

“IT IS TIME TO SEEK THE LORD”

Hosea 10:9-15

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INTRODUCTION

It is high time to stop wasting life on living for self and to begin living all out for the Lord.

In this passage Hosea introduces a theme of hope. Hosea leaves behind the image of the vine and introduces a new figure of speech—the heifer and plowing of fields. Too long Israel had stubbornly “done its own thing”—“plowing wickedness,” “reaping injustice,” “eating the fruit of lies” (v. 13); God would make them laboriously plow as they suffered captivity and ruin. **But, God invites Israel to make a change in lifestyle: “Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness; break up your fallow ground, FOR IT IS TIME TO SEEK THE LORD”** (v. 12). If Israel turns to the Lord in this way, God will come to “rain righteousness” upon them (v. 12).

It is also high time for us to **seek the Lord in order that He might rain His righteousness upon us!**

Sin is *tiresome*—time to give it up!

Chastisement is troubling—time to look for something better!

Refreshment and salvation result from turning to God—time to “sow to righteousness and reap in loyal love.” **TURN TO GOD**

I. TIRED OLD SIN (9, 10, 11, 13, 15)

A. **Past sin** is still present (9)—“from the days of Gibeah” (9:9)

B. **Double sin/double guilt** (10)—Against God and against David.

C. **Enjoying** the fruit of its own corruption (11)

D. **Persistence** in its own personal plans (13)

- Plowed wickedness
- Reaped injustice
- Eaten the fruit of lies
- Trusted in its own way
- Relying on its own military power

E. **Great wickedness**—Literally “the evil of your evil.”

Sin is tiring and monotonous—yet we continue in it. Thus, like Israel, we will experience the results of His chastisement.

II. TROUBLESOME JUDGMENT (10, 11, 14, 15)

Divine Chastisement

A. The Timing of Punishment is up to the Lord (10—“When it is my desire.”)

- B. The Appropriateness of the punishment is set by the Lord also
- No more will Israel enjoy her sinful labor.
 - She will suffer horribly.

Human Chastisement

- A. The “Peoples are gathered against them” (10).
B. The attack brings tumult and confusion (14).
C. The attack ruins all of their secure fortifications (14)
D. The attack will result in the slaughter of the inhabitants of the land—including the most vulnerable—“mothers and their children” (14)
E. The violence will be graphic: “dashed in pieces” (14).
F. Even the sacred precinct of Bethel is not safe (15)
G. Even the monarchy (the king) will fall before the enemy (15).

*However, this passage does not stop with Sin and Judgment; God through Hosea offers Hope for the people if they will **Turn to God**.*

III. TURNING TO GOD (12)

- A. Seek the Lord—“It is time”! Enough time has been spent in Sin.
B. Break up the Fallow Ground—ground not planted, God-ward interests and activities. **Time for a change of direction!** Stop living merely for SELF.
C. Sow to righteousness—that which is right before God; what He demands and expects. **Scripturally, this involves repentance (turning from sin) and faith (trust in the Lord).**
D. Reap in accord with mercy or kindness—“**loyal love**”—treating people and the Lord according to our *covenantal demands*—what is expected of us in our various relationships.

IV. TRANSFORMED BY DIVINE POWER—**Saved by Grace** (12)

God “rains righteousness” on Us.

Without the divine rain—work of the Holy Spirit—the seed cannot grow and no fruit will sprout. It is ours to repent and trust; it is God’s to pour out His Spirit and save us—giving us His “righteousness.”

We do not bring salvation; but without seeking, breaking up the fallow ground, sowing, and reaping one will not be saved!

CONCLUSION

Are you tired of sin; troubled by all of the chastisement?

Turn to the Lord—seek Him.

It is time to seek the Lord; break up that fallow ground!

Backslidden Christian—break up that fallow ground in your life and Seek the Lord.