

The Correspondent



SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycc.org
(618) 667-6708

*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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Return Upward -Renn Ferguson

Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom Israel. He is at times called the death-bed prophet because he was the last prophet sent to Israel before they were destroyed by Assyria in 722 B.C. In chapters six and seven of his book he is describing the fleeting faithfulness of Israel (v. 4). He describes the judgments they have faced from God by the prophets and the nations around them. God longed to restore them, He longed for them to come back to Him (7:13). yet, in face of the judgment of God they did not return to Him.

In Hosea 7:16 he wrote, "They return, but not upward..." (ESV). In other translations it may say "They return, but not to the Most High". While facing the judgment of God they refused to turn back to Him.

Instead of turning upward, they turned outward. Notice Hosea 7:11, "Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria." While they should have turned to God, they turned to man. We must never turn outward. How many times do we see people turning to the wisdom of men to guide their lives? We must never turn to the things of this world for there is nothing good that comes of this world (1 John 2:15-17). Many are just as the Israelites, always turning outward but never upward.

Let us always turn to God keeping our hearts and minds set on Him (Colossians 3:1-2). When we do, God will draw closer to us (James 4:8). When we turn to Him, He will give us the strength in time of need (Hebrews 13:5-6). Finally, when we turn to God, He will give us the true victory (1 John 5:4-5). While many in this world turn outward let us always turn upward.

1 John 2:15-17

- ¹⁵ *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- ¹⁶ *For all that is in the world---the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--- is not from the Father but is from the world.*
- ¹⁷ *And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

CONNECTIONS

