

# The Church of Christ @ Fremont

3361 W. State Street, Fremont, OH 43420

*Sunday Bible Study* 10:00 am

*Sunday Worship* 10:45 am

*Wednesday Bible Study* 7:00 pm

September 1, 2024

Songs : Brett Bowen

Lord's Supper : Tony Smith

Speaker : Mitch Bowen

Wednesday Song Service

Invitation : Chris Frantz

**Preachers :** Sean Rizor and Melvin Monroe

## **7 Things to Remember During the Lord's Supper**

1. One Lord – "There is one Lord" Eph. 4:5
2. Two thieves – "There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death." Lk. 23:42
3. Three crosses – Lk. 23:39-43
4. Four parts of His garments – "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier, a part, and also the tunic." Jn. 19:32
5. Five wounds – His back was scourged, head was crowned with thorns, hands and feet were pierced and side was cut opened. Jn. 19:1-2, 34; Psalm 22:16
6. Six hours of agony – He was crucified on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour and died in the 9<sup>th</sup> hour Mk. 15:25-37
7. Seven statements spoke by Christ – Matt. 27:46; Lk. 23:34, 43-46; Jn. 19:26-30

### **Birthdays:**

08 Connie Runion

19 Melvin Monroe

24 Sandra Foos

### **Prayer List:**

Gen Stanley

Connie Runion

Jean Adkins

Tina Smith

Betty Davis

Mack Stanley

Anita Montague

## **A FAMINE OF HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

David Weeks

The prophet Amos warned the kingdom of the North (Israel) about the judgment of God that was soon to come: "Behold, the days are coming - says the Lord God - That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it" (Amos 8:11-12). Amos was the straightforward farmer from Judah whom God sent to preach to the northern kingdom during the days of Jeroboam II. His duty was to warn the wicked king and his people that their downfall was near.

Amos told Israel that their current problems existed because they had neglected God's word throughout their history. The king and his wicked priests, along with false prophets, followed the lead of previous administrations and turned the people's hearts away from God and His laws. Now, they would suffer the consequences, and when their doom was finally at hand, the people would cry out in grief and go in search of God's word, but by then it would be too late. The time for repentance would be over, and the prophets would no longer preach to them. For Israel's whole history as the people rejected God's law

## **What Must I do to be Saved?**

Learn the Truth (hear) - Jn. 8:32, 17:17; Rom 10:17

Believe in Christ – Jn. 8:24, 20:31; Heb 11:6

Repent of all sins – Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30; Rom 2:4

Confession of Faith – Acts 17:30; Rom 10:10

Baptism – Act 2:38, 22:16

Live Faithfully – Rev 2:10

(1 Kings 16:31), but soon they would crave one more sermon, but would be met only with thunderous silence.

Brethren, the words of Amos are relevant today. We are watching the collapse of every-thing that is good before our very eyes. Faith, morals, and godliness seem to be practically extinct in some quarters. Why? It is because men and women reject the truth, starving themselves of nourishment of God's word. The word is available, but people reject it and starve themselves to spiritual death (Rom. 6:23).

This self-imposed famine is so dire that few people seem to know what is right or wrong anymore. Isaiah condemned the priests and the prophets of his time who called "evil good" and "good evil" (Isa. 5:20). Isaiah's people were "wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight" (vs. 21). They justified the wicked for money and ignored justice (vs. 23).

It sounds like Isaiah could have been talking about the twenty-first century! Today, government officials subvert divine truth in order to push an agenda of wickedness. Leaders themselves with so called "science" and warn of a nebulous future catastrophe of climate change. Fear-mongers have succeeded shaking the faith of people. God made the earth to have boundaries for the seas (Prov. 8:29; Ps. 33:7; 104:9). Jeremiah said that God established an unbreakable boundary between sand sea, "by perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it...and though its waves toss to and fro, yet they cannot prevail; through they roar, yet they cannot pass over it" (Jer. 5:22). Preachers of doom-science practically declare "God is dead!" with their rants, but our God is alive and his word is living, active, and sharp (Heb. 4:12).

The rejection of God by our modern world has resulted in even more atrocities. In the name of "love" men and women are allowed to undergo a ceremony and be recorded in the courts of men as having "married" one of the same sex. Yet, God limited marriage to a man and a woman, only (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31; 1 Cor. 7:1-9).

Our wicked society now grants delusional people their wish to be known as the gender opposite (transgender) of what they are physically. Our government protects this terrible evil, and compels people who know the truth to applaud people's fantasies. Yet, the Bible says that God made man to be "male and female" (Gen. 1:27). How could such a change in morals have happened? The answer is simple. Men and women have starved themselves of the truth for so long that they no longer care what the truth is. The starvation is so profound that supposedly intelligent people say they no longer know what a woman is!

Sadly, there is also a spiritual correlation in the church. Churches of Christ around the nation are living through a self-imposed famine of truth. Liberal churches of Christ now have "contemporary worship" services in which instrumental music plays a key role. "Praise teams" consisting of men and women lead young people in denominational style worship. However, the word of God still teaches that vocal music alone is acceptable as worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). It also teaches that leaders in the church are men, not women (1 Tim. 3:1, 2). Jesus Christ has all authority in heaven and on earth (Mt. 28:18). He authorized His apostles to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." (vs. 19-20). Yet, observing Christ's commands seems to be the last thing these liberal brethren want to do.

How in the world could this have happened? How is it possible that the churches of Christ could look so much like the churches of men? What happened is simply this: pulpits around the nation have embraced a famine of God's word for many years. To this very day, many preachers have abandoned sound preaching in favor entertaining speeches.

Apostasy didn't start yesterday. Instrumental music divided brethren in the 19th century; the social gospel divided brethren in the 1930's-1950's; the sponsoring church divided brethren in the 1950's; orphan's homes and colleges did their damage to unity in the same era; even as Ketcherside doctrine did its part to tear apart churches in the 1960's and 1970's. Now, we have men in pulpits actively opposing the preaching of Bible authority and Biblical worship. They brazenly call into question the validity of preaching command, example, and necessary inference. They mock faithful brethren for being opposed to instrumental music in worship. Everything the New Testament church should stand for is now dismissed by these newly "enlightened" preachers who denounce the truth as mere "tradition." Their fawning young fans swallow all that they teach, and defend them as heroes for standing up to the gray headed old fossils of "our faith tradition." They are the most deceptively clothed wolves in recent memory (Mt. 7:15).

Brethren, there is nothing new under the sun. The problems we are facing today have the same source that all apostasies ever have: people are rejecting God's word for error (Rom. 1:28). This willing, self-imposed famine of truth will kill us as surely as any cancer (1 Tim. 2:17).