

## The Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin (Hosea 7)

*“As the presence of an enemy calls into exercise the malice which lies dormant in the heart, so the holy requirements of the Law presenting themselves before man’s corrupt heart stir it to active opposition. Thus the exceeding sinfulness of sin is all the more demonstrated, for its potency to evil is drawn forth by any restraint being laid upon it.....If the heart of man were pure, the Law would be acceptable; but since it is depraved there is fierce resentment against the spiritual precepts of the Law.” (Our Accountability to God; A.W. Pink)*

Hosea 7:9, “Gray hairs also are sprinkled on him, yet he does not know it.”

**What do gray hairs on the head of a man indicate?** \_\_\_\_\_

Read Hosea 11:1-4.

**What is the contrast we see?** \_\_\_\_\_

Over the time in which “God’s prophets calling them, the more they went from God’s prophets” (11:2). Hosea 7:16 says, “they turn, but not \_\_\_\_\_.”

**What is God’s intention or will for the people?** \_\_\_\_\_

Hosea 7:1, “When I would \_\_\_\_\_ Israel”

Hosea 7:13, “I would \_\_\_\_\_ them”

“Dealing falsely” (7:1), “speaking lies against God” (7:13), “insolence, indignation or cursing of tongue” (7:16) come out of a heart.

**What two characteristics do we read in describing the people’s hearts?**

Hosea 7:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Hosea 7:6 \_\_\_\_\_

How could it get this bad? A people begin with small steps or in small ways walking from the straight and narrow path. Hosea 7:13 says, “Woe to them, for they have \_\_\_\_\_ from Me!”

**When you look at the nations or yourself, do you think: “Woe to them”, “Woe to me” if they/we have strayed from God?**

Read Romans 1:16-32 and 2 Peter 2.

Something has happened over time. God says in 11:3, “Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in My arms.” Again, He says in 11:4, “...I bent down and fed them.” He then says in 7:15, “although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against Me.” And now this little child has grown and has gray hairs, yet he does not know it.

Read Hosea 7:8-9 and 1 Corinthians 15:32-34.

**How or what situations do we face that we may find ourselves mixing with nations (7:8)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the effect of mixing with strangers? (7:9)** \_\_\_\_\_

Our God gives us strength (II Thessalonians 2:16-3:5). **In what practical ways are we strengthened?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the ways in which we are tempted or influenced by the nations/strangers either directly or indirectly and can suffer the devouring of our strength?** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Man is fallen; every part and passion of his nature is perverted: he has gone astray altogether, is sick from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet: yea, is dead in trespasses and sins and corrupt before God. O pride of human nature, we plough right over thee! As a whole they are spoiled and soured like corrupt leaven, or as some put it, they have become putrid and even stinking. The only reason why we do not more clearly see this foulness is because we are accustomed to it, just as those who work daily among offensive odours at last cease to smell them.” (Charles Spurgeon)*