9-11 we read, “For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.” This is much like what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths” These people simply did not want to hear the truth anymore.

Yet, their leaders share the blame. They no longer taught the truth. They had become consumed with their own passions and lead the people to do the same. In the New Testament we are constantly warned about those that would lead us astray. Paul wrote of these people in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” These people are so far from the truth Paul describes them as having their conscience seared. They have take no thought and have no remorse for the physical and

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spiritual damage that they do to their followers. Still, many people gladly follow them to hell. Just like the Israelites with their priests and prophets.