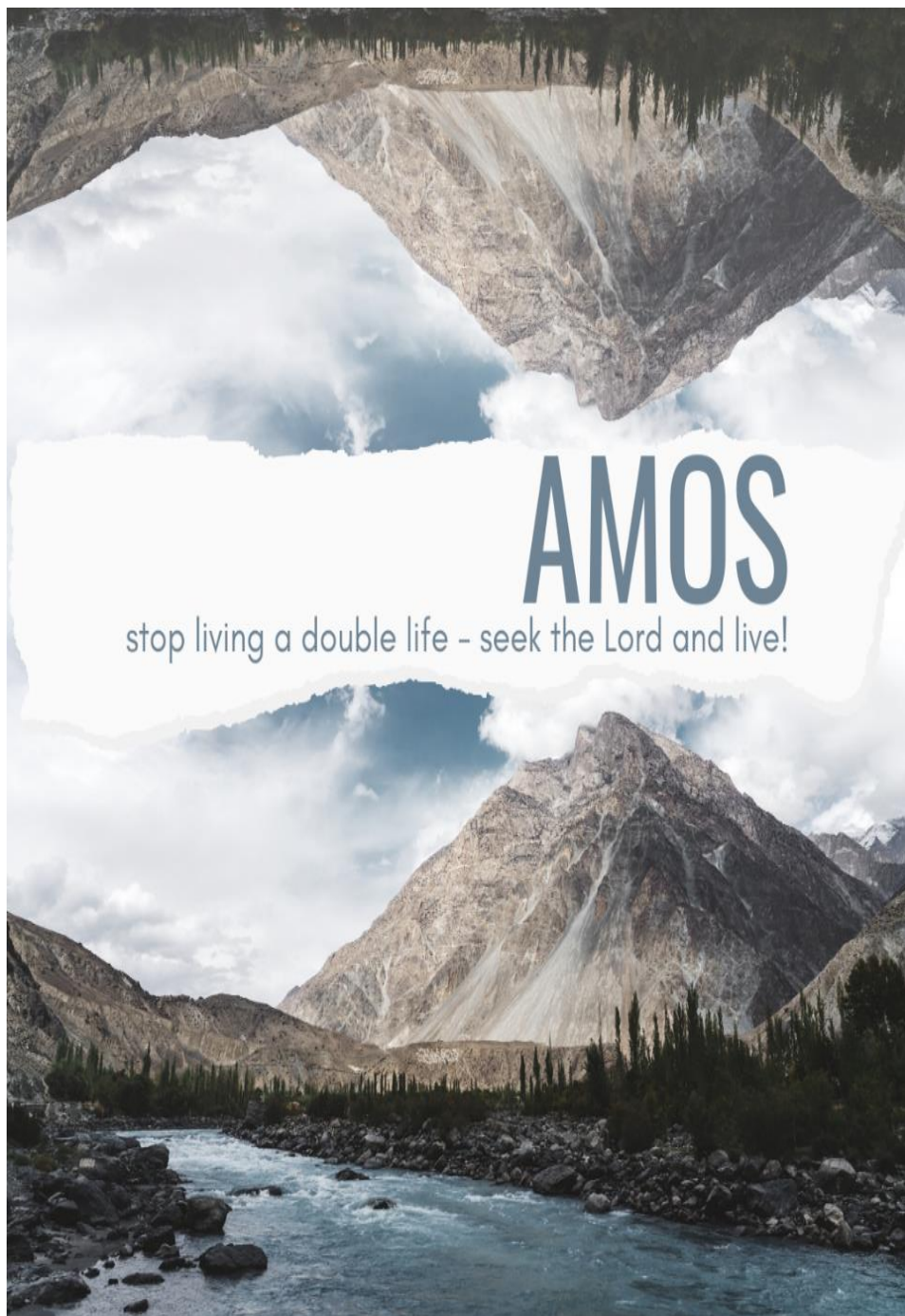


Daily Worship Booklet

May 26th – May 30th, 2025



AMOS

stop living a double life – seek the Lord and live!

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 30: How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

Answer: The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Scripture Proofs:

Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 1:29; John 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 3:17.

Comment: The Lord Jesus Christ purchased our salvation at the Cross, and God the Holy Spirit then applies that redemption to our lives so that we are united to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit does this by 'calling' us through the Word of God preached in a powerful and life changing way.

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 149B. The words are on page 8.

Please pray for:

Mon - Nika Young

Tues - Leanne Zuiderveen

Wed - Cy and Heather Aiken

Thur - Marcelle Alostia

Frid - Renato & Amparo, Renata & Helena Ayala

Bible Questions for the week:

1. What did Jacob do to deceive his father?

Answer - Genesis 27:14-16

2. Why did Jacob do this?

Answer - Genesis 27:26-27

Please pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.

*These notes have been prepared by
Rev. Lee Hutchings of Trinity Church PCA in North Canton, Ohio.*

Monday – Amos 4:1-5 - What's in a name?

The classic children's rhyme, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me," is well-meaning, but everyone who has ever been called a name knows how powerful words can be. God uses names to describe and illustrate a reality about the person identified. Think of the "sons of thunder" (Mk.3:17) or "I will call you Peter" (Matt. 16:18).

In our passage today, God addresses the woman of Israel as "Cows of Bashan". This isn't an insult about their appearance; it's a wake-up call to convict them of their sin. "Cows of Bashan" refers to the fine cattle from the rich pasture lands. God is condemning the women of Israel for their oppression of the poor and crushing of the needy to satisfy their materialistic desires and showing that they are the same as their husbands, who seek a life of ease and comfort at the expense of righteousness and justice. "Bring, that we may drink!" speaks of their drunken lifestyle.

It's not that they are being outwardly coarse and gross; this is normality for this affluent and highly cultured society. These people are churchgoers, participating in worship in Bethel and Gilgal, where the golden calf was set up by Jeroboam I (1 Kings 12:26-33). They brought tithes and offerings every three days, even though God only commanded the tithe on an annual basis, as well as a yearly sacrifice. However, their religion is devoid of obedience to God, which makes them a foul stench to the Lord. As one commentator writes, "to approach God with your lips, while your heart is far from him, is a most basic manifestation of contempt for God."

Israel's lack of concern for God and pride-filled obsession with its own publicity and security serve as a reminder that sin is always a matter of the heart rather than the hand. Despite their outward and superficial display of piety, these individuals lack integrity. And God has seen enough. The cows of Bashan are pictured as fish about to be "hooked" by God's judgement and the invasion of their enemy, the Assyrians (v. 2-3).

And yet, even in the middle of a prophecy of judgment, there is, as we shall see, later in the week, a promise of hope and redemption in this prophecy and the challenge to choose life instead of spiritual death - "seek the Lord and live"! (Amos 5:6).

Questions

Q1. What is the significance of a name in the Bible?

Q2. What does God's challenge to Israel to do "what you so love to do" (v.5) tell us about what God thinks of worship? When we worship God, are we free to do what feels right, even if God hasn't commanded it?

Memory verse - Proverbs 3:13-14

"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold."

Tuesday – Amos 4:6-13 - Clear Warnings.

When the Assyrian Empire invaded the Northern Kingdom in 722 B.C., whatever else could be said by the children of Israel, one thing they could not claim was that they had never been warned. God's people were supposed to have known better. They were not heathens or pagan nations, who only had creation and providence to teach them about their creator - they had God's law and commands, His special revelation. The fact that they disregarded His revealed will and law, and remained unmoved by Amos' message, is even more justification for God's righteous anger against them. In our passage today, five clear warnings from past judgments are mentioned:

1. God sent famine to the land (4:6) - Despite the lack of bread and food, and their "cleanness of teeth" - which today sounds positive, but not in this context - Israel remained obstinate and did not turn to the Lord.
2. God withheld the rain for harvest (4:7) - Great droughts were experienced in various parts of the kingdom. Still, they remained unrepentant despite travelling to other cities to drink water.
3. God sent a plague of locusts (4:9) - This should have alerted Israel to what the Lord was doing. This was not the first time God sent locusts in the bible. Previously, it was in Egypt, where He delivered His covenant people. Now He is sending them as judgment for their sin.
4. God sent other varieties of plagues (4:10) - God now points out explicitly to trigger their memories - He has done this before in the face of oppression and idolatry! Remember Egypt? You are not in good company, Israel.
5. God overthrew some in Israel as He did Sodom and Gomorrah (4:11) - Here, the reference is to earthquakes that destroyed towns and villages.

Israel was to hear directly that their recent natural disasters were no mere happenstance of weather. God is telling them He is behind it all!

Questions

- Q1. Who is behind all the judgement coming upon Israel?
- Q2. How did the people respond to God's warnings to them?
- Q3. What lessons are there in this for us today?

Memory Verse - Proverbs 3:13-14

"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold."

Wednesday – Amos 4:6-13 – Where am I at with the warnings of God to me?

Yesterday, we saw that Israel was told that its recent natural disasters were not mere happenstances of the weather. God was telling them He is behind it all! That can be a great comfort or a terrifying prospect! Comfort if we are resting in God and His promises; terrifying, if we are ignoring or refusing to submit to God and His commands.

Despite these clear warnings, the people paid no attention. They continued to lead a double life and refused to follow the Lord. God's grace was evident in the past. There was still time to turn. Yet no positive response is recorded.

The question is, how will God respond? Verse 12 gives us the answer. God says emphatically, "therefore", because of Israel's lack of repentance and obedience, He will challenge them.

We are never told what "this" and "thus" are in verse 12, but their result is a summons to appear before Yahweh himself. Like the Pharisees in Jesus' day, Israel thought they were right with God. But now they will discover how far off they truly are. It is time to meet God. And that's true for all people, everywhere. Everyone must appear one day before God (Romans 14:10).

Such warnings are both a challenge and an opportunity for us. We still have time (though none of us knows how much time). The challenge is that we must examine our lives. Ask ourselves genuinely searching questions. Questions like:

- Am I really thinking about what I read in the Bible and hear preached on the Lord's Day?
- Is there something in my life that God is convicting me about?
- Is 'going to' church more about seeing other people than God speaking to me through His Word?
- What do I really think about my wife, my husband, children, other people in the church? Is it in line with what God says He wants from me?

Question

Q. How are you hearing and thinking about God and His commands.

Memory Verse - Proverbs 3:13-14

"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold."

Thursday - Amos 5:1-17 - Seek the Lord and live!

Despite the warnings of impending judgment, Amos still hints at the possibility of coming to the Lord afresh. These warnings were intended to put the fear of God into Israel and we know from Proverbs that reverence and fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom and spiritual life.

In our passage today, we read Amos' lament for fallen Israel (5:1-3) and a passionate plea for God's covenant people, even at the 11th hour of their national existence, to "seek the Lord and live!" One commentator says the Northern kingdom, like the Psalmist, is now walking through the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23). But, unlike David, Israel is not trusting the Lord for deliverance. She is heading towards destruction with no signs of stopping or slowing down. This opening section of chapter 5 reads almost like an obituary of the ten tribes of the north. They are "fallen", never to rise again (verse 2). Israel is called a virgin, not because she is pure and undefiled, but because she has remained independent and self-sustained up until now. She has not been "taken" by anyone else. She is her own nation. But this will soon end. Never to rise again! So, a part of the Old Testament church will perish, which some might call a denomination. These words of lament are a faint foreshadowing of the church in Sardis from Revelation 3. Jesus says to the church there, "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead." (Revelation 3:1).

Israel seemed alive and thriving. But things are not always what they seem. It's often said, "not everything that glitters is gold". Many churches in our day enjoy numerical success and offer numerous programs and activities for their congregants. Their budgets are significant, and God seems to be blessing them from all outward appearances. But from God's point of view, who sees things we do not, a church can be dead from apostasy and idolatry. One preacher suggests, "Apostasy, however magnificent its panoply and power, will perish for lack of a real soul." What matters is how actively connected the church is to and obedient of her Head, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

- Q1. How should we measure success in the church?
- Q2. What is the most important thing in a church?

Memory Verse - Proverbs 3:13-14

"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold."

Friday - Amos 5: 18-27 - The Day of the Lord.

In the eighth century, Israel was looking forward to a special day. This is the earliest expression in the Scriptures of the phrase, “the Day of the Lord”. In the New Testament, it is often a reference to the second coming of Christ, wherein the day of judgment shall take place. The Old Testament prophets speak of this day as the culmination of God’s judgement and his divine visitations of his providence throughout redemptive history. Simply put, the day of the Lord brings justice, and it is not a trivial matter. But, as we’ve already mentioned in this series in Amos, Israel was more concerned with God’s judgement of their enemies than they were awakened to the reality of their spiritual condition. They were expecting that God would judge others and vindicate themselves. They falsely believed God would always be on their side, no matter how they lived. Like a volcano that was building up towards a dramatic eruption, so is God’s wrath against sin being stored up for that great day.

Amos confronts Israel that this day, rather than being looked forward to, should be met with fear since it will bring “darkness, not light.” (5:18). The prophet illustrates this with a story. It’s as if a man escapes the prowling of a lion, and then luckily also evades the threat of a bear, and then, feeling himself safe and secure in his own home, is fatally bitten by a venomous snake (5:19). Israel presumed upon God’s favour. They assumed their enemies were without and not within. A sinner’s real enemy, of course, is always themselves.

The Lord then rehearses what he despises about their hypocrisy in worship, false offerings, and entertainment-driven music, aimed not at honouring the Lord but pleasing themselves. The only alternative is righteousness and justice. Instead of living a double life, God’s people are to live in covenant faithfulness to the pattern of holiness God has prescribed in His word.

Despite all their empty words and haughty prayers, Israel has essentially become a pagan nation. And God will send them into exile. May we never become so presumptuous or complacent that it would likewise be true of us, that we would be sent away from His presence, instead of being welcomed in His mercy.

Questions

Q1. What is the danger of presuming upon God’s grace and favour?

Q2. Is the Day of the Lord to be welcomed or feared? Why or why not?

Memory Verse - Proverbs 3:13

“Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.”

Psalm 149B

1. O praise the LORD, O sing aloud,
A new song to the LORD;
Where godly people congregate,
Let them His praise accord.
With joy in their Creator now
Let Isr'el shout and sing;
And so let all of Zion's sons
Be joyful in their King.

2. With dancing let them offer up
Their praises to His name;
Let them with sound of harp and drum
Sing psalms of praise to Him.
That people whom the LORD has claimed
Is pleasant in His eyes;
And with salvation's radiance
The meek He beautifies.

3. With glory let the godly ones
Exult with lifted heads;
Yes, let them all with gladness shout,
And sing upon their beds.
O let the lofty praise of God
From out their throats be poured,
And let them have within their hands
A sharp two-edged sword.

4. Upon the nations they shall bring
Revenge and judgment just;
With iron chains their kings and chiefs
They'll into bondage thrust.
On them the judgment execute
Found written in His word;
This honor all His godly have.
Give praises to the LORD!