

**Amos 5:18-27 - Why Religion is useless****Religion is a cancer**

**“I have been to church so much when I was at school that it was enough to cover the rest of my life.”**

**... Australia is a religious country.**

**... how many ... have a false confidence before God**

**The Day of the Lord**

**God’s people ... a sense of expectation and excitement**

**... terror to the hearts of those who are God’s enemies**

**Verse 18, 20 ... will be darkness not light.**

**Why God will judge them as his enemies?**

**Verse 21-23.**

***“I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me.***

***Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them.***

***Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.***

***Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.***

**= Religious acts that were done without any life changing heart driven repentance.**

**V 24 ... empty religious acts will never stop the justice of God achieving its purposes.**

**Though your lives are filled with religion, your hearts are hardened towards God and obedience to his word.**

**For us today****1) Warning # 1**

**Truth God gives us can be turned to lie.**

**... baptism and the Lord’s supper**

**2) Warning # 2**

**If you are simply going through the motions and not allowing God’s word to transform your actions, then God hates your religion with a passion.**

**3) Warning #3**

**Evidence that we really want to live for God is seen in our hearts desire for righteous living and that desire being worked out in reality.**

**4) Real hope for the day of the Lord**

**1 Thess 5:1-11**

**1 Peter 1:3-5 *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This***

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***inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."***

**Hebrews 4:16 ... approach the throne of Grace with confidence**

**Empty religious practice does not bring God's favour but it brings God's judgement**