

The Study on the Book of Jeremiah
Week #13: The Response of the People (Part 2)
Sunday, January 19, 2025 (PM Service)

1. The Basis of Boasting (Jer. 9:23-24)

- a. The theme changes from indictment of sin and descriptions of judgment to an exhortation to seek what is truly worthwhile in life.
- b. The Lord rejects the usual grounds for boasting- wisdom, strength, and riches.
 - i. Ironically, these are the things people like to boast about- how successful they are, how strong they are, or how rich they are.
 - ii. When all nonessentials are laid aside, the only appropriate basis for boasting is that a person knows and understands the Lord (I Cor. 1:31).

2. The Worthlessness of Circumcision (Jer. 9:25-26)

- a. Judah, like those nations, practiced physical circumcision to Abraham, the ritual was intended to identify him and his descendants as the covenant people of God. (Gen. 17:11)
 - i. However, the Lord never intended a physical ritual to substitute for moral integrity and obedience.

3. The Preparation for Exile

- a. No sin is condemned more severely in the OT than the sin of idolatry.
 - i. The Foolishness of Idolatry (Jer. 10:1-5)
 - 1. A cold, lifeless god produces a cold, lifeless faith.
 - 2. The command not to learn the ways of the nations, then, is similar to Paul's command not to conform to the "pattern of this world." (Rom. 12:2)
 - 3. Jeremiah 10:6-10: They describe the uniqueness, power, and greatness of God.
 - 4. The contrast between the golden idols and the true God is set forth with striking simplicity in Vs. 10.
 - a. He is true; they are false.
 - b. He is living; they are lifeless.
 - c. He is eternal; they are subject to decay and destruction.

- d. He is powerful in His wrath; they are powerless, before Him (Vs. 11).
- 5. **Jer. 10:12-16:** The theme is the power of the true God contrasted with the powerlessness of idols.