

New Caney
Church of Christ

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Assembly Times

Sundays

Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Retaining The Standard
Of Sound Doctrine

Evangelist: Charles Willis
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Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Samson (Judges 16:24)

2. John the Baptist (Matthew 14:3–5)

3. Jeremiah (37–38)

4. Hanani (2 Chronicles 16:10)

5. Paul and Silas (Acts 16:16–24)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Aaron Emerson

Announcements: John Van Baale

Encouragement Talk: Tyler Blazek

Opening Prayer: Paul Hainline

Scripture Reading: Aaron Heald
Luke 22:31–38

Song Leader: Kevin Buckner

Table Talk: Jordan Thomas

Contribution: Gary Tuttle

Helper: Corwin Richardson

Fruit of Vine: Josh Emerson

Helper: Kemarui Bluit

Helper: Kyle Crain

Closing Prayer: John Franks

Sunday Afternoons

June 7 3pm Gospel Singing

June 14 3PM Interior Building Workday

June 21 Nothing

June 28 3PM Devotionals

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Josh Emerson

Speaker: Jordan Thomas



Standing Firm

“Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”
Ephesians 6:13

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Immaturity

Irresponsible, shortsighted, rash and selfish conduct is often proof of immaturity. But we do not refer to years. People sixty and above may be immature – acting like children when they do not get their way, or are forced to face the realities of this life. They are incapable of objectivity, their pride is easily hurt, and they throw a tantrum. That is bad enough in secular life, but it can be tragic in the church.

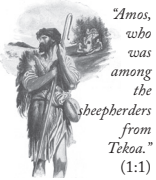
Bible knowledge maturity is found in those who dwell on something more than first principles (Heb. 5:12f). They have learned that justice, mercy, and faith are the grounds upon which their concern for tithes of mint, anise and cumin can have validity. Ignore the first, and one becomes a hypocritical nit-picker with all else (Matt. 23:23–24). He may strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

People-dealing maturity comes only after we learn that we are all sinners (Rom. 3:23), and are completely humbled before God. The “babe” seeks an “issue” and perhaps make a “name” for himself. But maturity seeks for souls, hoping to “give’em Heaven”, and save them from hell. The babe sees himself as a General in the Lord’s army; the mature saint is an expendable servant of the Lord.

Doctrinal maturity is not compromise with error. It is simply wisdom enough to know we do not know it all. The babe peddles wildly about on the surface of the water, loudly proclaiming his domination of the seas; but maturity is aware of the unexplored depths below. The fool has an answer; the wise, a reason.

Paul told Timothy to “flee youthful lusts” and “foolish and unlearned questions avoid” (2 Tim. 2:22f). There is no “instant maturity” for any of us. We must start with instructions to youth, and “by reason of use” we may “grow up” in Christ. All of us are in the process in many facets of the Christian life, not having attained (Phil. 3:12f). We can be patient and tolerant of blustering spiritual babes without appointing them as elders and preachers. In time, with enough milk and nurture, we may all learn to act like men.

By Robert F. Turner, edited CLW



God warns of the coming destruction to the house of Israel (Amos 5:1-3). The reasons for this destruction have been laid out in chapter four: *“you have not returned to Me”* (4:9), *“Prepare to meet your God, O Israel”* (4:12). God speaks of Israel in the form of a dirge saying, *“she will not rise again...there is none to raise her up”* (5:2).

God is their only hope, so He says *“seek Me that you may live”* (5:4). This is a plea for them to return to Him. He warns them not to go to Bethel, Gilgal, or Beersheba for they are condemned (5:5). If they fail to return after this warning, God promises to break out like a fire which will consume (5:6).

Seek God who made the Pleiades and Orion, who brings day and night, who brings water from the sea and pours it on the land, *“the Lord is His name”* (5:8). God’s power and strength are well known, and easily observed in the creation (Rom. 1:20), yet many reject God and His ways. The people of Israel abhorred a man who spoke with integrity (5:10). Men have continued to reject God and His ways, even men who (like Israel) claim to love God. Israel also had many sins, distressing the righteous, accepting bribes, and turning away the poor (5:12). Like in those days, *“it is an evil time”* (5:13).

What must be done by all men is to *“seek good and not evil, that you may live; and thus may the Lord God of hosts be with you...Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the Lord God of hosts may be gracious to the remnant of Joseph”* (5:14–15). Most of us will readily admit the errors of our nation and the sin which is so rampant, but few are willing to stand up and say what really needs to be done. The message in Amos five should resonate within us! Why is it “an evil time”? Why are so many Christians falling away? Why are congregations so small and struggling? The answers are the same: men have rejected God and His ways and need to seek

Know Your Bible

Prisoners

1. Who was put in prison as a political enemy of the Philistines?

2. What kinsman of Jesus was imprisoned for criticizing King Herod’s marriage?

3. What was imprisoned for prophesying the destruction of the kingdom of Judah?

4. Who prophesied doom for King Asa and was put in prison?

5. Who remained in prison in Philip even after an earthquake opened the prison doors?

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.

Him that we may live!

The coming day of God (which Israel longed for) would not be a day of happiness, but a day of darkness, *“even gloom with no brightness in it”* (5:19). Their sin and rejection of God would result in God’s wrath in judgment. From history we know God did just this, subjecting the Israelites to slavery at the hands of Babylon. Many today long for the return of Christ, yet are not living in a righteous way before God. What awaits is a judgment of condemnation from God. If we will contemplate this coming day of God, it will help motivate us to seek Him and seek good.

As it is, if things remain unchanged, God is very displeased. *“I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; and I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream”* (5:12-14). As long as men refuse to return to God, and continue to reject Him and His ways, God will reject our worship to Him. Many offer worship to God which is corrupt and unlawful, not abiding in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9) and rejecting His authority (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus clearly states they will be told to *“depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness”* (Matt. 7:23).

But this passage in Amos is directed at the children of God (the Israelites), and a proper application must be made to those who are a part of the Lord’s church. Their religious festivals, assemblies, and offerings were rejected. Not because they were offered unlawfully but because of the attitude of the people. Their heart was not right, but they still wanted to act as if they could come before God in righteousness and worship Him. They were unrepentant. So much so God said, *“you also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyyun, your images, the star of your gods which you made for yourselves”* (5:26). They worshipped idols and Jehovah, and thought it was good.

We must also take care that we do not offer to God a half-hearted devotion. The pursuit of materialism and Jehovah cannot be. Jesus said *“you cannot serve God and wealth”* (Matt. 6:24). Many supposed Christians want to assemble and worship God while they bow at the idols they have created (such as entertainment, hobbies, sports, even the worship of self). Philippians 3:19 is God’s warning to us, that their *“end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.”*

We must do what God has said: *“seek the Lord that you may live”* (5:6). Jesus said it like this, *“seek first His kingdom and His righteousness”* (Matt. 6:33). The message of Amos is very much needed in our hearts. Are you seeking Him?