

Ezekiel 33 – 18 October 2015

Intro –

Chapter 33 begins the final 1/3 of the book of Ezekiel, the future restoration of the nation of Israel.

Today God has us looking at what motivates us to come to church or to be the type of Christian that you are?

What are we offering to others when we ask them to consider Christ?

Chapter 33:1-9

1. God commissioned Ezekiel to warn Israel (not just Judah) as a watchman.
2. His job was just to warn, and then it's totally up to the people how they respond.
3. Read Col 1:28
 - a. It's not
 - i. "Oh, pretty please. Please accept..."

- ii. It's not some pressuring approach.
- b. Don't sell them a "God will make your life better" fake gospel.
 - i. **#1 – Offer them deliverance!**
 - ii. Deliverance from the consequences of their own sin.
 - iii. Don't offer them a church service on Sunday, offer them eternal life!

4. We do this for believers and non-believers alike.

- a. We warn them it's between them and the Holy Spirit.
- b. People say, "You're not my Holy Spirit..."
 - i. Read Heb 3:13 – *exhort* same word as Holy Spirit.
 - ii. Read I Tim 5:1-2 – *entreat* same word as Holy Spirit.

5. We want to warn all those in our sights, so we can live with a clean free conscience.

- a. Acts 20:25-27

b. Who is God laying on your heart today?

Chapter 33:10-11

1. Vs 10 – “We can’t admit we’re sinners, b/c then there’s no remedy & we have to live that way.”
2. Vs 11 – God didn’t set up this system of justice, just to watch us all fail and laugh at us.
 - a. He wants us to change and live.
 - b. But change to what...our own good efforts?
Let’s read on.

Chapter 33:12-13

1. A little sin with our righteousness condemns us to hell.
2. Jesus said, “Except your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in to case enter the Kingdom of heaven”.
3. No own works cannot satisfy justice.

Chapter 33:14-20

1. The wicked can repent and trust God to enable him to live right.
2. But the common thought among the people, AND STILL TODAY, is “but that’s not fair that people can turn and not get what’s coming to them”.
3. **#2 – Offer them equality thru God’s grace!**
4. Justice is all of us getting nothing!
 - a. It’s only in God’s great generosity that we live & move & have our being that we might feel after Him & find Him...Acts 17:27
 - b. Praise God for His great grace!

Chapter 33:21-22

1. Before the “prophecies to foreign nations’ in chapter 25-32, the last thing God did was tell Zeke he would be dumb until Jerusalem fell.
2. Almost 2 years have passed.

3. Prophecy has to come true in a prophet's life for them to be counted as a true prophet. (Deut 18:20-22)

Chapter 33:23-29

1. God never makes decision based on how many people are involved in a thing. (Abraham was 1, and we are many, surely we'll stay in the land)
 - a. If the majority in the USA want to murder babies from the womb, it's still wrong.
 - b. If only five people in all of Searsport want to get into God's Word, we'll still have church.
 - c. My Bible study at Keesler.
 - d. Most people believe in evolution, it's still a lie from the pit of hell.
2. God is concerned with aiding the **sanctified ones with lots of character**, not the **selfish ones with lots of company**.
3. **#3 – Offer them a life sanctified by the truth!**

- a. It was Abraham's character of faith that God choose to give the land to, not b/c he was many or a great nation.
- b. Are you choosing to be a person of character during the times that you're in the minority?

Chapter 33:30-33

- 1. They came to church to be soothed.
- 2. Would you still come to church if...
 - a. You had no family here?
 - b. The music was horrible?
 - c. If there was zero entertainment value here?
- 3. These questions test our heart to find out if our reason for being here is truly to hear with the intent of applying God's Word to our life.
 - a. III John 4 – “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children.....”
 - i. Go to church every Sunday....NO
 - ii. Walk in the truth!

- b. Want to know if you're applying God's Word? Does what you do at _____ honor God?
 - i. 0945 on Tuesdays or 8pm on Fridays
 - ii. With your credit card, your cell phone

4. Your church attendance should just be an effect; God is concerned with your life being submitted to His good will.

Conclusion:

So what motivates us to come to church or to be the type of Christian that you are?

God has given us such great **deliverance from sin**.

We're all **set equal and right** in God presence and before each other.

He's put us on a **sanctified, holy path by His truth, His Word**.

May God bless you with a deep understanding of His deliverance and His grace and His truth.