

“Why We Are A Bible People”

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Text: Hosea 4:6

Theme: To call God's people back to the Bible.

Introduction:

1. At one time, it used to be said of members of the Lord's body, "They sure do know their Bibles."
 - a. This reputation is being largely lost in many quarters.
 - b. The church is beginning to resemble a denominational institution.
2. It is not uncommon to see members of the church come to services without Bibles.
 - a. It is not uncommon to find members of the church who do not read their Bibles in their homes regularly.
 - b. There are even some members of the church who never read their Bibles.
3. This is a tremendous problem facing us today.
 - a. It represents a serious threat to the success of the kingdom in the 20th century.
 - 1) To forsake the study of the Bible will cause us to be ignorant of God and His ways.
 - 2) It will cause us, the church, to apostatize as it has done before. It will cause us to miss all the blessings of which we read in God's sacred writings.
 - b. We need and must have a Bible revival.

Discussion:

- I. Departure from the Bible

- A. Israel was not a Bible people- Hosea 4:6
 - 1. They were to put no other gods before Jehovah - Exodus 20:2,3
 - 2. Solomon violated this charge. He married foreign wives (a sin in itself) which caused him to sin; he put the abominations of the heathens before Jehovah - **I Kings** 11:3-10 [read verses 9,10]
 - a. As a result of Solomon's sins, Israel had to suffer division of the kingdom.
 - b. Ahijah's prophecy to Jeroboam - **I Kings** 11:26-33
 - c. Only because of the righteousness of David was the kingdom spared at all- **I Kings** 11:34
 - 3. From the very beginning of the divided kingdom, even from the rule of the first king, Jeroboam, Israel did continue to forsake God's teachings.
 - a. (Give a brief account of Jeroboam's son falling sick and his sending his wife to the prophet Ahijah.) **I Kings** 14:7-9.
 - b. He didn't follow his "Bible." [read verse 7-9,12 - the consequences of sin are bad]
 - 4. Basically, the kings from the time of Jeroboam until the time of Jehu and the labors of Hosea were evil and "taught Israel to sin."
- B. Hosea typifies Jehovah.
 - 1. Hosea told to take a wife out of whoredom - Hosea 1:2
 - a. Hosea represents faithful Jehovah.
 - b. Gomer, Hosea's wife, represents harlotous Israel.

2. Hosea and Gomer give birth to three children with significant names.
 - a. Jezreel - God will scatter, God will sow.
 - b. Lo-ruhamah - no mercy, not pitied.
 - c. Lo-ammi - not my people.
 3. Gomer departs from Hosea- Hosea 2:7
 - a. She goes to her lovers.
 - b. This is a figure of Israel's idolatry.
 - c. Israel had fallen into backsliding, having rejected the ways of the Lord - Hosea 4:16
 - 1). Their backsliding included various sins such as idolatry, corruption, pride, and lack of knowledge.
 - 2). Because of the wickedness of Israel, God sent Hosea to warn that unless they repented they would be carried away into Assyrian captivity.
 - 3). They were in bad need of a Bible revival.
 - a) They needed to reinstall fear of the Lord.
 - b) "Hear ye the word of the Lord." the prophet cried in desperation - Hosea 4:1
 4. As Hosea would forgive Gomer, even so Jehovah would forgive Israel if she would come back - Hosea 4:19-23.
- C. God's warning to us today.
1. He warned Judah not to follow after the sins of Israel - Hosea 4:15.
 2. When children of God fall today we must be careful not to fall with them - II Corinthians 2:11.
- II. It is the Bible which can direct our steps, mold our lives, and lead us into heaven.
- A. We must be a Bible people because the word of God is likened to a lamp and a light - Psalm 119:105

1. Light helps one to see.
 2. We are spiritually blind.
 - a. We are but tossed vessels sailing upon the dark tempteous sea of sin looking for the heavenly light.
 - b. Give an illustration of a beacon light guiding a ship into shore - "Let the lower lights be burning."
 3. We are the children of light and must therefore walk in the light-
 - a. I Thessalonians 5:5; I John 1:7
 - b. Since children, we are lights.
- B. We must be a Bible people because the word of God is likened unto a sword - Hebrews 4:12
1. Swords can be used defensively or offensively.
 - a. The word of the Lord is our defense of truth for it is truth- I Peter 3:15; John 17:17
 - b. The word of God is our weapon of might in the world of sin - Ephesians 6:17
 2. This weapon will protect us from the sins of Israel and will therefore keep us in a proper relationship with the captain of the Christian army, which is Christ. Hebrews 2:10
 3. If we, as God's army, remain on furlough the enemy, Satan and his soldiers, will take over and consume us.
- C. We must be a Bible people because the word of God is likened unto a life-giving seed.
1. I Peter 1:22-25
 2. James 1:18-22
 3. Romans 1:16

Conclusion:

1. Israel forsook knowledge of the lord and Jehovah therefore rejected her.
2. If we today forsake the perfect law of liberty, Jehovah will reject us also.
3. Paul warns:
 - a. II Thessalonians 2:7-9
 - b. Only by hearing, accepting and continually obeying the word of God can we be saved - I Corinthians 5:1,2.
4. Psalm 9:7-11

Invitation: