Why Do I Need Jesus Anyway?

**Read:** Isaiah 28:16-22

**Text:** Hebrews 8:6 “But now hath he obtained a more excellent

ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant,

which was established upon better promises.”

**Introduction:** We are living in a world where the claims of Christ and

the Bible are constantly being questioned. Many of those who live in

our culture sincerely believe that their own goodness will assure them

of a home in heaven. Many of the movies that are labeled Christian

push this idea as well. There is no call to repentance and most see no

need for repentance. One of the criticisms that I have heard about the

movie “Heaven is for Real” is that it is not true to the book and infers

that everyone who is sincere, regardless of what they believe, will go

to heaven. I want to talk about the promise of salvation from the Old

Testament Prophet: Isaiah.

**I. Jesus is Promised:** in the 16th verse we can clearly see the

promise of Jesus. “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I

lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious

corner *stone,* a sure foundation…” In the old Testament Zion is

called the City of God and in the New Testament it refers to the

church. I Corinthians 3:11 identifies the sure foundation: “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” In Ephesians 2:20 the scriptures reveal just who is the cornerstone of the church when Paul declares: “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone;”

**II. Righteous Judgment is Promised:** Isaiah uses the picture of a

Plumb line to describe how God will determine who is upright and

who is not. The plumb line is the oldest way of determining vertical

accuracy and remains the truest as well. Most masons still use it to set

their corners from one level to multi-level buildings. This is Isaiah’s

way of letting us know that God’s judgment is always true. He has no

bias that promotes unfairness. Salvation is available to “whosoever.”

God will not cut corners or make exceptions for anyone. Whosoever

will trust in Him will be saved and whosoever won’t trust in Him will

be lost.

**III. Cancelled Contract:** the 18th verse is a promise that reveals just

what satan has done behind the back of everyone who follows him. He

has signed a contract on you. You have a covenant with death and an

agreement with hell. “I never agreed to a Christ-less eternity, Pastor. I

never rejected life and agreed to death. I just want to have a little fun

for a while and later I’ll fix it all with God. Ahh you didn’t read the

fine print when you chose to walk the path of self-pleasing. When you

decided to not do things Gods’ way that was when you signed the

covenant with death and the agreement with hell. Isaiah is telling us

that the purpose of Christ is coming is to cancel this contract and give

you a chance to obtain a better covenant based on better promises as

stated in our text.

**IV, Uncomfortable Rest:** the 20th verse reveals just how unstable and

uncomfortable our sinful life has made us. It says: “For the bed is

shorter than that *a man* can stretch himself *on it:* and the covering nar-

rower than that he can wrap himself *in it.*” Isaiah 48:22 says: *There is*

no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked. Can you imagine the pic-

ture? You are sleeping on a toddler bed with a bath towel for a blank-

et. That is what it is like for the man who rejects Christ the corner-

stone of salvation. He cannot be comfortable no matter what he does

for he is relying on an unsure foundation and trying to cover his sin

with a fig leaf of positive self-approval.

**V. An Angry God & A Just Result** are found in the last two verses

that I read; they tell us that the LORD is wroth and that a full and utter

end (consumption) a complete riddance; is in store for all who do not

Repent and turn from their sin.

**Conclude:** What are you going to do about what Isaiah says? Do you think that God is happy with America? Do you think that perhaps God is angry with a people who have been blessed as we have and refuse to include Him in our public lives? Are you ashamed of Him or just afraid of what others will think if you stand for what you know is right? There is no salvation outside of the complete trust in Christ alone as our savior. If you have not trusted Him today then now is the time. Altar call!