

**WILL YOU LISTEN?**

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Among the gravest mistakes is to assume you're listening to God.

*Too often we listen for self-affirmation:*

- Pastor prepares/listens so the congregation tells him he's okay.
- People listen for truths already affirmed to confirm they're okay
- Pastors/People long for a growing church to be surer they're okay.

**ONE: Will You Listen? (28.1-15)**

- Not if you're drunk with worldly wealth & worldly wisdom (28.1-4, 7-10, 14-15)
  
- Not if you desire God to give instructions about which we can argue (28.9-10).

**TWO: Will You Listen & Trust? (28.16-29)**

- Trust his strange & alien work: to discipline his people, to make them fruitful (28.21-22; 2 Cor 1.3-4)
  
- To listen and lean on the Rock is to be saved by faith

Know you need a foundation stone to sift you (Isa 28.16-22)

Know you can trust his wisdom and his ways (Isa 28.24-29)

- To listen well is to listen that the Rock might become
  - your crown & diadem of beauty (28.5)
  
  - your love of justice & your strength (28.6)
  
  - your bed and blanket and rest (28.. 20, 12, 15b, 16, 29)

**Interact with Isaiah 28 with these thoughts/questions:**

1. The leaders and people of Ephraim (Israel) and Jerusalem (Judah) were drunk not only with literal wine at times but also with the beauty and fruitfulness of their land and with their strategies to stay alive economically and politically. They didn't want to rest in and abide by Isaiah's straight-forward, repetitive message. In what ways are believers and churches doing similar things today?
2. What are some of the differences between the ways we seek truth/teaching that we can debate and control and the seeking of truth that sifts us and enables us to find our rest in Christ alone?
3. We at Christ PCA often stress that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. In what ways is it true that we are also sanctified/grow/mature in obedience by grace through faith in Christ alone?
4. If you believe that God in Christ by his indwelling Spirit is right now plowing, planting or weeding in your life (Isaiah 28.23-29) with wonderful counsel and wisdom (28.29) how is this an aspect of being sanctified by faith?
5. How can you apply question 4 to our congregation? To how Christ's churches are being affected by nations and powers?
6. If you "bed is too short" and your "covering too narrow to wrap" yourself (28.20) what do you need to do find your rest in Christ?