

20220703 HOW TO WALK WITH GOD – PART 2

A message for God's people
Amos 5:10-15, 21-24

¹⁰ you hate the one who reproves in court
and despise him who tells the truth.

¹¹ You trample on the poor

and force him to give you grain.

Therefore, though you have built stone mansions,
you will not live in them;

though you have planted lush vineyards,

you will not drink their wine.

¹² For I know how many are your offenses
and how great your sins.

You oppress the righteous and take bribes

and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

¹³ Therefore the prudent man keeps quiet in such times,
for the times are evil.

¹⁴ Seek good, not evil,
that you may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you,
just as you say he is.

¹⁵ Hate evil, love good;
maintain justice in the courts.

Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy
on the remnant of Joseph.

²¹ "I hate, I despise your religious feasts;
I cannot stand your assemblies.

²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain
offerings,

I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,

I will have no regard for them.

²³ Away with the noise of your songs!

I will not listen to the music of your harps.

²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

JUDGEMENT FOR GENTILES ACCORDING TO THE CONSCIENCE

Romans 2:14-16

¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, **do by nature things required by the law**, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,

¹⁵ since they show that **the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.**)

¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

MESSAGE TO GOD'S PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED GOD'S TRUTH

Three characteristics of God's truth (by J. B. Phillips)

1. The first characteristic of His truth is a kind of clarified common sense.

"Judge not, and you will not be judged."

"By their fruits, you shall know them."

"Whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you."

How obvious these truths are! They are so clear, simple, and apparent!

2. The second and far more disquieting aspect of truth which Jesus taught was not common sense at all, or at least it may be common sense in the world to which we are going, but here it appears either nonsense or a kind of supersense.

The world says:

Happy are the pushers, for they get on in the world.

Happy are the hard-boiled, for they never let life hurt them.

Happy are they who complain, for they get their own way in the end.

Happy are the blasé, for they never worry over their sins.

Happy are the slave drivers, for they get results.

Happy are the knowledgeable men of the world, for they know their way around.

Happy are the troublemakers, for they make people take notice of them.

Now, here is what Jesus taught in modern language.

Happy are the humble-minded, for they already belong to the kingdom of heaven!

Happy are those who know what sorrow means, for they will be given courage and comfort.

Happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth will belong to them!

Happy are those who are hungry and thirsty for goodness, for they will be fully satisfied!

Happy are the kindhearted, for they will have kindness shown to them!

Happy are the pure in heart, for they will see God!

Happy are those who make peace, for they will be known as sons of God!

Jesus' emphasis is not on "BEING GOOD", but on "FOLLOWING HIS WAY".

3. The third characteristic of God's truth is that a man's relationship with God and his relationship with his fellow human beings are very closely connected.

Jesus would not allow true religion to be a luxury or a fantasy or an exercise in a vacuum; it had to be expressed in ordinary life. He was most devastatingly practical.

Amos 2:4

⁴ This is what the Lord says:

"For three sins of Judah,
even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.

Because they have rejected the law of the Lord

and have not kept his decrees,
because they have been led astray by false gods,
the gods their ancestors followed,

Every action comes out of a belief. People do what they do because they believe something.

Amos 2:6-8

⁶ This is what the Lord says:

"For three sins of Israel,
even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.

They sell the righteous for silver,

and the needy for a pair of sandals.

⁷ They trample on the heads of the poor

as upon the dust of the ground

and deny justice to the oppressed.

Father and son use the same girl

and so profane my holy name.

⁸ They lie down beside every altar

on garments taken in pledge.

In the house of their god

they drink wine taken as fines.

These two seemingly different messages are for all God's people.

Amos 2:10-11

¹⁰ "I brought you up out of Egypt,

and I led you forty years in the desert

to give you the land of the Amorites.

¹¹ I also raised up prophets from among your sons

and Nazirites from among your young men.

Is this not true, people of Israel?"

declares the Lord.

The reality of the United States of America

The most enduring and controversial issue related to school-sponsored religious activities is classroom prayer. In *Engel v. Vitale* (in 1962), the Supreme Court held that the Establishment Clause prohibited the recitation of a school-sponsored prayer in public schools. As the result, most of

public-school prayer became prohibited directly and indirectly in this nation.

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Kentucky statute that had mandated every public school classroom have the Ten Commandments posted on its walls. The ruling came to prevent public schools from displaying the Ten Commandments year-round. No more law of God in the eyes of the general public.

Even the Worship of the people of God becomes useless when they reject His truth.

Amos 5:21-24

²¹ "I hate, I despise your religious feasts;

I cannot stand your assemblies.

²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,

I will have no regard for them.

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righteousness like a never-failing stream!

HOW CAN THE PEOPLE OF GOD DO THAT (JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS)?

By turning to God's truth again.

Deuteronomy 6:3-12

³ Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey **so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey**, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

⁶ **These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.**

⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

¹⁰ When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build,

¹¹ houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied,

¹² be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

What we can't do with our own strength, God can do with His. His dwelling in our heart will enable us to walk again, to sing a song of joy again. His presence will heal us, mend our broken heart, restore and re-establish what we have lost when we followed the ways of this world.

Our purpose and mission as the body of Jesus Christ

"WE EXIST TO GLORIFY OUR GOD BY LEADING PEOPLE TO CHRIST AND HELPING THEM TO GROW IN CHRIST."