

TURN TO GOD (Hosea 12:6)

I. Keep mercy.

- A. The idea of the word keep is to attend to or give heed to.
- B. God wanted His people to give attention to or observe mercy.
 - 1. The word Hebrew word for mercy means kindness or goodness.
 - 2. Because of the worship of idols and turning from God, people of Judah began to lack a kindness towards one another.
 - 3. Some of the worship to idols involved human sacrifice, especially of one's own children.
 - 4. There is no way this in keeping with God's will of loving one's neighbor.
 - 5. If one can't love his own children enough to not offer them to idols then he is surely not going to be kind to others around him.
- C. As we noticed this morning, we are to let brotherly love abound.
- D. Not only that, we are commanded to do good unto all men, especially our brethren (Galatians 6:10).
 - 1. Jesus gave the parable of the Good Samaritan to show us that we are to be good to all men.
 - 2. We are to love our neighbor and everyone in that sense is our neighbor.
- E. Christians should be known as the kindest people on earth.
 - 1. We know what sin does to people and we know the cure for sin.
 - 2. Because of that, we should do all we can to be kind to people to help them out of their sin and into Christ.
 - 3. Being ugly and unkind won't get that job done.
- F. When one wanders off from Christ, selfishness has set in and kindness leaves because it is not always easy to be kind.
- G. If one who has wandered away wants to come back, kindness must be attended to in order to do so.

II. Keep judgment.

- A. The idea of the Hebrew word translated judgment is doing right.
- B. Greed had begun to settle in to the Southern Kingdom.
 - 1. The book of Ezekiel talks a great deal about how the shepherds treated the sheep, or how the leaders treated the people.
 - 2. When greed rules one's life, the ideas of being just and looking out for others go out the window.
 - 3. The leaders were being less and less concerned about what was right and more concerned about their bottom line and their comfort.
- C. Both elders and deacons have to meet the requirement of not being greedy because it negates their ability to discern right from wrong.
 - 1. Some form of the word covetous is used numerous times in the New Testament.
 - 2. It is used in lists of sins that keep people from inheriting eternal life (1 Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 5:5).

3. It is a form of idolatry (Colossians 3:5).
- D. When one wanders from God covetousness often plays a part in that move from God.
 1. There is something this world has to offer that is wanted more than a relationship with God.
 2. It may be some thing or someone or some job, but whatever it is, is place before God.
- E. If one who has wandered away wants to come back, a desire to do right must be cultivated in order to do so.

III. **Wait on God.**

- A. The word for wait in Hebrew means to look eagerly for, to lie in wait for.
 1. In this passage, it carries the idea of trusting in God and in His will.
 2. Br. Rex Turner, Sr., said this meant “to put one’s trust in Him and let Him lead the way.”
- B. Idolatry and the social ills of the day that attended to idolatry had caused the people to run away from God.
 1. There is no trust in a God who’s word is perverted and worship is ignored or changed.
 2. Each was seeking his own way and there was no trust in God, no faith was present in the lives of them affected by the sin of idolatry.
- C. Waiting on God indicates a patience that has grown through a study of God and a drawing near to Him because of such.
 1. The Lord preached numerous times that His people should watch for the Lord.
 2. That is the New Testament equivalent to this Old Testament term.
 3. Matthew 25:13; Mark 13:34-37.
 4. Paul preached this as well (1 Thessalonians 5:6; 2 Timothy 4:5).
- D. These verses are not teaching us to sit idly by and do nothing while waiting on the Lord to return.
 1. It carries the idea of living in trust and doing the works that show there is trust in God.
 2. He does not want us to sit around with faces aimed at the sky, but to calmly and faithfully live for Him.
- E. This phrase indicates a life of trust and assurance in the promises of God.
 1. Those that wander off from God show a great lack of faith in the word of God.
 2. The warnings to those who wander off are numerous.
 3. We are told the effects of sin on the soul and experience has shown that all those warnings are correct.
 4. Yet many still go on their own with no trust in God and an abandonment of His word.
- F. If we want to return to God, we can do so by faith which comes from God’s word.