

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Jeremiah 6:13-16**.
- B. When faced with the reality of an embarrassing situation we will blush.
- C. Another such situation that should cause us to blush is when we are caught in sin. The people of Jeremiah's day were so hardened of heart (conscience) they did not blush when exposed to be in sin.
- D. This morning's lesson deals with right living, which means having a soft conscience that knows how to blush. Our sin should embarrass us to the point of blushing.

I. CHEAP WORSHIP (Jer. 6:13).

"For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is greedy for gain, And from the prophet even to the priest Everyone deals falsely."

- A. Judah in Jeremiah's day were dealing falsely with God. God is never pleased with anything that is not our best.
- B. Some other OT examples:
 - 1. The offering of Nadab and Abihu was rejected (Lev. 10:1-2).
Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. **2** And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died
 - 2. The worship during the preaching of Amos was rejected (Amos 5:21-24).
"I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. **22** "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. **23** "Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps. **24** "But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
 - 3. The priesthood in the days of Malachi was treacherous (see Mal. 1:7-10; 2:6-8; 3:8-10).
- C. As NT Xians we have not received cheap grace (Jn. 1:17) and cannot return cheap worship.
For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.
- D. Our forgiveness, fellowship with God, and salvation came a great cost (1Cor. 6:19-20).
Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.
- E. If we are giving second best to God in worship then it is time to learn how to blush.

II. CHEAP TALK (Jer 6:14).

"And they have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace."

- A. Judah in Jeremiah's day were soothing their problems by saying it wasn't so. BUT IT WAS SO! Just because the spiritual leaders were saying something was true, didn't make it true.
- B. There are several NT examples of those who would mislead by their words:
 - 1. People accumulate teachers who say what they want to hear (2Tim. 4:3-4).
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; **4** and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.
 - 2. Some deal in fables and myths (1Tim. 4:7).
But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;
 - 3. Strange doctrines, myths, and endless genealogies (1Tim. 1:3-4, 6-7).
As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, **4** nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. **6** For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, **7** wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

4. Others will do whatever they can to shipwreck the true faith (2Tim. 3:5-7, 9, 13).
holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. **6** For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, **7** always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. **9** But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, as also that of those two came to be. **13** But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- D. The apostle John had much to say about walking and talking (1Jn. 1:6-10).
If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.
- E. If we are not speaking truthful words, then it is time to learn how to blush.

III. CHEAP LIVING (Jer. 6:15).

“Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down,” says the LORD.

- A. Judah was guilty of great sin, whether they felt like they were or not.
- B. Guilt is not based on feelings. One can be guilty even if they don't feel guilty. Guilt should be manifested when one has violated their conscience, or the Law of God (or both).
- C. The NT speaks of four different kinds of consciences:
 1. The weak conscience (1Cor. 8:7).
However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.
 2. The seared conscience (1Tim. 4:2).
by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,
 3. The clear conscience (1Tim. 3:9).
but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
 4. The good conscience (1Pet. 3:16).
and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.
- D. Cheap living is when the conscience is not affected when violations occur. The conscience becomes warped into thinking that illicit conduct is acceptable.
- E. If we are not living acceptably in God's sight, it is time to learn how to blush.

IV. WORTHY WALKING (Jer. 6:16).

Thus says the LORD, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you shall find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

- B. Jeremiah pleads for the people to go back and practice the Law. The old paths are still the ones that will work. God will be worshipped and men will know how to live and treat one another.
- C. Jeremiah says we are to:
 1. **Stand** --be steadfast and immovable (1Cor. 15:58).
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.
 2. **See** --understand the power in the gospel (1Cor. 1:22-24).
For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; [23] but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, [24] but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
 3. **Ask** --search to know more (Mk. 10:17).
And as He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and began asking Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

4. **Walk** --live in a manner worthy of the gospel (Phil 1:27-28; Col. 1:10).
(Phil 1:27-28) Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; **28** in no way alarmed by your opponents-- which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.
(Col 1:10) so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- D. The road may be narrow and the gate strait, but it is the only road to walk in (Mt. 7:13-14).
“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. **14** “For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.”
- E. On this road one finds peace and rest.
- F. If we are living acceptably in God’s sight, there is no need to blush due to sin.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Some things to remember from Jeremiah:
1. We have not received cheap grace, therefore we cannot return cheap worship.
 2. Talk is cheap--living is worthy.
 3. The conscience must be molded and shaped correctly by the word of God.
 4. Stop sinning and stand, see, and ask for the ancient paths where one can find rest.
- B. The old paths are still in force and will put one into a right relationship with God.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.