

Text: Zechariah 8:14-17

Title: God's grace is as sure as God's wrath

Thesis: Since God's grace is as sure as God's wrath you should fear not but rather repent in order that you might partake of God's grace in Christ.

Intro: Is there any such thing as a "sure thing"? Can you be sure that God will be gracious to you?

- I. Exposition of Zechariah 8:14-17
  - A. The example from the past. God's wrath.
  - B. The promise for the future. God's grace.
  - C. What not to do: fear.
  - D. What to do: repent.
  - E. What repentance looks like: hating what God hates and loving what God loves.
  - F. The point: Just as God had determined to do evil to the unrepentant in Israel so He has determined to do good to the repentant in Israel.
  
- II. The doctrine taught: God's grace to those who repent is as sure as His wrath against those who will not repent.
  - A. This true because God is always faithful to His covenant; He will always curse covenant breakers and bless covenant keepers. (Dt 28)
  - B. LK 3:7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? [8] Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. [9] And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. [10] And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? [11] He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. [12] Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? [13] And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. [14] And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.
  - C. AC 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. [39] For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. [40] And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

- D. Isa 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. [5] But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. [6] All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- E. Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. [18] He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- F. God's grace to you who repent is as certain as His wrath to you who will not repent.

III. Uses of this doctrine.

- A. Let this doctrine comfort your fears.
- B. Let this doctrine spur you on to repentance and holy living.
- C. Let this doctrine cause you to flee the sure wrath to come upon the unrepentant.

Conclusion: Zechariah 8:14-17 teaches that God's grace to those who repent is as sure as His wrath against those who will not repent. Knowing that God's grace is as sure as His wrath you should fear not but rather repent in order that you might partake of God's grace in Christ.