

GOD'S COVENANT GIFT: NEW HEARTS

I. THE BASIS OF GOD'S LOVINGKINDNESS AND GRACE

- A. The context of this wonderful message.
1. Jeremiah is in the king's prison for bringing the Word of God that he is sending Israel into captivity.
 2. While in prison, Jeremiah purchases (redeems) land in Judah (vs.8-12).
 3. Why would he do that?
 4. The answer: God will bring his sinful people out of all the lands back into the land of promise (vs.37).
- B. The Lord will return from his fierce anger in his marvelous lovingkindness.
1. The people of Israel deserve God's righteous anger, not only in captivity in Babylon, but in hell forever.
 2. With divided heart, they have disobeyed God and served other gods.
 3. But God will forgive their iniquity and shall return from his fierce anger, and bless them abundantly!
 4. Notice: God finds the reason for this not in the people, but in **himself!** He is the covenant God.
- C. God's covenant of grace (vs. 38).
1. God is the God of his people.
 2. He has loved them from eternity, chosen them in his loving-kindness.
 3. God never changes. He loves his own everlastingly. His love is a continual and everlasting love.
 4. God always remembers his covenant (undeserved, freely bestowed upon his own).
 5. "Happy is the people whose God is the LORD" (Ps. 144:15).

II. THE GIFT GOD GIVES TO HIS COVENANT CHILDREN (vs. 39)

- A. The Lord speaks of giving his own "**one heart and one way**".
1. This is in contrast to their divided heart. Not united in faith, they served many different gods.
 2. This divided heart led to all kinds of actions of unfaithfulness, abominations and grievous sins of Israel
 3. This one heart that God gives is the heart of God's people, Christ is that heart!
 4. Christ is the heart of God whereby he loved us eternally and came down from heaven to save us.
- B. The Lord gives a new heart.
1. Ezekiel 11: 19.
 2. Instead of a heart that is hard, there is given to his own is a heart of flesh, tender and open to his word.
 3. This is God's wonderful work of regeneration by his Spirit.
 4. If it were in the power of man to form his heart for God's service, this would be an absurd promise.
 5. God does what is impossible for us to do for ourselves or for our children. He gives us new heart.
- C. Why this is necessary:
1. God cannot own us as his people except he regenerates us by his Spirit, that we conform to his image.
 2. This new heart is necessary that we now walk in new ways: ways of obedience and fear.
 3. God works in us "both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).
 4. The connection between the one heart and the one way. Our way is our heart in motion!

III. THE GLORIOUS FRUIT OF GOD'S COVENANT GRACE.

- A. God's people may fear God forever.
1. That awe and reverence for God is only produced by the grace of regeneration.
 2. This is not merely a potential fear and obedience, but an actual one by irresistible grace.
 3. God's grace is effectual, in us and in the line of our generations.
 4. God will preserve his elect people, though they often stumble and fall.
- B. God "will not turn away from his people to do them good".
1. God will always be their Instructor and Teacher
 2. God will not depart from them but show them perpetual favor and kindness.
 3. He will put his fear in their hearts that they might never depart from him.
 4. Beautiful perseverance: Because God never departs from us, we will never depart from him: fellowship