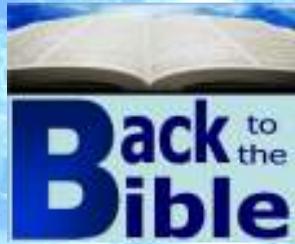


### Today's Sermons

Morning: The All-Sufficiency of the Scriptures  
Afternoon: Peer Pressure

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	30
Sunday AM Worship	45
Sunday PM Worship	24
Wed. Bible Study	20
Offering	\$1800



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**Times of Services:**

Sunday

Bible Study:.... 10:00am  
AM Worship:..11:00am  
PM Worship:....6:00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am  
"Back to the Bible"  
AM 580 WSKS  
93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
Warm & Cordial  
Welcome  
To All Our  
Visitors!**

**"SEEK GOOD, AND NOT EVIL,  
THAT YE MAY LIVE"**  
Roger D. Campbell

The above words were spoken by Jehovah through His prophet Amos to the people of Israel, the Northern Kingdom. God had lovingly disciplined His children in the days of Amos, yet the sad reality was, ". . . *yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD*" (Amos 4:6,8,9,10,11). The Book of Amos sets forth what was amiss among God's people in his time, and it also sets forth the remedy for what ailed them. Here is a passage that summarizes just what Israel needed to do: "Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate . . ." (Amos 5:14,15).

When it came to "good," what was expected of God's people? To *seek* good, to *love* good, and to *do* good.

SEEK Good - The word "seek" points to taking the initiative. It is not sitting by and waiting for something to happen. One that seeks good is one that longs for, looks for, and pursues what is good. In the context of Amos 5, before Amos charged the people of God to seek *good*, at least twice he had already told them to seek *the Lord* (5:4,5). Thus, in that context, to "seek good" was the same as to "seek God." By God's standard, there is no such thing as seeking good if one leaves Him out of the equation!

*Continued Inside*

## Interesting Facts About 2 Corinthians

**AUTHOR:** Paul

**TIME WRITTEN:** 57 A.D. from Ephesus

**POSITION IN THE BIBLE:**

- 47th Book in the Bible
- 8th Book in the New Testament
- 3rd of 21 Epistle Books (Romans - Jude)
- 4th of Paul's 13 books
- 19 Books to follow it.



**CHAPTERS:** 13

**VERSES:** 257

**WORDS:** 6,092

**OBSERVATIONS ABOUT 2 CORINTHIANS:**

- Paul established the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey.
- Two of Paul's letters are written to the church at Corinth.
  - 1 Corinthians
  - 2 Corinthians
- After 1 Corinthians had been received the church in Corinth, false teachers had entered in and stirred the people up against Paul. They claimed he was:
  - Fickle
  - Proud
  - Unimpressive in appearance
  - Unqualified as an apostle of Jesus Christ
- Paul penned 2 Corinthians in order to:
  - Express his thanksgiving for the repentant attitude that resulted from their having received 1 Corinthians.
  - To appeal to the rebellious members among them to accept his authority as an apostle of Jesus Christ.
- Titus and another brother carried 2 Corinthians to the church at Corinth.

### 2 CORINTHIANS

- When Paul made his third trip to Corinth, he wrote the Roman letter to the brethren in Rome.
- 2 Corinthians 8-9 is the longest discussion of the principles and practice of giving found in the New Testament.
- The city of Corinth:
  - After Corinth was destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C., the city was rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C.
  - The capital of Achaia.
  - Its official language was Latin.
  - Its common language was Greek.
  - In Paul's day the population was about 7000,000 people.
  - 1/3 of the population were slaves.
  - Was filled with shrines and temples.
  - Temple of Aphrodite, located on top of the 1,800 foot tall promontory called the Acrocorinthus, had some 1,000 temple prostitutes.
- To "act like a Corinthian" became a synonym for debauchery and prostitution.



"You are our epistle written in our hearts,  
known and read by all men."  
2 Corinthians 3:2

We recall that Jesus said, “*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled*” (Matthew 5:6). If we are going to be what the Lord wants us to be in our spiritual lives, then we must have a burning desire for good or righteousness. Real life comes only to those that seek good. Again, Amos 5:14 reads, “*Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live . . .*” What does it mean to live? There were cases in the Old Testament era in which *the physical safety* of the Israelites depended on their seeking and doing good. In another sense, we have *the very best life* on earth in and through Jesus (John 10:10). In addition, we look for *life eternal* in the world to come (Mark 10:30). True spiritual life comes only to those who seek good.

LOVE Good - “*Hate the evil and love the good*” (Amos 5:15). It is not enough to *seek* good. It is not sufficient to *find* good. Once one finds that which is good, he/she must *love* it. What is not to love about the Giver of good and good itself?! Here is a clear truth that we must not miss: God alone determines what is right or good in all moral and spiritual matters. If we miss this point, we will ultimately miss heaven. God once told the nation of Israel, “*And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD . . .*” (Deuteronomy 6:18). Thus, in the eyes of God, to “love good” means to love what He says or what He has determined is good or right. We ought to imitate the approach of the Psalmist, who declared to God, “*O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day*” (Psalm 119:97). Contrast that attitude with the heart of one who is condemned because he does *not* love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10). One that loves *good* loves *God’s truth*, and one that loves His *truth* loves *Him*. Turn that around, and these truths remain: one that does *not* love what is good/the truth does *not* love God.

DO Good - Though the context of Amos 5:14,15 does not specifically say to “do good,” the implication is clearly there. What good would it do for Amos and his contemporaries to *seek* good and claim to *love* good, if, in the end, they chose not to *do* good? In reality, is it not the case that one who really loves the truth and what is good will carry it out in his life? How can I profess to love what God calls “good” when I refuse to follow what He says?

In the Bible, we often read about the concept of doing good. In some instances, the Bible speaks about doing good to other people; in other words, treating them in a good manner. Christians are instructed to “do good” unto all men, especially those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10). Jesus also spoke of this aspect of doing good: “*And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? For sinners also do even the same*” (Luke 6:33). So, there is a sense in which even lost people can “do good.”

While “being neighborly” is one aspect of doing good, the scriptural concept of doing good encompasses more than being kind or helpful to others. Biblically speaking, “doing good” also includes doing what God wants us to do. Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? The one that “does the will” of the Father (Matthew 7:21). Who will enter into eternal life? The one that is “righteous” (Matthew 25:46). Who will be raised from the dead unto life? The one that “does good” (John 5:28,29). Put those three ideas together, and what do you have? One that does good acts righteously, which means he obeys God’s will.

It is not complicated. Challenging, yes; complicated, no. Those that please God are those that *seek* good, *love* good, and *do* good. Is that what the Lord sees in our lives?

~~~~~

*" Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them"*  
(John 10:1-6)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 9 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- July 22 – Cookout – begins about 3:00 – sign-up in foyer
- Aug 6 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Aug 6-11 – 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Old-Fashioned Tent Meeting with Mark Bass
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell