



# WORD LIVING

Stewards In Action

SEPTEMBER 2010

## **STEWARDSHIP** – Living Without Compromise

### GOD HAS A CONTROVERSY - WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME?

WELCOME – and thank you for being a part of this year's outreach for Jesus. We pray that you will find hope in the word of God and share this newsletter with others. Our Lord is soon coming and we must do all we can to talk, walk and live for Jesus so others will seek Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Word Living according to Hosea Chapter 4, God had a controversy with his people and that controversy continues today because we continue to live outside of his will.

I cannot imagine the pain that Jesus must feel when each day those who he gave his life for rise without giving thanks, ignore reading his word, make decisions without seeking his directions and think nothing about living outside of his will. Yet, they expect a life of ease, money, happiness and yes, they expect Jesus to answer their request instantaneously. Wow!

Let's bring the subject home. As parents, we expect our children to love us and respect us. We want the best for them and we are sad when they rebel from following our directions and/or disrespect us. As parents we expect them to care for the home, that is help keep it clean, respect what belongs to others and work together to get things done. Well just as we desire that relationship, God desires that same thing from us.

Hosea, which means, "Salvation," ministers to the northern kingdom of Israel. Outwardly, the nation is enjoying a time of prosperity and growth; but inwardly, moral corruption and spiritual adultery permeate the people. God instructs Hosea to marry a woman of whoredoms, he married Gomer, and now his household is an accurate and tragic dramatization of the unfaithfulness of God's people.

Now, I must stop and point to the fact that those who are married and believe the relationship of the husband and wife mirrors the relationship of Christ to the church, it means a unity of oneness and sacredness that last until death which is defined as the passing away of the spouse.

In the oneness, the love the husband has for his wife is that of the love he has for his body in that he would do nothing the harm or bring pain to himself therefore he would do nothing to bring pain to his wife for they are one. The wife submits to and gives reverence (respect) to her husband. The family that obeys the Lord teaches their children the need to love and obey the word of God. (Ephesians, chapters 5 & 6)

Understand the journey of a Christian is not a problem or pain free life, but knowing that Jesus is guiding frees us from worry and fear. (Psalm 37:3-4; Psalm 27 and Psalm 121)

God's family design is one that mirrors his love for the church. So why would God tell Hosea to take a wife whoredoms? I believe that the marriage of Hosea and Gomer provided a visual of the unfaithfulness of God's people. Gomer was unfaithful yet Hosea showed her unconditional love.

Now before we kick Gomer to the curve, do we see ourselves in her unfaithfulness? Do we see our lack of time to study and pray? Do we follow the teaching of the Bible as it relates to training our children? (Proverbs 22:6 and Deuteronomy 6:4-7) Have we walked outside of the path? Have we sinned and come short? (Romans 3:23 and James 2:10) Yes, we have been unfaithful to Jesus our Lord and yet He has been faithful and we have received unconditional love from Jesus. So great was his love that he died for our sins. (John 3:16)

How long will we continue to ignore the command of God and do things our way? How long will we forsake to teach our children about Jesus? How long will we focus on worldly stuff and allow Satan to destroy the unity of family as God designed it to be? How long will we accept man's definition of how we should live vs. the instructions in the Bible? How long? How long?

Look around us. The news is full of sinful actions. People think nothing of taking a life including their own. Our seniors are afraid to go for walks in their own neighborhood. Churches lock their doors and/or have guards to patrol the area.

Should the Lord delay his coming, in September we look at various answers to the question - WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME?

His steward, Karen



