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CONTROVERSY: Part 3

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We continue our series on “God’s Controversy”: *“As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame (confusion and disgrace). They eat up the sin of my people (priests were eating the sin offerings), and they set their heart on their iniquity (reveling in the peoples’ sins). And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them (repay them accordingly) their doings. (Hosea 4:7-9).*

Hosea, in **verse 7**, declares the priests were “increased”: meaning they were prospering because of the sins of the people. The priests were having financial success because of the wicked deeds of the people.

Sadly, many Ministers today seek to make money off of God’s people. Nearly every week, I witness TV Ministers speaking more and more about money, jets, motorcycles, and a host of other secular things. Jesus asked, *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8:36-37)*

There is nothing wrong with Jehovah prospering His people, but, in the state America is in, we should be preaching repentance, redemption, and salvation. There is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun.

The apostle Paul declared *“Perverse disputings of men of corrupt (perverse) minds, and destitute (deprived) of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw (separate) thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can*

carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare (trap), and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown (sink) men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred (been seduced) from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:5-10).

In our focal passage, Hosea declared the priests had caused the people to sin against Jehovah. Sadly, prosperity will cause men to forget God, *“... feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? (Proverbs 30:8-9)* The glory the priests once witnessed, adored, and embraced was now turned into shame, disgrace, and dishonor.

Regrettably, we all have witnessed the disgrace and shame lavish lifestyles have brought upon the church, the body of Christ.

We never ask for money here at *The Voice of Evangelism*, and yet we still get criticized. Some time ago, while doing a radio program, I briefly mentioned faithfulness in tithing and giving. A lady immediately sent me an e-mail and accused me of constantly begging for money. We will never plead for money nor seek a lavish lifestyle at the expense of God’s people. I fear God too much to abuse His body, the church, in any way.

In **verse 8**, prophet Hosea declares, *“They eat up the sin of my people”*. This speaks of the people bringing their sacrificial offering to the Temple and the priests selfishly

eating that offering instead of offering it to the Lord. The priests were glad when the people sinned because they received more material and financial gifts.

I feel very much the same way as Hosea as we witness a generation of selfish and self-serving Ministers. Hosea declared the priests lifted up their souls and set their hearts upon the people sinning. God have mercy on any Minister who glories in the sins and iniquities of God’s people.

In **verse 9**, Hosea declares whatever the priests do, so will the people. In other words, if the priests sinned, so would the people. Therefore, the priests prospered and had pleasure in the sins of God’s people.

As a Minister of God, I can’t imagine myself being happy or fulfilled when the people of God sin. The truth is, I am grief-stricken and shudder as I witness the sin of America. No wonder Jehovah declared their glory would be changed into shame and disgrace; because the priests gloried in the sins of the people, Jehovah says both the priest and the people will be punished for their sins.

America has lost her way spiritually. There is no doubting it; America lacks spirit-filled leadership in nearly every denomination. All denominational leaders bear a grave responsibility, not only for their own spiritual well-being but also for the well-being of their followers.

If we share the good news of God’s delivering power in our own lives, we must be sure to stay on the right path and not lapse into sin. Those who look to us for guidance will do as we do, not as we say. If we hope to help others stay on the

road to spiritual growth, we need to stay on that road ourselves. Something negative has happened when Ministers chose to please the people more than Jehovah.

As a Minister, I am supposed to serve the Lord. Ministers who pray daily and seek the face of God will always bring forth an uncompromising message from the Father's heart. Praying daily and dwelling in His most Holy Chamber is where men receive divine insight and revelation. A daily regimen of prayer enables Ministers to speak the heart of God!

Sadly, many today cannot tell you the heart of God because they don't know Him! No one can genuinely know Him until they spend time in His most holy presence.

Because the priests and the people lived in sin, Jehovah punished them both. If there was ever a time for America to fall on her knees and repent it is today.

My heart is terribly grieved as only a handful of godly men are crying against sin and calling for national repentance. No *political* leader can turn America to national repentance. But Holy Ghost, Spirit-filled messengers can turn America back to God. Where are those men?

A while ago, after a time of prayer, the Holy Spirit inspired me to define a spiritual leader:

A spiritual leader is one who fears no one or institution. A spiritual leader stays before God in prayer daily. He bathes both his mind and heart in the Word of God. He stands against nearly everything that modern Christendom embraces. He is anointed, full of the Word, rough on the edges, but tender in heart. He is full of compassion and mercy, yet he will compromise for no one. He weeps day and night by what he witnesses in the church, the body of Christ. He fears no one but God. He continues to proclaim God's word without compromise despite his detractors. Persecution is deemed an honor he feels unworthy to bear. He

is ordained by God and disdained by men.

Where is that man of God today? God send us like minded men full of the Holy Ghost and Word of God.

In **verse 10**, the prophet describes what will happen to the nation due to the sins of the priests and the people, if there is no national repentance.

Hosea says the people will eat but remain hungry; meaning they will not be satisfied spiritually. Spiritual hunger will allow them to play the harlot and gain nothing from it. Sadly, they will ultimately abandon the Lord and worship idols.

Truly, America has deserted God and now worships many false gods. The prophet declares, as a nation they will no longer increase: meaning the Lord will decrease them numerically by lessening procreation. A large population was always desired, because it represented national strength at a time when national strength was needed.

Here, in **verse 11**, the word "whoredoms" speaks of idol worship and its licentious rites which always destroy spiritual understanding and makes men insensible concerning their need for God. Both wine and strong drink take away the sensibility and stability of Holy Ghost power, which should always be the mainstay in God's people.

Recently, I heard a preacher explain a new concept found in many churches; the idea is called: "hymns and beers". This new idea is men sitting around campfires singing hymns while drinking beer: what abomination in the sight of God.

As a former backslider, I would have never dared to do something of that nature; and yet so-called professing Saints of God are committing those evil acts regularly. Satan has always desired for men to mix worldliness with salvation and therefore make themselves spiritual prostitutes.

Closing in **verse 12**, the prophet of God declares the people sought

advice from stocks or wooden idols. This spirit of apostasy caused the people to err and become spiritually seduced.

False teachings and false doctrines always cause the people of God to "go a whoring" after other gods. Spiritual prostitution causes the church to become calloused and full of pride.

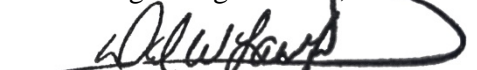
We read in **Jeremiah 3:3**, "*Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.*" There can be no spiritual rain in America until we repent and turn from our spiritual whoredoms.

The apostle Peter cried out, "*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing (or revival) shall come from the presence of the Lord*" (**Acts 3:19**).

It is my daily prayer that the Lord will pour the "*Spirit of grace and of supplications*" (see **Zechariah 12:10**) upon America and that America will turn back to God. I believe if the church will repent and return to our first love for Christ (**Revelation 3:4-5**) this can happen. However, if there is no repentance on a national scale, America is ripe for divine judgment.

I want say thank you from my heart for your love, prayers, and financial support. We are humbled that you would bless this ministry so we might continue God's eternal work. We pray for you daily and petition God for your every need. Let us therefore labor together in His vineyard so we might my make an eternal difference in this once great nation.

Serving Alongside You,



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