

2026-05-20 Points

Title: Living Righteously in a Pagan Society: The Call to Seek Good and Not Evil

Sermon Summary:

This sermon challenges believers to examine their lives for tolerated sins and compromises with American culture, drawing parallels between ancient Israel's failures in Amos and contemporary Christianity. The speaker emphasizes that God calls His people to seek good actively, hate evil, and maintain justice—not merely attend religious gatherings while harboring sin. Through the lens of the New Covenant, the message highlights that Christ's sacrifice demands more than passive belief; it requires active righteousness, submission to God's authority, and sacrificial love for others. The sermon confronts the comfortable American Christianity that tolerates small sins, fails to witness to the lost nearby, and seeks validation from peers rather than obedience to God. Ultimately, it's a call to authentic discipleship that follows Christ's example of suffering, loving enemies, and laying down one's life for others.

Key Points:

- God commands His people to "seek good, not evil" and to "hate evil and love good"
- Tolerating small sins in our lives is dangerous and displeasing to God
- Religious activities and assemblies are meaningless to God when accompanied by unrepentant sin
- American Christianity often reflects cultural values rather than biblical commands
- Believers are called to live as foreigners and exiles, abstaining even from sinful desires
- Christians must show respect to everyone, including those they disagree with, and submit to authorities
- Christ's suffering provides the example we must follow, entrusting ourselves to God rather than retaliating
- We must die to our sins and live for righteousness because Christ bore our sins in His body

- True discipleship requires loving others as Christ loved us, even to the point of laying down our lives
- There is no excuse for ignorance—believers have been given everything they need in Scripture
- The mission field is not just overseas but within ten miles of where we are

Scripture Reference:

- Amos 5:14-26 (Primary focus)
- 1 Peter 2:11-24
- Philippians 4:8-9
- John 15:9-17

Stories:

- Personal testimony of the speaker's past struggles with tolerating sin while attending church and participating in religious activities
- Analogy of fleeing from a lion only to meet a bear, then entering a house and being bitten by a snake (from Amos 5:19)
- Reference to the Good Samaritan and how Americans often fail to help those in need, preferring the "pull yourself up by your bootstraps" mentality
- Personal story about appearing before judges multiple times without anyone offering to take the punishment, contrasted with Jesus taking our punishment before the Father
- Childhood memory of watching the clock before his father came home, trying to get things right before facing consequences—paralleling Israel's situation before God's judgment