

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

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“It’s All Good” – Really?

June 5, 2022

Sermon Text: Hosea 7

Scripture Reading: Psalm 140

Godless people, “earth-dwellers” as Revelation calls them (including many who claim to be Christians), pressure us to “just think the best.” To realize that “there are many good people in this world,” and that we must not be so judgmental as to think that all-in-all this world is a pretty good place. It’s all good. So just chill out and be happy.

But we are seeing in our day that this kind of delusion is getting more and more difficult to maintain. As the Lord hands this world over to its sin as His judgment, the old worn out line, “It’s all good,” isn’t going to fly.

Our joy does not stem from some pretense that this world is just a wonderful place filled with wonderful people. That is counterfeit joy.

Joh 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Joh 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Joy comes from Christ, from knowing Christ.

Here in this 7th chapter of Hosea, the Lord continues to show us the true state of the nation Israel – and in so doing, He is showing us the true condition of our own nation.

Hos 7:1-16 when I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria, for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside.

(2) But they do not consider that I remember all their evil. Now their deeds surround them; they are before my face.

(3) By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery.

(4) They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened. (5) On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers. (6) For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. (7) All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon me.

(8) Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned. (9) Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not. (10) The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him, for all this.

(11) Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria. (12) As they go, I will spread over them my net; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens; I will discipline them according to the report made to their congregation.

(13) Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me. (14) They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me.

(15) Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me. (16) They

return, but not upward; they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

Let's move in for a closer look at God's Word here.

Hos 7:1-3 when I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria, for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside.

(2) But they do not consider that I remember all their evil. Now their deeds surround them; they are before my face.

(3) By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery.

The Lord desired to heal Israel of her sin and it's terrible results. We just saw that in the previous chapter –

Hos 6:1-3 “Come, let us return to

the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. (2) After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. (3) Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

But every time He reached out to them this way, what was the result?

“When I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed...”

All invitations to return to the Lord were met, in other words, with stubborn, wicked resistance and an even hotter resolve to chase after evil. Thieves increased their thieving. Street crime raged even more. And (vs 3) even the rulers delighted in this treachery! It was wicked people who got the promotions and positions.

And all the while (verse 2), these people fancied that the Lord didn't

see what was going on, and even if He did – he would just forget it.

Unless...unless we are in Christ. In Him, everything is changed:

Amo 8:7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: “Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Jer 31:34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

What is the truth? *The Lord remembers all the sins of the sinner. He never forgets even one.*

NOTE: The Lord remembers every sin, even though the sinner forgets. It is a delusion of the person who rejects Christ:

Let’s pause here briefly and think about this “so great salvation” as Hebrews puts it. “...and I will remember their sin no more.”

Psa 10:11 He says in his heart, “God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it.”

Psa 103:8-13 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (9) He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. (10) He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. (11) For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; (12) as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (13) As a father shows compassion

Eze 8:12 Then he said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his room of pictures? For they say, ‘The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.’”

How then shall we survive His judgment? How many of your sins have you forgotten about? Well, the Lord remembers each one!

to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Listen to Jonathan Edwards on this (The True Believer: The Marks and Benefits of True Faith) –

“For Thy name’s sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity; for it is great.”
(Ps 25:11)

“David pleads for pardon for God’s name’s sake. He has no expectation of pardon for the sake of any righteousness or worthiness of his for any good deeds he had done, or any compensation he had made for his sins....But he begs God to do it for His own name’s sake, for His own glory.

Second, the Psalmist pleads the greatness of his sins as an argument for mercy....He does not say, ‘Pardon my iniquity for it is small and You have no reason to be angry with me; my iniquity is not so great that You have any just cause to remember it against me; my offense is not such but that You may well enough overlook it. He does not say ‘Pardon my iniquity,

for I have done much good to counterbalance it.

On the contrary, he says, ‘Pardon my iniquity, *for it is great.*

The greater his iniquity was, the more need he had of pardon. ‘Pardon my iniquity, for it is so great that I cannot bear the punishment; my sin is so great that I am in necessity of pardon; my case will be exceedingly miserable unless You are pleased to pardon me.’ God allows such a plea as this, for He is moved to mercy towards us by nothing in us but the miserableness of our case. *He does not pity sinners because they are worthy, but because they need His pity.*”

If we truly come to God for mercy, the greatness of our sin will be no impediment to pardon. We must see our misery, and be sensible of our need of mercy. We must be sensible that we are not worthy that God should have mercy on us. And we must come to God for mercy in and through Jesus Christ alone. From the consideration of

what he is, what He has done, and what He has suffered.”

Israel refused to see the greatness of her sin. Hosea’s countrymen spurned His call for them to return to the Lord and be forgiven. They persisted in their rebellious evil. Look further at how Hosea describes it:

Hos 7:4-7 They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened. (5) On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers. (6) For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. (7) All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon me.

When I was a kid, my parents bought a small bakery in southern Oregon and sometimes I helped my dad bake the bread and various

pastries. And I remember the big oven and how we pushed the raised loaves into it to bake and the heat that blasted out when you opened the door.

Hosea here compares the hot lust of these wicked people to just such a baker’s oven heated to temperature, ready to bake the bread as soon as the loaves were fully raised. Their sin was not just some smoldering thing that flared up once in a while. It was at ready temperature constantly. Its fires didn’t need to be tended anymore. The coals would smolder all night and the next day – the blaze up immediately, ready for another day of evil.

If any righteous king or ruler came to office, they devoured him.

To anyone who wants to maintain that “it’s all good” in our nation today – I would reply that these evil qualities of Hosea’s day are precise and accurate descriptions of the nature of our own nation.

- What happens when a righteous man or woman is nominated to the supreme court?
- What do we see happening when there is even a rumor that the court is going to render a verdict that the wicked hate?
- Do we see the blaze of iniquity cooling off at all? No, it meets each new day with even more hostility against the Lord.
- The king (the president) is surrounded with mockers and he enables them in their evil.

It's all good??? Really?

Evil is going to increase, it is increasing, as we approach the Day of the Lord. All who are in Christ are sealed by His Spirit. He knows each one. Not a single one of His elect will ever be lost. But in spite of these judgments – which are the Lord handing man over to his sin – the typical response of the large majority of mankind is going to be this:

Rev 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, (16) calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, (17) for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

Rev 9:20-21 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, (21) nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Rev 16:9-11 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory. (10) The fifth angel poured out his bowl

on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish (11) and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

In other words, the response of Hosea's countrymen to the Lord's calls for them to repent and return to Him, are a picture of what we have seen, are seeing, and will see in this church age. Typically, even in the midst of God's severe judgments, people do not repent of their evil and turn to Christ.

Hos 7:8-10 Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned. (9) Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not. (10) The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him, for all this.

What if you went to a restaurant for breakfast and ordered some nice big pancakes? And then, when the waitress brought them to you and

you poured on the syrup and started to dig in, you realized that *they had only been cooked on one side!* This is what the Israelites were in God's sight.

We are surrounded today by myriads of half-baked "Christians"

And why is this? Well, as Hosea describes it:

"Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples..." and that is why he is a cake not turned.

One the baked, golden-brown appearing side this kind of person looks like a faithful follower of the Lord. But just flip him and see what is on the other side! He is a lover of this present world – he mixes it up with the earth-dwellers and always wants to remain in favor with them. He is a pancake not turned. And the very worldly people he turns to, instead of turning to the Lord, betray and devour him.

Hos 7:11 Ephraim is like a dove,

silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.

What does Hosea mean when he tells the people, “Gray hairs are sprinkled on you, and you know it not”? I think we can answer by looking at “gray hairs” elsewhere-

Psa 71:18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Isa 46:4 even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

“gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not.” In other words, even though years and years go by, even though these people are now old, still they do not turn from their evil, they do not grow in wisdom, they remain silly and without sense.

Pro 26:12 Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

And so, hear it once more – *it is most certainly not all good!* These words describe the majority of our nation today:

Hos 7:12-16 As they go, I will spread over them my net; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens; I will discipline them according to the report made to their congregation. (13) Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me.

(14) They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me.

(15) Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me. (16) They return, but not upward; they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.