

Daily Morning Message  
St Paul United Church of Christ  
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247  
Allen M Fluent, Pastor  
Thursday, July 8, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings    Psalm 24  
                                          Amos 2:6-16  
                                          Colossians 2:1-5

Today's Scripture Verse:    *For three transgressions of Israel and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals – they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way.... (Amos 2:6-7)*

What it means:                I've always thought Amos was as harsh as he was because he wasn't a professional prophet. He was a shepherd who felt a calling from God to speak the truth, and he clearly didn't care whom he offended. He has just talked about God's judgment upon the nations of Moab and Ammon; and probably his audience in Israel agreed with him about that, but now he speaks about God's judgment against his own people, when they have disappointed God with their oppression against the poor.

Our time of reflection:    It is important to believe in the whole Gospel. The Gospel says that we are forgiven by God; but it also says God expects us to express the kindness and justice of God. As Amos criticized his own people in the name of God's righteousness, we also are called to examine ourselves, and not expect to be forgiven unless we are committed to doing God's will.

