

NOVEMBER 27, 2018



The Land is in Need of
REVIVAL
- FAST FOCUS -

CHRIST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

EAST (8AM) | ESPLANADE MEMPHIS - 901 CORDOVA STATION - CORDOVA, TN 38018

SOUTH (10AM) | MAIN CAMPUS - 480 S. PARKWAY EAST - MEMPHIS, TN 38106

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DR. GINA M. STEWART, SENIOR PASTOR

“Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That’s what I want. That’s all I want.”
The Message Translation

“Repent for the Sake of Righteousness”

The book of Amos, written by the Prophet Amos, is interwoven with themes of injustice, the omnipotence of God and the consequences of worshipping other gods. This book begins with Amos stating that this chapter is a funeral song. Amos is speaking to the people of Israel who have turned to idol gods, performing outright acts of injustice against the poor and the oppressed. He tells them they forsake justice and cause it to taste like a bitter pill in the mouths of the oppressed, treat the righteous like dirt and despise the truth. The people held feast and offered sacrifices, but they were to other gods. The true and living God asked them, “Whom have you fasted for? Whom have you offered your sacrifices to? Not me.” Not only did they worship idols and offer sacrifices, their hearts remained unchanged, and they had a spirit of unrepentance. He reiterates to them that He alone is God, and there are serious consequences for this behavior.

This sounds like modern day America, “Land of the free, and Home of the brave”. There is a rule of law, which is based upon the principle that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to the law, and that law is fairly applied and enforced. There have been back to back accounts of office involved shootings of our black men and women. As of today, children remain at our borders without parents, laws are being made daily that continue to oppress widows, the poor, the under/uninsured, the sick and the marginalized. Political officials have even voiced their opinions that it would be cheaper to let patients die over a certain age than continue medical care. In-patient care for the mentally ill and drug addicted continues to be decreased. Prices on medication continue to soar, with many having to choose between food or medication.

These are the same people that claim to love not only God, but justice - for all. These are the same people that go to church Sunday after Sunday and whose hearts remain the same. They see the marches and candlelight vigils and wonder why. Women are allowed to fry chicken and serve water in the pulpit and have been told that they can’t be used of God.

As the blood cries out for justice for Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin, the 9 killed in an Alabama Church as they held prayer, Kameron Prescott, and Armando Garcia-Muro, officers have been found not guilty, given reduced charges and have taken a perpetrator to Burger King, as if he needed to satisfy a hunger after working so hard. Yet, they say ALL lives matter, and they do! You say I’m tired of them playing the race card, as if it’s a game. Where does the hand of justice fall?

Reflections

1. What is my role/responsibility in all of this?

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (The Message Translation): “I accept your prayer; yes, I have chosen this place as a temple for sacrifice, a house of worship. If I ever shut off the supply of rain from the skies or order the locusts to eat the crops or send a plague on my people, and my people, my God-defined people, respond by humbling themselves, praying, seeking my presence, and turning their backs on their wicked lives, I’ll be there ready for you: I’ll listen from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore their land to health.”

2. How do I treat those in leadership?

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV): “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

3. What are possible consequences for idolatry?

The Israelites were not even to mention the names of false gods (Exodus 23:13) because to do so would acknowledge their existence and give credence to their power and influence over the people. Israel was forbidden to intermarry with other cultures who embraced false gods because God knew this would lead to compromise.

Prayer

Father, I come humbly before you, repenting of my sins and the sins of this nation. For times when we have turned a deaf ear to righteousness and lies, I intercede on behalf of the leadership of this country and cities around the world. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Help me to always remember that You are God alone, and that all things come of thee, oh God. You are Lord over all. Bless and protect this nation and cause justice to roll down like the rivers. Amen

Scripture References: Amos 5:24; 2 Chronicles 7:13-14; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Exodus 23:13

Submitted by: Minister Mona Carrell

FAST FOCUS | We will fast on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 from 6am-5pm. We will abstain from all foods except water, juice, fruit and vegetables.