

“HALF BAKED CAKE”

Hosea 7:8-14

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INTRODUCITON

“Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; Ephraim has become a cake not turned” (7:8).

There are too many “half baked Christians” in the world today. A half baked Christian is one who is “done” on the side of the world, and uncooked on the side of God! The Lord himself will have to determine whether they are truly believers, but if they are, they have some serious defects. So were the Israelites of old.

Such professing religious persons have some **serious issues**; but they have even more **serious results**.

The Lord “trains” His people (v. 15) and He would “redeem” them from their problems—but so often they will have none of it!

People who are religious but lost are often the most difficult people to reach.

Even rebellious believers are sometimes very difficult to reach.

I. SERIOUS ISSUES

It is often the case that we can have some serious problems in our lives and yet be the last ones to recognize them—for we are self-deceived.

- A. Our strength is devoured (9) by ungodly “strangers” and companions.
- B. We show signs of “aging” (gray hair) on our heads but refuse to acknowledge them—or even look closely in the mirror.
- C. We show pride in our ways—even though it “testifies against us”—God opposes it and us as the result! (See 5:5). Also our “tongue is insolent” against God and His ways (16)
- D. We stray away from the Lord (v. 13)
 1. But we refuse to come back to the Lord our God (v. 10)
 2. We refuse to seek Him (10)
 3. We don’t really cry out to the Lord from our hearts (14).
- E. We become “silly as a dove” (v. 11) with no sense—“heart”.
- F. We rebel against God (13b).
- G. We lie against God (13c)
- H. We “devise evil” against God (15).

Such serious issues in the lives of “the people of God” are bound to have very serious results.

II. SERIOUS RESULTS

Worldly “Christians” seek help in all of the wrong places—but not from the Lord.

- A. Seeking help from ungodly powers (Assyria and Egypt—11b, 8a)
- B. Mourning over loss of personal prosperity—great personal distress (14)—but not over sins.
 1. They “turn” away from God—not toward Him (14)—like a “deceitful bow” (one that cannot be trusted to hit the target aimed at).
 2. They “assemble themselves:--the term implies “rage, rioting, and roaring”, but not prayer! They work themselves into a violent rage.
 3. Mourning may seem like “repentance”—but it is merely sorrow over the problems faced—the *loss of grain and new wine*” (14)
- C. Experiencing God’s Displeasure
 1. He opposes their efforts—ensnaring them and trapping them like birds (12a)
 2. He chastens them according to His Word given to Israel’s assembly (12b) [See Ex. 19; Lev. 26; Deut 1-30; etc.]
 3. He “destroys them” as long as they persist in sinful ways and rebellion (13b).
 4. They “fall by the sword” (v. 16c)
 5. They are mocked by their enemies—their so-called “allies” (16c) (derision in the land of Egypt).

CONCLUSION

The sad thing about all this is that the Lord really wants the best for His people! He is not “out to get us.”

- He says: “I would redeem them” (13c).
- He says: “I trained and strengthened their arms” (15a).
- God is out to “help us”!

Let us admit our Issues; avoid the resulting problems; and experience His favor!