

First Bethel Baptist Church

Capitol Heights, MD 20743

November 4, 2014

“Prepare To Meet God”

“Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee; prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.” Amos 4:12

THESIS: *Throughout human history God has urged man to return to Him from disobedience to His statutes and commandments and to depart from evil and idolatry.*

INTRODUCTION: *The Prophet Amos is selected by God to proclaim the punishment of God on the people of God and the surrounding areas due to sin, exploitation and all their iniquities. God rejection, rebellion and resistance were at a feverish level. There was and still remains the contempt for Divine Law. The Principles and Standards of Righteousness received disrespect and an unworthy reception from those separated from God by deceit, ignorance and misguidance. As usual, God warns us all of the consequences of the careless and callous reaction regarding the response and responsibility given by man to His urgings to be reconciled to Him (Isaiah 55 - 57).*

It is imperative for believers to be cautious and not drift away from the Word of God. There are many current distractions, which can and will turn our attention from the Almighty God, whom we must Trust Totally.

1) *What are some of the Distractions?*

Materialism: money-making; Masquerade: disguise; Misconduct: transgression

Another issue is the distortion of Scripture as contemporary education and thinking are applied to explaining what God meant as He has Spoken throughout human history. These have lead the visitable church into a dark direction of doubt/distrust, the devils dirty deeds and spiritual dereliction of duty.

2) *What do you see as some of the wrong directions taken by the visible church?*

Living by bread alone; Minimizing the New Spiritual Birth; Disconnecting what God has joined together.

Most notable is the degeneration of man as he is separated from God. Just about everything has a new definition. The language is weak, flimsy and confusing; and regrettably so are the people who rely on the word of man (James 3- 4).

3) *Where are we getting worst, sinking and deteriorating into impaired examples of believers?*

In the home; In the community; In the church; In the world; In the work place; In society.

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- A. Penitence - includes, but is not limited to deep sorrow, shame and remorse for disobeying the statutes and commandments of God.**
 - a. repentance**
 - b. regret**
 - c. reborn**

- B. Turn (GK. “epistrepho - to be converted: in 1 Thess. 1:9, ‘you turned,’ indicates an immediate and decisive change, consequence upon a deliberate choice; conversion is a voluntary act in response to the presentation of truth.)”**
 - a. change**
 - b. conversion**
 - c. clear-up & clean-up**

- C. Mortify (GK. “thanatoo - to put to death: the act of the believer himself, as being responsible to answer to God’s act, and put to death “the deeds of the body. (Rom.8:13)**
 - a. self-denial**
 - b. decide**
 - c. put to death**

- D. Grace - “the Divine Influence upon the heart, with its reflection in the life.”**
 - a. Unmerited Love**
 - b. Unconditional Love**
 - c. Unselfish Love**