

God's Truth Does Not Change  
Like The Shifting Wind!



# Welcome to the Crossroads class

Sunday, March 5, 2023

*“Five Important Priorities  
from the Book Of Hosea”*

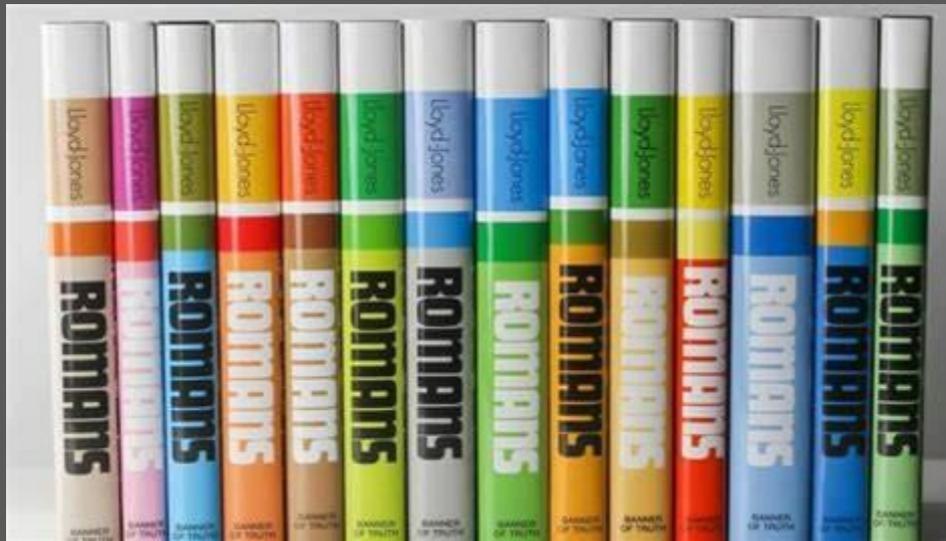
Thank you immensely for your  
generosity and kindness to me!



**Your Crossroads Class teaching team  
Over 200 years of combined teaching experience!**

Reading and studying the Minor Prophets can be a tough slog but they are included in the Holy Scriptures *"which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

The best method of Bible study and teaching is exposition, considering the meaning of the text verse by verse, including the hard to understand verses.



But there is also value in searching for the gems within the text, those passages that stand out and are easier to understand and apply. These are the kind of verses that we often highlight as we read.

Example:

How many can quote John 3:20?

What about John 3:16?

Today we will consider five such “gems” from the book of Hosea which indeed serve as life’s priorities but due to time constraints will likely focus on three!

# 1) The Priority Of Godly Knowledge

***"Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD"*** (Hosea 6:3).

# 1) The Priority Of Godly Knowledge

In chapter 4 Hosea wrote,

***"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"*** (Hosea 4:6).

Knowledge in this verse is knowledge of God and His Word. The problem was not a lack of available knowledge but the rejection of applying that knowledge (note the context).

# 1) The Priority Of Godly Knowledge

*“But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” (Daniel 12:4).*

Daniel associated this particular increase of knowledge to the *“time of the end”*.

# 1) The Priority Of Godly Knowledge

Presumably, knowledge has always increased to some degree but in the last days it will increase exponentially. Are we not seeing that today?

But here's an important note: access to knowledge does not necessarily make one smarter, let alone wiser!

# 1) The Priority Of Godly Knowledge

Growing up, actually into the nineties, if I had a question I'd think to myself; next time I go to the library I need to look that up.

Now I can instantly access virtually any knowledge in the world on my little hand held phone!

# 1) The Priority Of Godly Knowledge

But the priority is knowing the Lord and His revelation as expressed in the Holy Scriptures.

There is an increasing and hastening dearth of this knowledge in our culture.

# 1) The Priority Of Godly Knowledge

Paul's prayer for the Colossians is so fitting:

*“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”*  
(Colossians 1:9-10).

# 1) The Priority Of Godly Knowledge

Knowing You, Jesus

Knowing You

There is no greater thing

You're my all, You're the best

You're my joy, my righteousness

And I love You, Lord

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

***"Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until He comes and showers righteousness on you. But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception. Because you have depended on your own strength and on your many warriors"***

**(Hosea 10:12,13).**

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

*Paul wrote to the Galatians, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"*

*(Galatians 6:7-9).*

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked:  
for whatsoever a man soweth,  
that shall he also reap.*

*— Galatians 6:7 —*

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

A farmer friend made a few points regarding sowing & reaping:

- ✓ We reap what we sow
- ✓ We reap more than we sow
- ✓ We reap later than we sow

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

We reap based on what we sow and receive it later. So when we decide to do right, we may still be reaping from the bad seed that we sowed. Therefore it might look like nothing will change and we could get discouraged.

If we decide to sow wickedness, we may still be reaping from sowing good seed. It might even look like there is no harm in our poor decision and thus we may be deceived.

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

Consider:

Application to individual: Turning to Christ does not necessarily immediately negate our previous sowing to please the flesh. We may continue to reap what we have sown years after our conversion. Some of our previous sowing may have lifelong consequences.

But as we begin to sow to please the Spirit we will begin reaping good! That is a promise.

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

But a solemn warning:

Application to individual: If we sin (sow to please the flesh) the consequences may not be immediate and we may be deceived into thinking it doesn't really matter.

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

Consider:

Application to nation: We are seeing so much sowing of wickedness which will most certainly over time reap a terrible harvest.

However we are still reaping some good from the faithful remnant as well as those who lived before us who sowed righteousness.

Thus it may look like there is no harm in poor policy and thus we may be deceived.

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

Author Os Guinness, commenting on our culture's slide into decadence states, "The notion that ideas don't have consequences is utterly foolish and we are moving into a world where we are soon going to reap in a far greater scale some of the consequences of these maligned ideas."

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

“We’re in an Augustinian moment.

Augustine had the privilege and task of living in a pivotal moment: After 800 years of Roman dominance, he lived through the siege of Carthage and the siege of Rome. After 800 years, a fall beyond belief. The world as they’d known it—gone. He laid down the vision of the church’s response that was the bridge that led through the Dark Ages and eventually to Christendom.

## 2) The Priority Of Spiritual Sowing

We've had 500 years of Western dominance, now at its sunset. I'm reading now about people who lived at an age when the world they knew had gone. Daniel—after centuries in the Promised Land living as the chosen people, Israelites are in a pagan empire with Jerusalem destroyed. Daniel serves God even in that pagan empire. We've got to engage with faithfulness at the very heart of power, still."

### 3) The Priority Of Spiritual Seeking

**“For it is time to seek the LORD, until He comes and showers righteousness on you”**  
(Hosea 10:12,13).

### 3) The Priority Of Spiritual Seeking

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”*

Hebrews 13:6

### 3) The Priority Of Spiritual Seeking

The Bible repeatedly calls us to “*seek the Lord . . . seek his presence continually*”  
(Psalm 105:4)

### 3) The Priority Of Spiritual Seeking

The great promise to those who seek the Lord is that he will be found.

*“If you seek Him, He will be found by you” (1 Chronicles 28:9).*

### 3) The Priority Of Spiritual Seeking

*“One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.”*

(Psalm 27:4)

### 3) The Priority Of Spiritual Seeking

*“And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”*

(Jeremiah 29:13)

### 3) The Priority Of Spiritual Seeking

Following the confession of our sin and accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior, several disciplines are required to guard against deception:

- a) a personal, growing relationship with Christ so that we learn spiritual discernment
- b) a firm and growing knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation
- c) a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and being obedient to God

### 3) The Priority Of Spiritual Seeking

d) a solid foundational knowledge in theology (study of God), church history and world history

e) an accountability to others in the body of Christ, particularly our elders

f) a discerning wariness of the "new"

## 4) The Priority Of Spiritual Remembrance

***"But I have been the Lord your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but Me, no Savior except Me. I cared for you in the desert, in the land of burning heat. When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot Me" (Hosea 13:4-6).***

## 4) The Priority Of Spiritual Remembrance

*“Do this and remember me”*

## 5) The Priority Of Spiritual Conclusion

*"Who is wise? Let them realize these things.  
Who is discerning? Let them understand.  
The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous  
walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in  
them" (Hosea 14:9).*

# Coming up

March 12	Dennis	Obadiah
March 19	Don	Jonah, part 1
March 26	Don	Jonah, part 2

