

SERMON NOTES

Date: January 3, 2021

Speaker: Mark Smith

Title: Living in Babylon

Text: Jeremiah 29:4-14

Big Idea: God's people are to seek the good of the people around them while committed to the difficult truth of God's Word and hoping in God's promise for full blessings in the future.

APPLICATION GUIDE

DISCUSS

How does thinking of ourselves as "exiles" give us perspective on this life and where our true "home" is?

What is the ultimate "welfare" we ought to be seeking for the people around us, and how does knowing that give us perspective on the other "good things" we do?

How does the promise that God always works for our welfare help us accept hardships, trials, pain, and the year's unknowns ahead? How does the promise of future blessings in heaven help us to accept these things?

APPLY THE TRUTH

What are your plans for knowing God's Word better in 2021? Do you need to make any practical changes to make that happen (setting the alarm earlier, deciding not to watch something in the evening, having someone hold you accountable, etc.)?

Are there any "voices" in your life that you need to cut off in 2021 because they pull you away from trusting God at His Word? These could be media, social media, unhealthy relationships, or other people or things that tempt you to hope in something other than God.

What are some practical ways you can "seek the welfare" of the people amongst whom you live?

How might you remind yourself in the week and year ahead to trust God in challenging circumstances, knowing He orchestrates them for your welfare?

COMMIT THIS WEEK

Get your Bible reading plan started remembering that it's not ultimately about following a schedule but about knowing God better!