



Sunday, November 8, 2009: At Ease in Zion?

Scripture: Amos 6:1-14

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Review: God continues to announce judgment upon Israel for their injustice, decadence, and corruption.
2. Cities are often places which abandon God in favour of wealth and power.
3. Israel was guilty of sins of attitude toward God: covenant rebellion without repentance.
4. Israel was guilty of sins of attitude toward others: lacking fruit of righteousness toward neighbours.
5. The cross highlights the moral necessity of God's wrath against sin and His sacrifice to show sinners His mercy.
6. Sincerity in ritual is **not** more important than true theology.
7. The creed of our time says truth is defined by self-pleasing.
8. Amos 6:8. We need to avoid false contentment in our lives.
9. The people of God must be constantly vigilant and the church must be constantly reforming.
10. God warns His people that they're no better than other covenant breakers who have already been judged.
11. As people are conscious of their own guilt, they are driven to occultism which offers temporal power but ultimate defeat.
12. People deny themselves meaning by abandoning God and embracing a vision of cosmic defeat in history.
13. Amos 6:4-6. Godly self-care involves cleansing, nutrition and exercise. However, excessive self-indulgence and careless opulence caused the people to neglect their duties toward God and the needs of others.
14. If we're out of step with God we're bound to fail. However, if God is for us, who can be against us?
15. Amos 6:10. We must not misappropriate the name of the Lord after we've rejected His Word.
16. After abandoning God's justice it's impossible to expect deliverance.
17. God is ruling and reigning in history: e.g., Islam was used to judge the faithlessness of the Eastern church 7-9th c. A.D.
18. God uses judgments in time and history to accomplish His purposes.
19. When we call on God and humble ourselves, God will turn and heal our land and restore His people.
20. We must preach the gospel, and pray that God would display His justice so that everything that opposes His work would be swept aside.

Application Questions:

1. Are any of my religious values based on individual self-pleasing rather than submission to God's word?
2. Is it possible that Canadian churches are empty because on the whole they've abandoned the word of God?
3. Are we self-indulgent and comfortable in our lives so that we neglect our duties toward God and our neighbour?
4. Am I rooting out evil from my life, and seeking righteousness?
5. Explain the religious drive behind the rise in occultism and demonism in our time.
6. Have we trusted our own strength instead of trusting God?
7. Are we guilty of trying to "plow rocks" in any place in our lives, in our families, in our churches? See Amos 6:12.
8. How are we guilty of idolatry, unrighteousness, decadence, oppression, and complacency, while we ignore the truth?
9. Instead of embracing complacency, in what ways should we be vigilant and constantly reforming as Christ's church?