

50+ Sunday School Class

All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

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Christ in the Minor Prophets

All Saints Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX

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Winter-Spring 2020

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

Class Schedule – Winter/Spring 2020

New Series – Christ in the Minor Prophets

- Jan 12 – 1: *Hosea* (14)
- Jan 19 – 2: *Joel* (3)
- Jan 26* – Guest speaker: Rev. John Trapp. (9:15: Baptism Class)
- Feb 2 – 3: *Amos* (9)
- Feb 9* – Guest speaker: Rev. Jordan Griesbeck
- Feb 16* – Guest speaker: Daniel Wang.
- Feb 23 – 4: *Obadiah* (1)
- Mar 1 – 5: *Jonah* (4)
- Mar 8 – 6: *Micah* (7). (9:15: Eucharist Class)
- Mar 15 – 7: *Nahum* (3)
- Mar 22* – No Class (Spring Break)

Class Schedule – Winter/Spring 2020

New Series – Christ in the Minor Prophets

- Mar 29 – 8: *Habakkuk* (3)
- Apr 5* – Guest speaker: Rev. Josh Keller
- Apr 12 – No Class (Easter)
- Apr 19 – 9: *Zephaniah* (3)
- Apr 26 – 10: *Haggai* (2)
- May 3* – Guest speaker: Kim Hall
- May 10 – 11: *Zechariah* (14)
- May 17 – 12: *Malachi* (4)
- May 24 – Class Resumes in September

* - Craig away/preaching

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Why this series
 - “The Minor Prophets” – a misnomer
 - Luke 24:27—
“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”
 - All Hebrew prophets prophecy of Messiah.
 - What did each prophet say about the coming Messiah?
- Be thinking, because I’m going to ask—
What difference should this make on Monday?

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- World of Joel
 - After King Solomon died (931 BC), the Kingdom was divided into North (Israel) and South (Judah).
- Joel's Ministry
 - After the kingdom was divided, but it's uncertain when.
 - Likely during Ezra-Nehemiah, after Israel's return from exile, because Joel mentions The Temple (rebuilt) but there don't seem to be any kings
 - He quotes lots of other (earlier) OT prophets (Amos, Isaiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Ezekiel, Obadiah, Malachi)
 - We don't need to know when to understand his message

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Israel's Circumstances

- 2 agricultural disasters in Judah: Locusts & Drought

- **Locusts** – successive swarms that ravaged crops

- Joel 1:4

What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Israel's Circumstances
 - 2 agricultural disasters in Judah: Locusts & Drought
 - **Drought** – devastated what remained
 - Joel 1:17-20

The seed shrivels under the clods; the storehouses are desolate; the granaries are torn down because the grain has dried up. ¹⁸ How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle are perplexed because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep suffer [are made desolate]. ¹⁹ To you, O LORD, I call. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flame has burned all the trees of the field. ²⁰ Even the beasts of the field pant for you because the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Israel's Circumstances

- Unlike anything Israel ever had experienced, or ever thought it would again

- Joel 1:2-3

Hear this, you elders; give ear, all inhabitants of the land! Has such a thing happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers? ³ Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Israel's **Real Problem**
 - Not the “Heartland”, but **Their Heart**
 - idolatry & apostasy
 - Evidenced by
 - How Judah should behave after repentance
 - Joel 2:27
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.
 - Joel's name = “*Jehovah is God*”
- Nevertheless, Joel doesn't directly accuse Israel of any particular sin

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Warning of Consequences for Covenant Violation
 - Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (blessings & curses)
 - 28:14—serving other gods will bring locusts & drought
 - 28:38-42

You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it. ³⁹ You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them. ⁴⁰ You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives shall drop off. ⁴¹ You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity. ⁴² The cricket shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your ground.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Harbingers of Greater Judgment: “The Day of the Lord”

- Joel 2:1-3

Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, ² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations. ³ Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.

- Joel 2:11

the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Question:
When hearing of this coming “Day of the Lord” upon Israel, what might you be thinking as an Israelite?

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Joel 2:12-13

*“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 and **rend your hearts** and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. 14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?*

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

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- Begs another Question:

How can fallen people ever provide the type of radical repentance Joel calls for?

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Joel points God's People ... to Jesus!
 - Luke 5:32
*I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to **repentance**.*
 - Luke 24:46-47
*Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that **repentance** for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- What is Repentance?

- John Murray (1898-1975)—

“**Repentance** consists essentially in change of heart and mind and will [which] principally respects four things: it is a change of mind respecting God, respecting ourselves, respecting sin, and respecting righteousness. Apart from **regeneration** our thought of God, of ourselves, of sin, and of righteousness is radically perverted. **Regeneration** changes our hearts and minds; it radically renews them. Hence there is a radical change in our thinking and feeling. Old things have passed away and all things have become new.”

– *Redemption Accomplished & Applied*, p.114

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Our Repentance first requires Regeneration from God
 - John 3:1-2
Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”
 - Nicodemus seems to partially confess Jesus as Lord ... but no indication *he* needs any real change in himself
 - How does Jesus respond to him?

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Our Repentance first requires Regeneration from God
 - John 3:3-5
*“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, *“How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”* ⁵ Jesus answered, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”*
 - The first step of your Repentance requires God’s Holy Spirit stepping in to radically change (regenerate) you

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Joel's Call for Radical Repentance ends with a Promise
 - Joel 2:28-30
And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.
 - One day God's Holy Spirit will be poured out, to bring the Regeneration required for Radical Repentance

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Pentecost Fulfills the Promise of Joel 2

- Acts 2:16-18, 21

“Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ... ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Pentecost Fulfills the Promise of Joel 2
 - The same Holy Spirit who was intimately involved in the original creation (Genesis 1:2) came at Pentecost to begin the new creation (Acts 2:41), starting with 3000 people
 - Sinclair Ferguson (*The Holy Spirit*)—
“The ‘sound like the blowing of a violent wind’ echoes the imagery of the powerful operation of the ruach elohim [Spirit of God] of creation (Gen 1:2), suggesting that the event about to take place marks the beginning of a new world order.” (p. 60)

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Christ's Work was the Prerequisite to the Spirit Coming
 - John 7:39
... as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified
 - 1 Peter 1:3
[Christ] has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- First Christ had to accomplish Redemption before He could send his Holy Spirit to apply it

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- The Spirit's process of Regeneration involves Conviction

- John 16:8

- ...when [the Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment*

- Sinclair Ferguson describes the relationship between Christ and the Holy Spirit in the work of redemption:

- “From womb to tomb to throne, the Spirit was the constant companion of the Son. As a result, when he comes to Christians to indwell them, he comes as the Spirit of Christ in such a way that to possess him is to possess Christ himself, just as to lack him is to lack Christ.” (p.47)*

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Real Repentance involves 2 Elements
 - Joel 2:12-13a (Godly sorrow)
*“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and **rend your hearts** and not your garments.”*
 - Joel 2:13b (Changed Direction/Behavior)
***Return to the LORD** your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.*

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- Mere “Worldly Sorrow” is not enough
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10
*... **godly grief** produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas **worldly grief** produces death.*

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Worldly Sorrow vs. Godly Sorrow
 - Matthew 27.3-5 (Judas)
...when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, ⁴ saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” ⁵ And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.
 - Luke 18:13 (Tax Collector)
But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Changed Direction/Behavior
 - Repentance in Greek = *Metanoia* = “to change one’s mind”
 - Luke 19:8 (Zacchaeus)
“Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.”
 - Mark 10:21-22 (Rich Young Ruler)
“You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²² *Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*
- Only God can bring the gift of Real Repentance
 - 2 Timothy 2:25
God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Jan 19 – Joel

- Real repentance comes in and through Jesus
 - Dancing the Texas Two-Step
- Through your Repentance, God promises Restoration
 - Joel 2:25
I will restore to you the years the swarming locust has eaten

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I will restore to you the years the swarming locust has eaten
- Question:
What difference should this make on Monday?

Prayer Requests



Next Week

- Jan 26 – Guest Speaker:
Rev. John Trapp
Campus Minister for RUF (Reformed University Fellowship)
The University of Texas, Austin