

Elder Bobby Willis



### Amos 5:21,22 **What Is Vain Religion**

It has been said that one can live anyway they want six days a week, as long as they repent and ask for forgiveness on Sunday. True - God is a forgiving God! But, we are not to tempt him. Jesus, in Luke 4:12, said; **“Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”**

This belief that allows one to live any way they want follows the pattern of believing that it does not really matter what one does believe as long as he/she is religious. If “religious” in just one part, then they believe it is well-pleasing to God. We are indeed free from the law of sin and death, but we are NOT free to do what we want or free to believe that just any service is acceptable to the Lord. One that joins the church and then just stops going is not pleasing to God. We are not free to NOT worship Him who created us and saved us from eternal torment by the sacrifice of Himself on the cruel tree of the cross.

The Prophet Amos goes to the very heart of the matter in Amos 5:21,22 when he said, **“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.”** The house of Israel had offered sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness for some forty years, and yet they held on to the images of Moloch and Chiun which they had made to themselves (vs. 25,26). Did the Israelites think for one moment that the judgment of God would not come down upon them for their sinfulness?

One can say that he/she loves God, but saying it is not true worship. God told Amos to relate to these backsliders what His judgment would be, **“Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the Lord, whose name is The God of hosts.”** Are we so soon removed from the true worship of God in Spirit and in Truth that we think we can say and not do? James 1:22 says, **“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”** Have we forgotten that God Himself said through the Prophet Isaiah, **“For thou hast**

**trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know” (Isaiah 47:10,11).**

If all of this sounds depressing and shocking to you, then you may not have read or known that God’s judgment is just as true and righteous as His mercy and grace. Let us pause and think deeply about where we are in our service to God. Are we playing church, or mired in apathy? Let us then rise and shake off the dust and sit down in meditation of the meatier things of God and then rise to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth as He so demands. Why? For His is worthy to be praised. Let us follow the teaching of Colossians 1:10, **“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”** **“Think About It!”**