

TODAY'S SPIRITUAL SHORTAGE

TEXT: AMOS 8:11

INTRO:

- Shortage means not enough to go around, a lack of something, supplies running out.
- Amos said a famine
- Some of us remember fuel shortage early 1970's
- "Energy Crisis" - gasoline and oil prices went sky high.
- Price of everything else went up as a result. - *We became very energy conscious insulation solar energy etc.*
- Odd/even days - get gasoline - *long-lines at gas pumps*
- "Energy Crisis" over as soon as price got where people controlling the industry wanted it.
- Parent's generation remember the shortages during the "Great Depression" - 1930's
- Also shortages during WWII - 1940's.

- But today, we are facing the worse shortage of all.
- A Shortage that will hurt us much worse than the energy crisis.
- A shortage which Amos prophesied in this morning's passage.
- A shortage or famine **"of the hearing the words of the LORD"**

- This shortage not only affects our society but also affects God's people and churches.
- We are living in the period of the Church Age called the **"Laodicean Church Period"**
- **See Description in Rev. 3:14-22.**

- **Characteristics:**
- Vs 15-16: Lukewarm, compromise, double-minded, trying to serve God and mammon.
- Jesus warned about - MT. 6.
- Vs 17 - Very rich materially - buildings & programs
- i.e., largest Sunday School in America
- greatest number of buses
- All to glorify man and not God.

- Vs. 20 - The Lord outside trying to get in most churches today.
- This morning we want to ask "What is this shortage"

I. THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF OLD FASHIONED PREACHING

A. You hear plenty of preaching, but what kind?

1. Listen with discernment to what you hear.
2. Listen with discernment to what you don't hear.
3. Much of it is "sounding brass and tinkling cymbals".
 - a. Most preaching today smack of compromise.
 - b. Doesn't offend anyone - all worship the same God stuff.
 - God is love stuff, he doesn't mind if you sin, He understands.
 - c. Tells people what want to hear - tickles the ears.
 - d. Pleases man, use flowery and flattering words.
 - e. Preaching that looks the other way, when comes to sin.
 - f. Never shows negative side to anything.
 - g. Preaching void of sound doctrine:
 - Sign gifts are for today - tongues & healing
 - Person can lose their salvation
 - Person needs to be baptized in water to be saved.
 - Only Baptists will make up the bride of Christ.
 - Must speak in tongues as initial evidence have received the Holy Ghost.
 - We don't have God's preserved, inspired, inerrant, infallible word today.
 - God's Word only inspired in original autographs.
 - So, we only have God's message.
 - Men saved same way under O.T. Law as under N.T. Grace.
 - No judgment for sin, no Hell, everyone going to heaven.

B. WHAT KIND OF PREACHING IS NEEDED?

-Paul the Apostle told Timothy in II Tim 4:2 **"TO PREACH THE WORD"**

-Paul didn't tell him to preach -

*Philosophy *Education *Communism *Humanism
 *Evolution *Science

-Why do suppose that Paul told Timothy to preach the Word?

1. Because preaching the Word of God will bring conviction of sin.

-Preaching the Word of God will show a person that ^{he} is lost that they need the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour to save them from their sin.

-All the other things mentioned: Philosophy, Education, Communism, Humanism, Evolution, Science.

-Show a person that they don't need God for anything, that man can solve all his problems.

-That man is basically good and over time will get better.

-The Bible calls the Word of God ~~is called~~ the sword of the Spirit.

-In Hebrews 4:12, the Bible tells us that the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, it is a divider, a discernor.

-It is suppose to cut and hurt.

-It is the truth

-Jesus said in praying to the Father, "Sanctify them through the truth: thy word is truth." - John 17:17.

-The truth hurts, it is suppose to.

-The truth is to expose that which is false.

WHAT KIND OF PREACHING IS NEEDED?

2. PRREACHING ON THE AWFULNESS OF SIN.

-Sin so awful, look at the price paid - the shedding of innocent blood.

-The Son of God crucified, shed His blood as payment for ^{our} ~~or~~ sins.

-We need preaching on the blood.

-Modern version take out blood -i.e. Col. 1:14.

WHAT KIND OF PREACHING NEEDED?

3. PREACHING THAT CALLS OUT SIN

-Men called of God to preach are to preach the whole counsel of God and ^{not to} hold back!

-Preach on the consequences of sin

-Wages of sin is death ^{a literal burning}
 *unsaved consequence hell.

*saved /Christian - Chastisement from God, in fact Lord may take you home early.

-Preaching that is not afraid to name sin:

*Sex perversion - homosexuality

*Adultery

*Abortion

*TV and movies. - ^{wick address of}

*Drinking - See Habakuk 2:15 - Not okay for a Christian to have an occasional drink.

*Smoking - Most independent Bible Believing Baptist Churches send up smoke signals in parking lot between Sunday School and Worship Service. - -Because so-called separated Christian in parking lot lighting up.

*Being in Church

*Tithing

*Women wearing pants, shorts, bathing suits

*Being plastered with make-up like a billboard. - ^{make-up first mentioned in bible}
 Nothing wrong in being attractive but wrong dress to be sexy to advertise. ^{only man you should flatter and give gifts to your husband with jewelry}

*Dancing ^{Problem with many Christian women dress and act like}

*Mixed Bathing

^{part of 1st mention}
[↑]
 had to be Prov 9:13

WHAT KIND OF PREACHING IS NEEDED?

4. Preaching should as Paul said in II Tim. 4:2:

a. **Reprove:** - convince someone of something
 -It amounts to correction where someone is wrong.

b. **Rebuke:** is much stronger term and means in the modern vernacular to "bawl somebody out".

-A rebuke is "you blew it, don't do it again"

- "You had no right to do that, one more time and you'll get it."

- "You're wrong."

-Rebukes in the Bible occur by the handfuls and fistfuls

-i.e. - Nathan talking to David (2Sam. 12:7) - "Thou art the man."

-David talking to Goliath - read 1 Sam. 17:⁴⁶~~45~~

-Christ insulting a disciple (Peter), Mt. 16:23 - "Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me."

-These negative passages amplify the degenerate character of modern apostate Christianity.

-They show ⁴⁷there has been a wholesale departure from "preaching the Word" ~~but~~ the ministers.

-The ministry of the prophet is about 75% - Rebukes

-Hosea 5:2

"And the revolvers are profound to make slaughter, though I have been a rebuker of them all."

-Amos 5:10

"They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly."

-A rebuke is a weight laid on someone, so the word is often used to describe a painful burden that the sinner has to bear.

-See He. 12:5

c. **Exhort:** - is a stirring up to action; the modern term is to motivate.

-Literally, it refers to calling someone forward to take action and therefore resembles closely an "invitation" at the close of service.

i.e. - Moses: Exodus 32:26

- Ezra: Ezra 10:10-11

- Joshua: Joshua 24:14-15.

-Preaching that exhorts, moves people to make a decisions, to get them off, their backside.

d. Real preaching, then, is not confined to counselling, rapping, coping, giving advice, making recommendations or suggestions.

-Modern preaching is a polished, smooth, cultured "pitch" designed to "win friends and influence people."

-It is not preaching at all.

-It is politicking, pure and simple.

- It is personality selling, using the Bible to put across the speaker, so the speaker will be established in the minds of the Bible rejector as a "helper", comforter, assistant, concerned individual, or patcher-up of emotional, social, and family problems.
- The so-called Christian bookstores are literally cluttered to the attic with this paper-backed rubbish that is being sold from the pulpit today.
- The subject matter found on the bookshelves and emanating from the pulpits deals with nothing but how to cope with yourself or someone else.
- It is humanism gone to seed.
- These so-called preachers are not preachers but speakers.
- They are not the mouth piece of God but of the World and its philosophy.
- Their books will tell you how you can adjust yourself, so that others can adjust to you or how you can adjust to them.
- The Subjects of GOD, HEAVEN, HELL, THE BIBLE, THE SECOND COMING, AND SOULS ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION.

WHAT KIND OF PREACHING IS NEEDED?

5. If an unsaved can be satisfied in our services then the preaching is not what it should be. - *Bring sinner to decision.*
6. The kind that will make the backslider miserable in his backsliding.

C. WHAT SHOULD A PREACHER PREACH?

1. LIKE JOHN THE BAPTIST: - repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
 - In other words, John was telling people of his day, what they needed to do to be right with God.
 - John wasn't afraid who his audience was
 - He told Herod that it was not lawful for him to take his brother Philip's wife.
2. LIKE JESUS - Jesus offended the religious crowd of his day.
 - He told them they were condemning people to hell - MT 23:13

-He told them that on the outside they appeared all cleaned up but inside they were dead, filthy - MT 23:27.

-He told them - they were making the Word of God of none effect, by their traditions.

-He called them - "a generation of vipers" a bunch of snakes.

-He told them - they were of their father the devil. - John 8:44

3. LIKE PHILIP - SEE ACTS 8:35

-He preacher unto the Ethopian Eunuch, the gospel of Christ.

-Which Paul says in Rom. 1:16 is the power of God unto salvation unto everyone that believeth."

-Because Philip preached Christ, a man got saved.

-Praise God, he didn't preach the Roman Catholic Cathecism. *OR 5 points of Calvinism*

4. LIKE PAUL - His preaching turned the world upside down - Acts 17:6

5. There is a shortage of old fashioned Holy Ghost filled, fire and brimstone preaching.

RESULT OF THIS SHORTAGE:

-God, the Bible, 10 CC taken out of school

-Replaced with Condoms, armed warefare, metal detectors, teen pregnancy, teen suicide, drug deals, gang fights.

-WE have seen in our society a drastic increase in

*Drugs

*Divorce

*Crime

*Sex perversion, pornography (kiddy), aids *even porn*

*Casino's popping up all over.

*State run lotteries

*Some States run liquor industry.

*No longer statesmen but politicians - lie. cheat, & steal.

-Tell people what want to hear to get elected.

*Because of the Spiritual shortage of the hearing of the Word God, our ~~society~~ *society* has a shortage in Moral Values.

*There is direct correlation between two:

-Oh, how we need men of God and people of God who will **make up the hedge and stand in the gap.** Eze. 22:30

-Who will cry out and preach the truth like Old Jonah.

-As a result of Jonah's preaching, the great city of Nineveh repented and got right with God.

-See Jonah 3:4-8

-Notice vs. 5 - all people got right with God "from the greatest of them even to the least of them."

-Notice vs 6 - king and leaders supported and got right also.

*Christian are you part of ^{this spiritual} shortage? - *of hearing the words of the LORD;*

*Some ways you are preacher.

*Great Commission for each Christian to ^{give} ~~given~~ out the gospel, tell people how to get saved.

-To tell of the forthcoming judgment if don't get right with God.

*Who knows if God's people, in the surrounding communities would rise up and cried unto the people of their respective community to get right with God if God wouldn't bless with a revival in our surrounding communities.

-See our Government leaders getting right with God like in Ninevah.

-If one little old Jew preaching the word of God could have a great effect on the great city of Nineveh imagine what God's people could do preaching the Word of God in own local communities.

-Christian are you are going to contribute to the shortage?

-Sounds funny contribute to a shortage.

-But you can if you don't preach the Word.

-Or Christian are you going help stem tide of this shortage, and get busy for God and be laborer in the field.

-It your choice, decision - Won't you come.

*Unsaved - John 3;36 - tells us "the wrath of God abideth on you" if you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your personal SAVIOR.

-Don't believe all the evolution garbage that says your wonderful and marvellous.

-Beleive the Word of God that says your hell bound sinner without Christ as a result of your sins.

-Won't you come today!

*U to Jesus - ask him to forgive you for your sins
and trust only him to save you
from going to hell*