



Sunday, November 1, 2009: Seek God and Live

Scripture: Amos 5:1-27

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. In this passage God is singing a song of lament over His people. This is covenantal language which carries an expectation of certain judgment.
2. Yet God never leaves His people without hope: "Seek Me and live." Amos 5:4, 6.
3. God's government in the world is totally committed to justice: the guarantee of fairness for the poor and weak, and the protection of righteousness.
4. Amos 5:8-9. Our God is not weak. He governs the heavens and all of creation.
5. Amos 5:10. Justice has fallen. Truth and righteousness had become unacceptable in the public square.
6. Amos 5:11. Because Israel's wealth was based on exploitation, God will remove the proceeds of oppression.
7. We have the same kind of oppression where corrupt institutions are bailed out at the expense of the working poor.
8. Amos 5:13. It's an evil time; therefore be prudent. You don't necessarily have to speak out before those who may turn and devour you. Cf. Matthew 7:6.
9. The early church saw that the surrounding culture was unredeemable and started counter cultural courts and schools under apostolic direction and bible-based principles.
10. Amos 5:14-15. Rejecting evil is necessary before we can do good.

11. Amos 5:18 We must be sure we are not caught up in idolatry, compromise, and legalized oppression before we call on God for a visitation.
12. Romans 12:9 repeats Amos 5:15: 'Let love be genuine, abhor what is evil, hold fast to what is good.'
13. Only when we're just toward God can we act justly toward our neighbour.
14. Amos 5:19. God uses even wild animals to judge His people.
15. Amos 5:24 calls on us to return to justice wholeheartedly.
16. Love in 1 Corinthians 13 is the fulfillment of the law.
17. Biblically, worship is to ascribe value to something; we're to show in our worship that God is worth most to us.
18. True devotion to God is not just about our feelings. We show that we know God if we obey His commands. See 1 John 5:2-3
19. Matthew 23:23-33. Jesus challenges the establishment for their lawlessness.
20. Jesus calls us on our blindness and occasional faithfulness, and condemns our law breaking.
21. Not everyone who names the Lord is saved. Matthew 7:21

Application Questions:

1. Have we imagined a weak God to fit our preconceptions and to do our bidding?
2. In what ways might we as Canadian Christians be exploiting the poor and angering God?
3. Is my piety contradicted by my unfaithfulness in practicing righteousness and justice in my work, school, business, etc?
4. By observing the average Christian worship service in Canada, what might outsiders conclude about our God?
5. How is it possible that God's people can actually be God's enemies? In what ways might we have become God's enemies?
6. How must we show our love for God according to 1 John 5:2-3?
7. How can it be prudent to be silent when faced with evil times?