

THEME: EMPTY RELIGION

TOPIC: THE DANGER OF EMPTY RELIGION

AMOS: 2:6-16; JAMES 1:27; 1 JOHN 4:20-21

05.04.05.2019

Question: "Why is empty religion dangerous?"

Empty religion is void of a life transforming relationship with God.

Amos 2:6 Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals— **7** those **who trample the head of the poor** into the dust of the earth and **turn aside the way of the afflicted**; a man and his father go in to the same girl, so that **my holy name is profaned**; **8** they lay themselves down beside every altar on **garments taken in pledge**, and in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined.

I. EMPTY RELIGION DEVALUES PEOPLE

James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

1 John 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. **21** And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Amos 2:9 "Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath.

10 Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. **11** And I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and some of your young men for Nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?" declares the Lord.

II. EMPTY RELIGION IS A HOME FOR SPIRITUAL PRIDE

12 "But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, 'You shall not prophesy.'

13 "Behold, I will press you down in your place, as a cart full of sheaves presses down. **14** Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain his strength, nor shall the mighty save his life; **15** he who handles the bow shall not stand, and he who is swift of foot shall not save himself, nor shall he who rides the horse save his life; **16** and he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day," declares the Lord.

III. EMPTY RELIGION SILENCES OTHERS TO PROTECT ITSELF

What is the solution to empty religion?

The Gospel!