

preach not the Gospel of Christ." When God has called a man to be his messenger to present His gospel, that man cannot possibly keep silence (2 Tim. 2:9). When Paul the Apostle was imprisoned when all the power of a tyrannical state was brought to bear to silence him he rejoiced that the Word of God could not be bound. You are indeed fortunate that you have come to the ministry at such a time as this. A difficult task is before you. You have human opposition of every kind to face but you are in little danger of settling down to a mere professionalism.

In our days we see every where the attempt at regimentation. In state and in church the attempt is made to compel people to walk in lock step and to obey implicitly the behests of those in position of human authority. The Word of God must not be thus bound. You will find every possible attempt made to silence you as long as you maintain the purity of your message. If you submit and fall in line your present lot may be easier but your work will not be accomplished. I am calling you to follow in the path of the courageous prophet Amos who did not hesitate to penetrate to the very center of the apostate worship of the kingdom of Israel and before the high priest and the king himself to declare the Word of God.

One cannot read the prophecies of Amos without marvelling at the vision of the man. He noticed things that others passed by. His words are filled with references to the stars, to the trees, to the various fruits of the field and of the wilderness. He was a close observer of nature and in it all he saw the hand of the one who had formed it. He was so impressed by the power of God as he saw it manifested in the universe that the imposing establishments of human pride failed to impress him. He saw the futility of common phrases. His contemporaries talked much of the day of the Lord as their hope of bettered conditions. Amos declared that the day of the Lord would be darkness and not light to those who were frustrating the work of the Lord. Today we find men talking glibly of the Kingdom of God and trying to regiment great denominations in order to bring in the Kingdom of God by human means. Much as we desire any human betterment of any kind and anxious as we are to help in any thing that promises genuine social