

# Amos: But We Are Religious

Amos 5:18-27

These people that God so fiercely condemns, who greedily take advantage of the poor, who use “the system” to get what they want, are they ignorant pagans? Are they unbelievers?

No, they are religious people. Publicly they are going through all the motions. They want other people to see them as religious. They think of themselves as good and godly. In fact, they claim that they long for the Day of the Lord (5:18). That is the day when God comes to earth and puts everything right.

Amos warns them that the way they are living, the Day of the Lord is the last thing they should want! *“It will be darkness and not light.”* (5:18b, NASB)

Hear what God says to such religious people who do not live out His justice and mercy:

*“I hate, I reject your festivals,  
Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.  
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.  
Take away from Me the noise of your songs;  
I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.  
But let justice roll down like waters  
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”* (5:21-24, NASB)

What is God saying to us through Amos?

- “I care deeply, passionately about the poor and defenseless. You should too!”
- “Greed and injustice flourish even among the respectable and religious, just as among unbelievers. They grow in selfish hearts wrapped up in their own personal good without concern for the needy.”
- “Not everything legal and profitable is just. Justice is being like Me, and I am righteous, compassionate, and merciful. I am love.”
- “Yes, I care about people’s spiritual welfare. But My love is not that narrow. I care about all their needs. Share what I have given you. Be My hands. Love like Me.”

Listen & Sing: [God of All People](#) (from [LNWhymns.com](#))