

FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF TENNESSEE, ILLINOIS
LET'S MAKE SURE WE ARE READY FOR THE RETURN OF OUR LORD!

FAITHFUL
TO THE NAME OF OUR LORD

TRUE
TO THE WORD OF OUR LORD



7 ESSENTIAL LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES (AND 1 LESSON FROM AMOS)

**AMOS ... BECAUSE YOU ARE RELIGIOUS DOES
NOT MEAN THAT YOU ARE READY!**

**LESSON #1:
THE LORD IS THE LORD OF HIS CHURCH.**

A. Jesus Christ is Lord—the head of his Church.

- (Ephesians 1:22–23 ESV) And he put all things under his feet **and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body**, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
- (Ephesians 5:23 ESV) For the husband is the head of the wife **even as Christ is the head of the church**, his body, and is himself its Savior.
- (Colossians 1:18 ESV) **And he is the head of the body**, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in everything he might be preeminent.**

Head ... 2776 κεφαλή [kephale]—metaphorically it means anything supreme, chief, prominent; of persons is means master, lord.

B. The Lord loves his Church and calls us to love and care for his church.

- (Acts 20:28 ESV) Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, **to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.**



**OUR LORD
LOVES HIS
CHURCH!**



church in Sardis ... **I know** your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

- (Revelation 3:8 ESV) **I know** your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. **I know** that you have but little power, **and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.**
- (Revelation 3:15a ESV) **I know** your works: you are neither cold nor hot.
- (John 10:27–28 ESV) My sheep hear my voice, and **I know** them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

The Lord knows compromise and compromisers in the church ...

- Compromise often begins through self-serving personal relationships within the church fellowship.
- Compromisers adopt an attitude of sinful permissiveness and tolerate the unfaithful.
- Compromisers tolerate sin for the falsely perceived good of the church.
- Compromisers trust in human decision-making and felt-needs over fully submitting to the word of God.
- Compromisers are self-directed and undermine their own ability to trust in the power and the authority of the word of God
- Compromise does not typically begin with a frontal attack but small decisions made apart from God's word.
- Compromise often begins with cowardice.

The Lord knows the unsaved and the unfaithful whose works are illegitimate and incomplete ...

- Works done by those Christ did not know (Matthew 7:22–23).
- Works done to be seen by others and to draw attention to the worker (Matthew 23:3, 5).
- Self-made religious works (Acts 7:41–42).
- Works done from impure motives (Romans 2:6, 8).
- Works that deny a true belief in God (Titus 1:16).

The Lord knows the works that are the work of God ...

- Works that are done in the light in God (John 3:19–21).
- The work of believing in God (John 6:28–29).

**LESSON #2:
THE LORD KNOWS HIS CHURCH.**

- (Revelation 2:2–3 ESV) **I know** your works, your toil and your patient endurance ... **I know** you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.
- (Revelation 2:9 ESV) **I know** your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
- (Revelation 2:13a ESV) **I know** where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. **Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith.**
- (Revelation 2:19 ESV) **I know** your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.
- (Revelation 3:1 ESV) And to the angel of the

- c. The works Christ would do (John 14:12).
- d. Works that have been prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).
- e. Works that the word of God has equipped us for (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- f. Good works that are stirred by our love for one another (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- g. Works that demonstrate wisdom and understanding (James 3:13).

(4th ed., p. 1428). Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.]

Jesus will remove the lampstand from its place, which means that as a congregation they will experience a complete spiritual blackout. A church ceases to be a church when it no longer serves its Master with genuine love and dedication. The members may still come together, but they meet for social and not spiritual purposes. [Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953-2001). *Exposition of the Book of Revelation* (Vol. 20, p. 116). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.]

LESSON #3: THE LORD WILL NOT TOLERATE SIN IN HIS CHURCH.

- (Revelation 2:5 ESV) Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent**, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you **repent**.
- (Revelation 2:16 ESV) Therefore **repent**. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.
- (Revelation 2:21-23 ESV) I gave her time to **repent**, but she refuses to **repent** of her sexual immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, 23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.
- (Revelation 3:3 ESV) Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and **repent**. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.
- (Revelation 3:16 ESV) So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, **I will spit you out of my mouth**.
- (Revelation 3:19 ESV) Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and **repent**.

Christ warns them that he will personally remove his witness from them if they do not repent.

The removal of the lampstand from its place can signify nothing less than the end of Christ's recognition of the church as a church of his. [Beasley-Murray, G. R. (1994). *Revelation. New Bible commentary: 21st century edition*

LESSON #4: EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH IS NOT OF THE CHURCH.

- (1 John 2:19-20 ESV) They went out from us, **but they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. **But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us**. 20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.
- (1 John 2:22 ESV) **Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist**, he who denies the Father and the Son.

Those who love and belong to Jesus Christ keep the word of God. Keeping the word of God means to keep, guard, obey, observe; to conform one's action or practice to; to attend to carefully; to hold fast, keep under guard, keep safe, keep watch over, take to heart.

Those who love and belong to Jesus Christ do not deny Christ's name. To not deny Christ's name means to acknowledge and confess everything the Bible reveals to us as to who he is; the nature of his character, his attributes, his work, his position and place in eternity, creation, salvation and in all things to come.

LESSON #5: THE MESSENGER MUST BE FAITHFUL TO HIS LORD.

For the messenger to be faithful to the Church, he must first be faithful to Christ and his word.

- (Malachi 2:7-9 ESV) **For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge**, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, **for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts**. 8 But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the

The lips of a priest should guard knowledge ... for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

LORD of hosts, 9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.

**LESSON #6:
THE REWARD OF THE CONQUERORS IS PRICELESS.**

The reward of the servant who believes, loves and obeys Christ is incalculable and eternal.

- a. Will eat of the tree of life (2:7).
- b. will not be hurt by the second death (2:11).
- c. Will receive some of the hidden manna; Christ will give a white stone with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it (2:17).
- d. Will be given authority over the nations; Christ will give the morning star (2:26–28).
- e. Will be clothed thus in white garments; name never blotted out of the book of life; Christ confess name before his Father and before his angels (3:5).
- f. Will be made a pillar in the temple of my God; never shall he go out of temple; Christ will write on him the name of his God, and the name of the city of his God and his own new name (3:12).
- g. Will be granted to sit with Christ on his throne, (3:21).

**LESSON #7:
THE CHURCH MUST HEAR THE SPIRIT.**

- (Revelation 2:7a ESV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

If we do not listen to the Spirit, then we—and not God—will ultimately be the ones to decide what is most important. If this is true—and it is, then we will understand that the five churches came under the rebuke of Christ because they had decided for themselves what was most important. The proud choose for themselves; the

humble receive the teaching of the Lord.

AMOS – NEVER ASSUME THAT BECAUSE YOU ARE RELIGIOUS YOU ARE READY FOR THE LORD'S RETURN.

- (Amos 5:18–27 NLT) What sorrow awaits you who say, “If only the day of the Lord were here!” You have no idea what you are wishing for. That day will bring darkness, not light. 19 In that day you will be like a man who runs from a lion— only to meet a bear. Escaping from the bear, he leans his hand against a wall in his house— and he’s bitten by a snake. 20 Yes, the day of the Lord will be dark and hopeless, without a ray of joy or hope. 21 “I hate all your show and pretense— the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies. 22 I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won’t even notice all your choice peace offerings. 23 Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, an endless river of righteous living. 25 “Was it to me you were bringing sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in the wilderness, Israel? 26 No, you served your pagan gods—Sakkuth your king god and Kaiwan your star god—the images you made for yourselves. 27 So I will send you into exile, to a land east of Damascus,” says the Lord, whose name is the God of Heaven’s Armies.

LESSONS FROM AMOS SO WE WILL BE READY ...

- a. Know what the day of the Lord means to you as an individual (vv. 18-20).
- b. God hates religious pretense and will judge accordingly (vv. 21-23).
- c. God desires a flood of righteous living (v. 24).
- d. God knows if our worship of him is only idol worship in disguise (vv. 25-26).
- e. God will reject false worship—false worshipers (v. 27).