

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Hosea is referred to as a minor prophet of the Old Testament.
- B. Hosea's name translated means salvation.
- C. Hosea's message is not minor in content only in length.
- D. Hosea and Gomer illustrate God and Christ; their attitude before man.

I. HOSEA TAKES A WIFE.

- A. Passage: Hos. 1:2-9.
- B. Hosea's wife, Gomer was a harlot (prostitute).
- C. By this marriage three children were born:
 - 1. Jezreel (which means God will punish the house of Jehu because of the blood of Jezreel)
 - 2. Lo-ruhamah (which means not pitied).
 - 3. Lo-ammi (which means not my people).
- D. The first and third children were boys, the second a girl.

II. GOMER DESERTS HOSEA.

- A. Passage: Hos. 2:4-7.
- B. After the children, Gomer returns to her old way of life (harlotry).
- C. She becomes unfaithful to Hosea.
- D. God is not pleased and puts stumbling blocks in her way to happiness.

III. HOSEA FINDS GOMER AND BUYS HER BACK.

- A. Passage: Hos. 3:1-3.
- B. Gomer is taken captive as a slave and Hosea buys back his own wife.
- C. Hosea orders Gomer never to play the harlot again and be faithful to him.
- D. Hosea lives up to his name in that he is salvation for Gomer.

IV. LESSONS TO BE LEARNED.

- A. If we have to love God then the specialness is gone.
- B. Life is not worth living if it is without God.
- C. The parallelism is between God and Hosea, Gomer and God's people.
- D. As Hosea bought back Gomer from her unfaithfulness, so has God bought us back from our unfaithfulness and sin in Jesus Christ (1Cor. 6:20).
- E. We have been created for good works, anything else is unnatural (Eph. 2:1-10; esp. v10).
- F. Did Gomer deserve the great love of Hosea? Answer: NO. Do we deserve the great love of God through Jesus Christ? Answer: NO.

V. RESPONSES TO THE LESSONS LEARNED.

- A. Say no to ungodliness (1Cor. 15:9,10; Ti. 2:11,12).
- B. To have a better understanding of God's grace and work harder, (1Cor. 15:9,10).
- C. We can have encouragement and hope (2Th. 2:16,17).
- D. Respond to the invitation of Christ (Mt. 11:28-30).
- E. Understand God's attitude to those who come back to Him (Hos. 2:21-23).