

119th Church Anniversary (Observed): 1904 – 2023
24th Sunday after Pentecost, 23rd Sunday after Trinity
Saturday, 11/11 at 4:00 & Sunday, 11/12 at 9:00



Text: [Amos 5:18-24](#); [Matthew 25:1-13](#) NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Among those who **THINK** there is a heaven and **HOPE** to go there, we can clearly identify three categories:

1. People who **ARE** repentant!
2. People who **ONLY LOOK** repentant!
3. People who **ARE OPENLY UNREPENTANT!**

Repentance – 2 kinds: **Ultimate**—from trusting in self to Jesus; **Ongoing**—sorrowing, trusting, and honoring.

This sermon will identify people in categories **1** and **2**. For those in category **3** – *please contact me A.S.A.P.*

1. **Amos 5:18-24 NAS-95:** The LORD called those in category **2** to repent!
 - a. ¹⁸ “Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, For what purpose *will* the day of the LORD *be* to you? It *will be* darkness and not light; ¹⁹ As when a man

flees from a lion And a bear meets him, Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall And a snake bites him.

²⁰ *Will not the day of the LORD be darkness instead of light, Even gloom with no brightness in it?* // God knows our hearts! If we are ONLY PRETENDING to be in Christ, *we will be terrified when Jesus returns!*

- b. ²¹ *“I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. ²² Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; And I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings.”* // All the outward good that people do **from unrepentant hearts** will be rejected by the LORD – *no matter how wonderful such things look!*
- c. ²³ *“Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps. ²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”* // When people are living in ONGOING repentance – **ONLY then will:**
- i. They keep being righteous in God’s sight!
 - ii. They keep doing what is just!
 - iii. The LORD accept their offerings!
 - iv. The LORD accept their praises!

2. **Matthew 25:1-13 NAS-95:** The **wise** ones are in **category 1**, while the **foolish** ones are in **category 2**.

- a. ¹ *“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins [people who **THOUGHT** they were ready for Jesus’ return], who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom [Jesus]. ² Five of them were foolish [unprepared, that is, unrepentant], and five were prudent*

[wise, ready, that is, repentant]. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.”

⁵ “Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.” // Jesus, the bridegroom, will return on the last day to receive His bride, *the Church, the repentant ones*. **ALL TEN** began to sleep. Why? They **ALL THOUGHT** they were ready!

- b. ⁶ “But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.’ ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.’”

// Many **THINK** they are ready, *so they are not concerned*. At the very moment Jesus returns, *many will realize they are NOT ready*. Will they have time to get ready? Let’s find out what Jesus said...

- c. ¹⁰ “And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ ¹² But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’”// Now is the time to get ready. When Jesus comes, **it will be too late!**
- d. ¹³ “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.” // Jesus is **STRONGLY URGING EVERYONE** to **be ready now** and **keep being ready through ONGOING repentance!**

Conclusion: In conclusion, let's consider the three categories I mentioned earlier:

1. People who ARE repentant (Rom. 5:6; 2Co. 7:10; 1 John 5:12; Luke 9:23):

- Aware of their helplessness to save themselves.
- Sorry for their sins.
- Trusting in Jesus for eternal life.
- Denying what they want and following Jesus.

2. People who ONLY LOOK repentant!

- **Not** aware of their helplessness.
- **Not** sorry for their sins.
- **Not** trusting in Jesus for eternal life.
- **Falsely thinking** they are in **category 1**.

3. People who are OPENLY UNREPENTANT!

- **Not** aware of their helplessness.
- **Not** sorry for their sins.
- **Not** trusting in Jesus for eternal life.
- **Living** as if ▶the Bible is not true and ▶Jesus did not live and die to save them from eternal punishment.

Remedy? The Bible ➔ read, think about, believe, apply!

Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, for all in **category 1** – *keep them, grow them*; in **categories 2 and 3** – *open their spiritual eyes to the truth, give them godly sorrow, transfer their trust from self to Jesus, and help them to gladly honor You in their lives!*

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