

EAST CAMBRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

"A first century church in the 21st century"

Bible Reading Plan

Week 42

- Lam; Ps 137; *1 Pet 4*
- Oba; Jer 40-42; Ps 147;
1 Pet 5
- Jer 43-44, 46; *2 Pet 1*
- Jer 47-49; Ps 80; *2 Pet 2*
- Jer 50-51; *2 Pet 3*

Leading Services

Announcements: Larry L.

Morning:

Song Leader: Mike V.

Opening Prayer: Richard L.

Lord's Table: Brock G.

Asst By:

Closing Prayer: Bill G.

Evening:

Song Leader: Bill G.

Opening Prayer: Zack V.

Closing Prayer: Brock G.

Scripture Reading: Richard L.
(Malachi 2:10-16)

Sermons

AM: Do Not Imitate Evil



Evil

Basically, I am not a political person. I hate politics regardless of which "side of the aisle" they emanate from. But I do love truth, especially the ultimate truth...God's Word (Jn. 17:17). Psalm 52 vividly describes so much of what is going on in today's America. Forces of deceit and evil seem determined to overthrow all that is good and true about America. Historical statues are indiscriminately defaced, toppled, and destroyed. Some are now even vociferously advocating the destruction of statues and stained-glass windows they say depict a "white European Jesus." I am not into any statues or physical depictions of Jesus. I believe the Scriptures clearly condemn that concept (cf. Ex. 20:4, 5; Deut. 4:15-19). However, I am not into wanton property destruction either. Both are sinful. Psalm 52 describes today's lawless agitators to a "t" (vv. 1-4):

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Will evil triumph?

“Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. *Selah*. You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.”

These folks hate America and want to destroy our freedoms. I am also no “flag waving” ultra-nationalistic patriot. I do love this country and believe it is worth saving. I believe that, not because I believe America is “God’s Nation” like ancient Israel. I believe that because of all the nations in the world ours allows religious freedom (at least for now). Religious freedom is a double-edged sword. This freedom allows the true and pure gospel of the Bible to be preached and sent abroad to other nations. It also allows false teaching and error to be spread as well. That’s no big surprise as we do not live in a perfect world. I can live with that dilemma because I know that in the end God’s truth will prevail. At the Final Judgment the Bible tells us:

“Now out of His [Christ’s] mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” (Revelation 19:15)

God will ultimately defeat and destroy all lies and error. He will totally obliterate them. Ultimately “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:10, 11) I take great comfort in this wonderful truth and look forward to it. But I know for most that will not be a “good day.” So, as Christians our desire for all men should coincide with God’s. He “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). Even those who tear down statues and loot businesses. We wish evil on no one because as Christians we recognize the value of every man’s soul (Matt. 16:26). Fortunately, we live in a land where we can preach the message of salvation and try to help people avoid the eternal disaster the vast majority are hurtling toward at breakneck speed (Matt. 7:13-14). The Lord is coming again and for the bulk of mankind it will truly be a disaster of “biblical proportions.” As the Psalmist puts it (v. 5): “But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah*”

- Craig Thomas