

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: CRS
TOPIC: DIVINE LOVE II
WEEK: 9
TERM: THIRD

GOD DEMANDS STEADFAST LOVE AND KNOWLEDGE OF HIM (HOSEA 6:6)

Hosea appealed to the people of Israel to genuinely return to their God for they had stumbled and failed because of their sins and iniquities. He advised them to manifest genuine repentance, confess their sins and accept only those things that are good in the sight of God. He also advised them to show mercy to the needy; and to desist from idolatry. He warned them to stop their political alliance with the Assyrians as that would not bring solution to their political crisis.

These, according to prophet Hosea were the only things that would deliver and save them from divine judgment and not their numerous offerings and sacrifices without corresponding righteousness and holiness.

POSITIVE RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE REQUIRES PERSISTENCE (Hosea 6:1-4)

God's love for Israel was a steadfast and persisting love. This was demonstrated with Hosea's marital experience. God was like Israel's husband. As a husband is normally jealous seeing his wife run after other men, so was God not happy that Israel forsook Him for other gods. In His effort to see persuade Israel to return back to Him, He sent prophets to them, warning them to desist from their evil ways and come back to God. As a husband would naturally divorce an unfaithful and wayward wife, God threatened to divorce Israel by allowing a nation to overwhelm them and carry them away in captivity.

To avert God's punishment, they pretended to have repented while in their mind, there was no genuine love for God. However, God still persisted in loving them in spite of their unfaithfulness and was prepared to take them back to Himself once they showed sign of genuine repentance.

In the same vein, God's love for man generally, is steadfast and persistent. He protects and provides abundantly for man to enjoy. But man, on his part has not been faithful to God. Many people profess to love God but their love is hypocritical and conditional. They only come to God when they have problems for solution.

Since God does not want anyone to perish, He expects us to respond positively to His love by genuine repentance with sincerity of heart and confession. As we desist from superficial, negative and selfish repentance; our relationship will be established based on His love for man.

GOD PROMISES RESTORATION TO THOSE WHO RETURN TO HIM IN REPENTANCE (Hosea 14)

God responded to Israel's superficial and fake repentance by expressing His love for them. He reminded them that what He required from them was sincere and genuine repentance not mere plea for mercy. Their rituals and sacrifices were not good enough until they were matched with genuine repentance. Then He promised to heal them of their unfaithfulness so that they would return to Him and worship Him in sincerity; He would restore them by making them return to their land after His corrective punishment; Israel and Judah would be united under a divinely appointed leader who would rule them in the fear and knowledge of God, unlike their corrupt leaders that had led them astray. This divinely appointed leader would come from the dynasty of David – a reference to the coming of the Messiah.

God promises restoration to Christians who return to Him in genuine repentance from their sins and backsliding state. The mercy of God is available to those who acknowledge, confess, and forsake their sins, and exercise faith in God.

ASSIGNMENT

1. State three (3) punishments pronounced on Israel by God through prophet Hosea.
2. How does the story of Hosea and Gomer illustrate God's love for man?