

## Christians At Ease in Zion – September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Amos 6:1** says; *“Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, ...”*

We read from G. Wood, M.A. which says the following,

*“The text practically applies to all nominal and professing Christians.*

*I. WHAT IS MEANT BY THOSE WHO ARE AT EASE IN ZION? Lazy Christians. Christianity is more than profession, it is even something more than faith. It is carrying into practice the truths we profess. The soul that is at ease sits down very contentedly on his mere profession, and mistakes earth for heaven.*

*II. WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF BEING AT EASE IN ZION?*

*1. There is ignorance of the nature of Christian life. Christianity is not ease, but labour. It is a daily struggle against unbelief and sin. The man at ease does his religion by deputy, or trusts entirely to the "mercy" of God, or relies on outward service and participation in form and ceremonies.*

*2. There is a dislike of the duties to be undertaken. Self-denial is not congenial to the natural heart. Labour is hateful, conflict repulsive, and therefore men sit down and dream away their opportunities.*

*3. Self-confidence. Disaster seems so unlikely. We fancy we are so secure that nothing can move us. Our prosperity, our privileges, our apparent tranquillity deceive the heart and lure the soul to sleep.*

*III. THE RESULT OF BEING AT EASE IN ZION.*

*1. It generates sin.*

*2. It merits the displeasure of God.*

*3. It will end in entire destruction.”*

We know this prophecy given by Amos was directed to Israel and Judah and it gives the understanding that both were in sin. Both were very content with their lives, livelihood, luxury with no fear of impending judgment by God. It parallels to the church today and this summary from Wood articulates it well. This is what this Sunday’s prayer service focused on.

There are many Christians who want to ‘do church’ their way, failing to understand that it is the community of believers in Jesus Christ assembling, congregating or meeting together usually on the first day of the week, Sunday. Also, a well-known term for church is the ‘body of Christ,’ in which Jesus is the head and all believers form His body. **Colossians 1:18** says; *“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”*

Christians ‘do church’ as Jesus commanded, not as they choose to make the rules. Christians are not to live independently from each other nor abandon their congregating with each other according to

**Hebrews 10:24-25**; *“24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

Christian, you cannot live your Christian life apart from other Christians by not fellowshiping together with them. You can't get it from TV, internet or radio ministries as good as that teaching may be, you need to find a place to congregate.

The Day approaching is the rapture of the body of Christ before the seven year tribulation. We've seen specifically and in a targeted way since 2020, (when the pandemic hit), the anti-Christ agenda to uproot the church – Christians – to cause fear to assemble by threats from governments globally. We saw their agenda thrive on bringing division even in the body of Christ, pitting one against the other, to conform or not to conform to their proposed agenda. So we saw a great falling away from people going to church, many instead backsliding, not going to church anymore, going rouge, going woke, self-governing themselves and fear of man gripping the hearts of many Christians. The devil will try to conquer and divide however he can. Jesus specifically says that in the endtimes, lawlessness will abound and the love of many will grow cold – Matthew 24:11. We know that sin is lawlessness.

We've heard of such people who instead of finding a church to fellowship in, meet 'as a church', but with no pastoral oversight and say that they pass the pastoral role around. The giftings of God are not 'passed around' as if it was on a whim. **Ephesians 4:11-12** clearly says; *“11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [e]difying of the body of Christ,”* We know many churches have mid-week meetings or Bible studies, but we're talking about people who say they go to church but there is no Biblical leadership there.

These gifts listed above are given by God, not on a capricious whim that man appoints to himself. These gifts are precious to Jesus and should be looked at as such. It's not the gift for every believer to function in these roles of leadership. At the same time, we also know that every believer is to have a function in the church and be endowed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in **1 Corinthians 12:7-11** says; *“7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by [f]the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”*

We have an illiterate, uneducated, rebellious attitude in lukewarm Christians who can't even discern the Lord's body, let alone know what and who the body of Christ is. The writer of Hebrews rebukes the church saying this in **Hebrews 5:12-14**; *“12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the [a]oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are [b]of full age, that is, those who by reason of [c]use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

With many proclaiming they are a Christian and have been for years, yet still are drinking the milk of the word but should be – by their age – be teachers. No wonder the church finds itself in such a

backslidden state and has shunned the Holy Spirit, His gifts and the gifts and callings that are to be active in the whole church, not for just a few schooled ones.

Church is not a spectacle, show or game where Christians come to observe, but is like the human body, all parts working together, functioning in their gifts as the Holy Spirit has given when they come together.

The scripture from Hebrews 10 that was mentioned earlier, shows that something is not right with the person who does not want to congregate with their brothers and sisters in Christ. **1 John 5:2-3** says; *“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”*

The word commands us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, so going to church should not be burdensome but be done out of obedience to God’s word.

**1 John 4:18-21** also says; *“18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love [a]Him because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, [b]how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.”*

We see here another reason why Christians don’t want to be in Church with other Christians is because they dislike, or as John says, hates their brother or sister. This needs to be repented of because Jesus specifically commanded His disciples to forgive as **Matthew 6:14-15** says; *“14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

The backslidden Christian needs to get back into Church fellowship and not be isolated, to be singled out by the devil to be devoured and taken out. Also, the backslidden Christians that gather without pastoral leadership and call it church are sincerely deceived and need to repent of such lawlessness.

Woe to them that are at ease in Zion. Don’t be at ease Christian. As we mentioned earlier, the results of being at ease in Zion are;

1. It generates sin
2. It merits the displeasure of God
3. It will end in entire destruction

Don’t allow yourself to be entirely destroyed by the adversary, satan.

[Click here](#) to read the prophecies from Sunday’s service.