



Sunday, October 18, 2009: Prepare to Meet Your God

Scripture: Amos 4:1-13

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. God reminds the people of Israel of His acts designed to call them back to Himself.
2. V2a: God's activity is always the result of His character, and God's nature is holiness.
3. God's Holiness is primarily about His moral purity, and secondarily about His power and attributes.
4. Nothing God does is unfair, or unjust; everything He does is an expression of His Holiness.
5. V1-2: Even the women of Israel will be taken as prisoners for their sins of oppression of the poor.
6. Abandoning moral purity, these women pursued pleasures.
7. Poverty is a relative condition; today poverty has been politicized to manipulate people.
8. Errors on poverty in the early church included idealizing it. Today the church feels false guilt over inequality of wealth.
9. The poor begin to feel entitlement just because they have less, leading to a socially destructive culture of envy.
10. Canada has created a system of confiscation and redistribution which leads to class tension, while impersonal welfare systems lead to high levels of fraud.
11. In contrast, biblical charity with personal accountability would forge alliances of peace leading to social cohesion.
12. The biblical vision is man as God's image-bearer exercising dominion over the earth; but the welfare state twists God's pattern so that men exercise dominion over other men.
13. Welfarism leads eventually to one-world government.

14. The application of external force does not lead to community and peace. Instead it creates envy and class hatred.
15. The Bible requires that those able to work provide for their own needs. 2 Corinthians 3:9-12
16. To practice biblical concern for the oppressed, the church needs to reestablish diaconal loans, courts, and schools.
17. V4: Amos mocks Israel's ritualistic worship acts performed in the context of their sins and oppression.
18. V6-11: God graciously sent a series of warnings (famine, drought, pestilence) but Israel rebelled.
19. Natural man hates God's warning of judgment because it threaten our moral autonomy.
20. But our God is in control of all of history and He is near.
21. V12: "Prepare to meet your God." This is a promise.
22. God cares enough about every one of us to call us to repentance, re-creation, and salvation.

Application Questions:

1. Describe Holiness as an aspect of God's character?
2. Contrast the Holiness of our God to the character of other claimants to deity.
3. What characteristics of godly womanhood are found in Proverbs 31? Contrast the women of Amos 4.
4. What are some errors the church has fallen into with respect to poverty, historically and at present?
5. Do I support legalized envy and theft in the name of "justice"?
6. Augustine said, "What are states without justice but gangs of thieves." Can this be applied to Canadian social welfare?
7. What provisions for poverty are given in Deuteronomy 15?
8. How can we begin to deal with poverty and oppression in a God-centred, not man-centred fashion?
9. How does the vision of the body of Christ help to protect us against class conflict and favoritism in the church?
10. What should be the church's response toward a) those unable to work, b) the welfare poor, c) and the working poor?
11. How do God's warnings to me show His mercy? Do they encourage me to repent and seek His salvation?