



Sunday, October 4, 2009: Home Truths: God has No Favourites

Scripture: Amos 2:4-16

Speaker: Scott Masson

Sermon Notes:

1. God judges gentile nations not only for harming His people, but for violations of His covenant standards. In Amos, the latter is the emphasis.
2. Israel had begun to understand their election as arbitrary favouritism, abandoning the significance of God's covenant. However, rejecting God's revelation and their covenant blessings actually increased Israel's guilt.
3. God brings charges against His people: vv4-5 they rejected God's law; vv4-12 they contradicted His salvation; vv13-16 they forfeited His favour.
4. When anything other than the Word of God takes the place of supreme authority in our thinking it becomes a source of lies, e.g. contemporary concepts of freedom, equality.
5. In Scripture freedom does not mean free will to choose God; rather God frees us from our sin to love and enjoy Him.
6. Biblical equality is to be free from the tyranny of other sinners.
7. By rejecting God's structures of authority, we embrace humanistic "equality" which leads to tyranny and anarchy.
8. The church is charged to guard, publicize God's truth, and the truth itself safeguards the church.
9. By covetousness and oppression of the poor, God's people were contradicting their salvation.
10. We do not enter the kingdom of God by becoming a better person; yet the kingdom of God has moral implications.
11. A just God can be "married" only to a righteous people, because marriage entails unity.
12. Holiness is not only a command for moral purity in God's people (Lev. 19:2), but it's also a promise of God to make us holy, which He does in Christ.
13. In His baptism Jesus is the covenant keeping man, as well as being a covenant keeping God.

14. By faith, Christ's human obedience is credited to us.
15. As an intentional offense against God, the people of Israel went to temple prostitutes to get fertility (and life) from Baal.
16. Regarding God as an impersonal, non-moral force, Israel imagined that God's favour and morality are not connected.
17. Scripture says the created order is good, but it's not sacred.
18. We are not holy in ourselves, but we are made holy in Christ.
19. Some Christians falsely claim that whatever they desire is natural and therefore sacred.
20. Our culture seeks public sanctification for any kind of sexual practice, elevating human sexuality to a pagan religious rite.
21. Marriage between one man and one woman must be publicly proclaimed as God's good order for human sexuality.
22. Even the priests take pledges and oppress the poor; though they were slaves in Egypt, they now treat slaves appallingly.

Application Questions:

1. Are we seeking to conform our lives to God's revealed moral character, or have we rejected His Word?
2. What is the relationship between the wellbeing of the church (and the well-being of the nation) and God's revealed truth?
3. What implications does the metaphor of God's marriage to His people have for our morality?
4. If we partake of immorality, we deliberately offend the Lord. What does this say about our covenant status?
5. What is the biblical concept of human freedom? What is the consequence of radical humanistic equality (egalitarianism)?
6. Where do fertility and abundance come from according to Deuteronomy 28:1-14 ?
7. Does Hebrews 12:22-25 impact your view of God's Word?
8. Do I allow my personal desires and feelings about sexuality to override God's revealed morality for His people?