

Scripture: God's Law: Ex. 20 & God's Gospel: Hosea 14
Singing: 349:1-4 – 141:1 – 426:1, 7, 10 – 221:1-3 – 294:1-3

Hope for a failed church mission!

I. God's mission for His people is to be the salt and the light

A. Jesus' came to establish the Kingdom of God on earth

1. The symbolic picture in a dream is reality: Daniel 4:35; Acts 2:47; 17:6

2. God employs His people to accomplish this: John 13:34-35; Matt. 5:13-16

B. God's call for this mission pre-dated New Testament: Ex. 19:6

1. Jehovah chose Canaan strategically: Deut. 4:5-8

2. yet as Lord Jesus ushers His Kingdom, the quality deepens radically

a. John 3:3, 5; Matt. 5:20 -48 as fulfilment of Jer. 32:31-34

II. Sadly the Old Testament church failed badly

A. Old Testament is sad story of failure to be salt and light (Hos. 1:2; 2:2, 5, etc.)

B. God: *take a look in your own bosom: have you failed as a church?*

III. If you failed in your mission as a church, then it is time to confess!

A. Hosea 14 is stunning revelation of God inviting you to a new beginning

1. God invites you to return despite self-destruction (13:9; 14:1)

2. God even tells you what to say (vs. 2): *confess in detail*

3. God greatly encourages you to return: *He is gracious* (2b)

4. God proclaims His forgiveness to all who return in repentance & faith (4b)

B. True repentance is always married to conversion: vs. 2b-3

1. Conversion is to renounce and leave your past that hinders you from being the 'salt and the light': 3

2. Conversion is to pledge yourself to God (again): 2b

IV. Yet you have great hope even if you face a failed mission

A. Your hope is not in your doing: Hosea 14:4-8

1. He is committed to turn away from His anger (4:4b; Eph. 4:30)

2. He is committed to heal us (4:4a; 5-8)

3. He is committed to being our source of good (4:8)

B. If you desire to be wise, and blessed: *be a doer of the Word* (Matt. 7:24-27)

But whose looketh into the perfect law of liberty,
And continueth therein,
He being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work,
This man shall be blessed in his deed. (James 1:25)