

Read Through The Bible

Week 29 – Aug 18-24, 2024

Amos 3-9; Hose 1-7; Rom 3:9-7:25; Palms 85:8-88:18, Proverbs 17:15-24

Icebreaker

- What is the most unusual name of someone in your extended family?
- Who has the greatest faith you know?
- What are some things to which we can be a slave today?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading this week?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Amos

Amos 3:1,11 *I Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:*

11 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “An adversary shall surround the land and bring down your defenses from you, and your strongholds shall be plundered.”

What word would the Lord speak about us today? Would there be a punishment for us today?

Amos 4:6, 8, 9, 10, 11 *6 yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.*

Have we repented and returned to the Lord?

Amos 5:14-15 *14 Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. 15 Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.*

What was God’s prescription for Israel? Does this prescription still work? What are some ways we can seek and love good?

Amos 9:11-12 *11 “In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, 12 that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name,” declares the LORD who does this.*

Israel will be restored, but only after it will be punished. Do we have this luxury?

Hosea

Hosea 1:4 *4 And the LORD said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.*

Jezreel means “God will disperse.” The entire book of Hosea is filled with meanings like this.

Hosea 1:8 *8 When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. 9 And the LORD said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”*

How devastating would it be for God to say that about us? What can we do to insure we stay the people of God?

Hosea 2:21-23 *21 “And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth, 22 and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel, 23 and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’; and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”*

As in Amos, the people will be restored. How can we act so that we will not be taken away?

Hosea 4:1-2 *1 Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. **There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; 2 there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.***

What was NOT in the land? Are they in your life? What was in the land? Are these in your life?

Hosea 5:15 *15 I will return again to my place, **until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.***

Have we acknowledged our sin? Are we earnestly seeking God?

Hosea 6:6 *6 For **I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.***
How steadfast is our love? How deep is our knowledge of God?

Romans

Romans 3:21-25 *21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.** For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and **are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.** This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.*

How are we to reach the righteousness of God? What will this righteousness do for us? Where is redemption found? What is our propitiation? Have you taken advantage of Christ's righteousness and redemption?

Romans 4:3-23 *13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world **did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith....** 16 **That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all...** 20 **No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised...It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.***

In whom must we believe for our faith to be counted as righteousness? How strong should our faith in this person be? How strong is your faith? Will it be counted to you as righteousness?

Romans 5:8-9 *8 but **God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*
How does God show His love for us? By what are we justified? From what will we be saved?

Romans 5:18-19 *18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so **one act of righteousness⁷ leads to justification and life for all men.** 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

For whom is Christ's act of righteousness intended?

Romans 6:1-4 *1 What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means!** How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that **all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?** 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.***

Are we tempted to continue to sin knowing that Christ's grace will cover our sin? What was Paul's answer to this? Into what are we baptized? For what purpose? Have you been baptized? Are you walking in a new life?

Romans 6:17-18 17 *But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

How obedient are we? Do we obey to keep from going to hell or do we obey from the heart; because of the sacrifice and grace God has given us? Is there a difference in this obedience? Are we a slave of righteousness or of sin? What does it mean to be a slave of righteousness?

Psalms

Psalm 86:8-10 8 *There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. 9 All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. 10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.*

What other gods do people worship today? How do they compare to God? Do you know anyone who says it is not right for there to only be one God; to denigrate other gods? How can we counter this argument?

Psalm 88:13 13 *But I, O LORD, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.*

When do you pray? How often/much do you pray? Do you feel like your prayers are accomplishing much?

Proverbs

Proverbs 17:27-28 27 *Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. 28 Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.*

Are you a restrainer of words? What is another way verse 28 is phrased today?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- *“Seek good, and not evil”* List five actions we can take today to seek good.
- God said that Israel were *“you are not my people and I am not your God.”* List 5 actions we can do to insure we stay the people of God.
- *“There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land.”* Review your life. How are you doing in these three areas?
- Meditate on what it means to be a slave to righteousness?

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