

2026-05-13 Points

Title: The Danger of Presuming on God's Grace: A Call to Repentance from Amos

Sermon Summary: This sermon delivers a sobering message about the danger of misinterpreting God's patience and kindness as approval of sinful behavior. Drawing primarily from the book of Amos, the pastor warns against the American church's tendency to become comfortable in sin while presuming on God's grace. The message emphasizes that while God is "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love," He also "relents from sending calamity"—meaning there is a limit to His patience. The sermon challenges believers to examine their lives for areas where they've ignored God's warnings and calls them to genuine repentance. Using both Old Testament prophecy and Jesus's words to the churches in Revelation, the pastor demonstrates that God's character and expectations remain consistent throughout Scripture. The central plea is for Christians to stop taking God's mercy for granted and to return to Him with sincere hearts before judgment comes.

Key Points:

- God's patience should lead us to repentance, not presumption that our sin is acceptable
- The phrase "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and relents from sending calamity" reveals both God's mercy and His eventual judgment
- America and the American church mirror ancient Israel's condition—blessed materially but spiritually complacent
- We often misinterpret God's blessings during sinful seasons as His approval rather than His patience
- Amos was called to confront a people who thought everything was fine because they were prosperous
- The repeated refrain "yet you have not returned to me" shows God's frustration with persistent rebellion despite multiple warnings
- True repentance is essential—not just belief, but turning away from sin
- Jesus Himself warned the churches in Revelation about tolerating sin and

promised judgment for those who refuse to repent

- We will be judged according to our deeds, not just our profession of faith
- Hate evil, love good, and maintain justice—these are God's expectations for His people
- The church must recover the message of repentance that has been largely lost in contemporary teaching

Scripture Reference:

- Amos 4-5 (primary focus)
- Jonah 1-4 (the story of Jonah's resistance and God's character)
- Revelation 2:18-24 (Jesus's message to the church at Thyatira)
- Romans (reference to God's kindness leading to repentance)
- Hebrews (God disciplines those He loves)

Stories:

- The story of Jonah running from God's call to preach to Nineveh, being swallowed by a great fish, and eventually obeying but resenting God's mercy toward the Ninevites
- Reference to the Passover in Egypt when the death angel passed over homes with blood on the doorposts but took the firstborn in homes without it
- Personal testimony about the pastor's parents disciplining him, which he later appreciated as an adult
- Illustration of getting a speeding ticket as a "get out of jail free card" to show how we wrongly treat God's grace
- Contemporary observations about people with extreme body modifications (piercings, implants) as a modern parallel to the "hooks" mentioned in Amos