

## 1. Intro

- a. Chapter 7-10 is known as Jeremiah's temple address given at the gate of the temple
- b. Paul speaks of people having a "form of godliness, but denying the power thereof".
  - i. Of such people we are told to "turn away" from them.
- c. **Today we'll be given 4 clues that will enable us to see if a "form of godliness" is creeping into our lives.**

## 2. Vs 1-2

- a. The general message is the same...repent.
- b. This time the message is specifically to RELIGIOUS JEWS.
- c. **These wicked people "went to church every Sunday"**
  - i. Which church-goer that you know needs to be told to repent of a sin?
  - ii. God chastens His sons not the others (Heb 12:4-11)
  - iii. Paul told Timothy and Titus many times to rebuke sharply their followers that needed correction. (1 Tim 5:20, 2 Tim 4:2, **Tit 1:10-13**, 2:15)

## 3. Vs 3-4

- a. Don't think you're exempt from things b/c of your "lucky rabbit's foot", that you have Jehovah's temple here.
  - i. What's some "lucky charms" folks cling to today:
    - 1. They go to church each Sunday (your church can burn to the ground)
    - 2. They serve in a non-profit (your good will never pay for you evil deeds)

3. I was born an American or I was born Catholic (we're all born in sin, they why we need to be born again!)
  - ii. Thought they were exempt from having certain characteristics b/c "having God's temple proves they're in an unbreakable relationship with Him".
4. Vs 5-7 – Thought they didn't need to do all these things
  - a. Treating their neighbor and the needy kindly.
  - b. Giving each other a fair trial
  - c. Being wholly dedicated to God.
5. Vs 8-11
  - a. **Here's our 1<sup>st</sup> clue that we only have a "form of godliness", it's that we're into a "possession" rather than a "relationship"**
    - i. Their possession of the temple of God lead to selfishness.
      1. They thought "since we're unbreakable with God, we can go serve our own interests".
        - a. Did the same thing with God's temple in Jesus day. (Matt 24)
      2. Even if our bond with God is unbreakable, sin always has consequences. (Don't be deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a man sows...)
    - ii. **God wants us to have a relationship from love that leads to gratitude not a position from possession that leads to selfishness. (*repeat this*)**
      1. How do you identify yourself as a believer?

- a. When meeting Christians from away, how do you introduce yourself?
  - i. Hi, I teach Sunday School.
  - ii. Hi, I'm a Baptist.
  - iii. Hi, do you speak in tongues? Were you baptized upside down and backwards?
  - iv. Or do you say, "Hello, my name is child of the one true King!"
- 2. Having a relationship so tight with God that we have points of reference (like a temple) should compel us to serve Him MORE not turning our attention to serving self!
- 3. "The love of Christ constraineth us" (I Cor 5:14)
- b. Here's our 2<sup>nd</sup> clue that we only have a "form of godliness", it's that we take the easy path towards flattering words.**
- c. He keeps saying "Ye trust in lying words."**
  - i. 2<sup>nd</sup> time that he now said this.
  - ii. How many people did God call into the ministry and then tell them, "Your life will now be easy"?
    - 1. Paul – "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake" – Acts 9:16
    - 2. John – "When thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands and another shall gird thee and carry thee whither thou wouldn't not." – John 21:18
  - iii. In Jeremiah's day the primary type of false prophet was the one who always said, "Good is coming, just think positively".
  - iv. Know anyone like that today?

1. The name it and claim it, blab it and grab it crowd.
2. Osteen – “Whatever you conceive, you can achieve”

## 6. Vs 12- 15

- a. It happened in Shiloh
  - i. God brought the tabernacle out of Shiloh for their wickedness.
- b. “Oh but Shiloh was a temporary tabernacle, this is the permanent Temple”.
  - i. If we’re trusting in it instead of God, it can all be taken away quickly regardless of how permanent we think it is.
    1. A house becomes our home.
    2. A relationship becomes our spouse.
    3. A church becomes our people
    4. A pulpit becomes our station
- c. **Here’s our 3<sup>rd</sup> clue that we only have a “form of godliness”, it’s that we’re stuck in ritual and won’t learn from others or from the Bible examples.**
- d. Learn from the past, don’t trust in a thing as the center of your relationship, but trust in a person...Jesus.

## 7. Vs 16-20

- a. The Queen of Heaven they were worshiping was Ashtoreth the Assyrio-Babylonian deity.
  - i. They had more respect for their religious traditions toward her than they did toward Jehovah.
    1. **In fact these traditions were so entrenched; they were religious ritual to them.**
    2. What about us? Do we worship Ashtoreth?
  - ii. The word Easter is the word Ashtarte.

1. With her symbols of fertility, eggs and bunnies, many still serve her today.
2. Can you think of alternate activities that would honor the Lord during Resurrection Sunday?
  - a. How about a Passover Sedar?
- b. If you look up Queen of Heaven on Wikipedia today you will see the general understanding of this is to Mary.
  - i. How fascinating that many still want a queen to worship.
  - ii. How fascinating that revelation speaks of a woman riding the beast in the last days.
  - iii. Will apparitions of Mary grow more numerous as we approach the very last day?
  - iv. It's very interesting that Revelation 17:18 even refers to this woman of the end days as Roman.
- c. When religious tradition becomes idolatry it brings:
  - i. Not God's, but our own confusion (Verse 19)
  - ii. Our total separation from God (Verse 16)
  - iii. What religious practice is tempting to become idolatry in your life?

## 8. Vs 21-28

- a. **Here's our 4<sup>th</sup> clue that we only have a "form of godliness", it's that we pride ourselves on the things we do rather than who we're becoming in Christ.**
- b. **Put less emphasis on doing things and more emphasis on developing Godly character.**
  - i. Vs 21 – You might as well eat the burnt offering if you're not obeying Me first and for most.

- ii. The “doing” of the sacrifices and other laws was secondary.
  - 1. Designed to pattern for others God’s character.
  - 2. Designed to pattern the perfect life.
- iii. The “being” or “obeying” of God was designed as primary to develop a godly character in them and us.
- iv. **Whenever we “do” something for God without the “being” someone for God, this process instill a pride and trust in that object or action rather than in God...this is idolatry!**

#### 9. Vs 29-34

- a. Topheth – means contempt
- b. Valley of Hinnom – Gehenna or the lake of fire
- c. Judah was outdoing the heathen who rarely did child sacrifice.

#### 10. Vs 1-3

- a. The insult and shame of desecrated graves would be Judah’s fate.

#### 11. Conclusion

- a. To spot a “form of godliness that denies God’s power” in people, look for
  - i. Those who speak of and value possession over relationship with Jesus.
  - ii. Those who take the easy path rather than the path toward the cold, hard truth.
  - iii. Those who are stuck in ritual and won’t change.
  - iv. Those who speak of things they’re doing rather than characteristics that they’re growing into.